

GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

THE TURTLE SPEAKS



BULK RATE
U S POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 4
Wyandotte, OK 74370

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P.O. BOX 250, WYANDOTTE, OKLA. 74370

October 2004

Grand Opening Celebration Washington D.C. - September 21, 2004

By Ramona Reid

Whew! Good to be home, but what a great trip. Earlene Roskob (Second Chief) and I attended this wonderful event. We flew from Tulsa to Houston the day before and got to orient ourselves. Our hotel was the Capitol Hills Suite about a mile from the Mall, where the procession took place. Rising early we enjoyed a continental breakfast at the hotel. We then proceeded to walk past the Capitol to the wall and site of the museum. Naturally we were at the end of the procession so we walked along the mall admiring the other Smithsonian buildings.

We had our pictures taken beside the new "American Indian" Museum. There were numerous stages, food vendors and many colorful regalia to "ooh & ahh" over. There was much chatter about who came from where etc. and then trying to find where we were to line up. They went by Nation, groups, color guard and individuals, in alphabetical order and in certain colors by sections. It seemed like we stood for hours. There was much talk, picture taking and confusion. But over all I think things were well organized. We came across the Anderdons from Michigan, part of the Wyandotte who came south from Canada. They had their flag and we made sure our Wyandotte handbags were in full view. And they did get noticed! Several asked where we were from. We told them of our beautiful home here and

about our Nation. As we proceeded back up the mall and the speakers' stage, we wished we were sitting along side under the shade trees. Ha! So, we sat in the sun while listening to the



speakers. Oh my! I got a burn, although my dance fan helped some. After the fanfare we found a place to eat. We enjoyed a turkey leg, sweet potato fries, and a cold drink. We enjoyed several of the stage programs, i.e., Native dancing and singing. Along the way we managed to get timed passes for the Museum. We then wandered through the market place and bought T-shirts and books. Then, finally, at 9:45 we got into the museum. The displays were beautiful. They also had singers and dancers in the rotunda (middle) of the museum. Tired and weary we took a cab back to the hotel. We slept in the next morning. We missed the continental breakfast so found a cute place around the corner to eat. While going to breakfast the fire engines came whizzing by. I thought a fire was at a church across the street. We were told

later it was the Library of Congress a block away. Never did find out if it was a drill or for real. Anyway back up to our rooms to pack and check out. We taxied to the airport and after the check in and security check, it was a short wait for our flight. The trip home was an adventure in itself but I'll tell you about it in person. Okay? My husband, Bob met us at the airport in Tulsa. The ride home was full of chatter and enthusiasm. Arriving home exhausted we slept in the next day. The bones and muscles were stiff. But now we're back in shape and ready for this new year of "Wyandotte Nation" plans and considerations as members of your Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
Ramona Reid
Teh-on-di-seh-wa

Kids Christmas Party:
December 11, 2004
10:00 - 12:00 p.m.
Kids: 0-12 yrs.

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

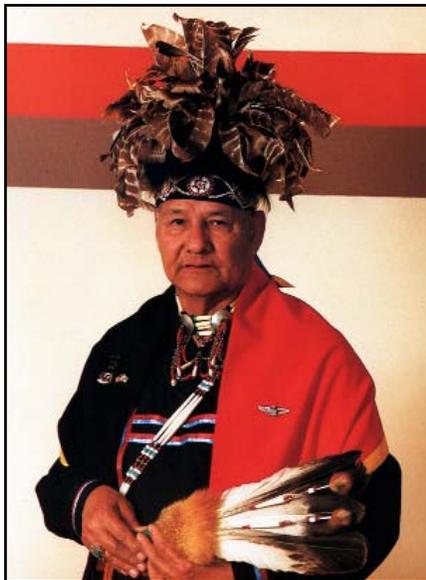
The Chief Says...

The past couple of years our Congress has been consumed by the presidential campaign. Campaigners have suddenly discovered that American Indians have a vote. Tribes in the west, tribes in the Midwest, and tribes in the east, are being courted by everyone running for office - local, state, and federal.

The voting of our people in the north-west removed a congressman who for years had been using his office to support his own vendetta against American Indians. He is no longer in Washington, D.C. due to our vote.

A distinguished congressman from the Dakota Territory was kept in office by the American Indian vote. Many lawsuits in the east were favorable to our people because of our votes. In Oklahoma we had a chance to elect an American Indian as governor of state. We failed to do so. If he had been elected, every state in our nation would have been electrified - both Indians and non-Indians.

Many of our tribes have gained recognition because of their economic develop-



Chief Leaford Bearskin

ment programs, especially casinos. This recognition is a result of money. Money and the American Indian vote can solve a lot of our problems. We can place our people in offices locally, in state offices, and in federal offices.

Working together all over the Nation can be the solution to most of our problems.

We have been our own worst enemy in the past. The handwriting is on the wall. Vote on November 2nd 2004.

The Indian Vote

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From Earlene Roskob, Second Chief

"Kweh",

Hello Everyone. It has been a very busy time since our last newsletter. This was my first Annual Meeting and Pow Wow as Second Chief. After the Annual Meeting there was an opportunity for anyone interested in the Wyandotte Culture to meet with our Nation's Grant writer, Ron Kaiser. I attended that meeting which I found to be productive and promising. There are several individuals who are really interested in trying to study, bring back, and maintain as much of our Culture as is possible. We Tribal Leaders have been interested in this for many years. Sherri Clemons and Juanita McQuiston have spent a great deal of time doing research and studying this and the laws regarding our Culture and History. It is so nice to now have others expressing their interest with not only words but also deeds. A museum might be closer in the future than ever before. Dick James has recently contacted me

and is offering to us some records and extensive research he has completed. If anyone has anything they would like to donate to the Nation for our Museum or to assist us in our search for our history and culture, please contact Sherri or Juanita.

Ramona Reid and I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Grand Opening of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. on September 21, 2004. It was a wonderful experience. Check out our website for pictures and more from me on that topic (www.wyandotte-nation.org). The website is changed routinely so it is always interesting.

We have had some interest expressed about knowing more about each other. We might start a "Who are our Wyandottes?" section in the newsletter. So send in anything you have about the Wyandottes you know which you think would be interesting to the rest of us.

Anything. But we do have to have your response to do this. It can be e-mailed to pwilson@wyandotte-nation.org or mailed to Turtle Talk News, P. O. Box 250, Wyandotte, OK 74370.

For those of you who want to contact me, you may email me at eroskob@wyandotte-nation.org or call the Tribal Headquarters and leave a message with our wonderful secretary, Tiny Eads. I go to the Tribal Headquarters on a regular basis and keep up with tribal business through Chief Bearskin, Dennis Pontiere, President of Wyandotte Enterprises, and the rest of the staff while I am not able to be in the office daily.

I am so happy to be a member of this great Nation and hope to continue to be a part of its growth!! These are exciting times and we are working for you as hard and fast as we can. Sometimes the wheels of progress just go slowly.

Til next time.

A History of Indian Healthcare

by Billy Friend

Many people, especially those outside of the Indian society, have very little if any knowledge of Indian Healthcare. In fact, there are many within the tribes that do not know the history of Indian Healthcare and its origins. In this article I would like to briefly give a history of Indian Healthcare and how we have arrived at where we are today.

The government's obligation to provide healthcare to Native American's began in the early 1800's during the time that they were seizing land and removing tribes from their native lands and placing them on reservations. During this time the government was entering into treaties with these tribes that stated "adequate healthcare" would be provided "as long as the winds shall blow and the rivers shall flow". Because of this type of language the government has a continuing obligation to provide healthcare to all Indian people.

In the early 1800's federal health services for Indians was under the auspices of the War Department. At that time the Federal Indian policy was primarily one of military containment. As early as 1802 Army physicians took emergency measures to curb contagious diseases among Indian tribes in the vicinity of military posts. The first large scale smallpox vaccination of Indians was authorized by Congress in 1832, probably launched more to protect US soldiers than to benefit Indians.

Military control of Indian Affairs was brought to an end in 1849 with its shift to civilian administration under the newly created Department of the Interior. It was within this federal environment that the Indian health care system evolved until its transfer in 1955 to the Public Health Service (PHS). In 1955 the Division of Indian Health (since renamed Indian Health Service) was created within the PHS.

On July 8, 1970 Richard Nixon submitted a policy statement to Congress

that launched the policy of "self determination". The President said:

"The first Americans-the Indians-are the most deprived and most isolated minority in our nation. On virtually every scale of measurement-employment, income, education, health---the condition of the Indian people ranks at the bottom...The time has come to break decisively with the past and to create the conditions for a new era in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions." (Nixon 1970)

This proclamation brought forth Public Law 93-638 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act. This act is also known as "self governance" which basically allows tribes to compact with the Federal Government to run their own programs. When it comes to healthcare, it authorizes tribes to plan, conduct, consolidate, administer, redesign and reallocate funding to, and within programs, services, functions, and activities it determines necessary.

The Wyandotte Nation through a compact with the federal government and a cooperative agreement with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, assumed control over their healthcare program in 1995 and began the Bearskin Clinic. In September of 1998, the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center opened, and continues to provide quality healthcare to all tribal members.

Just as in years past, many challenges still remain in the Indian Healthcare arena. A recent report showed that the average amount spent on healthcare for an Indian patient in one year was \$1,914; about half of what the government spends on prisoners (\$3,803) and far below what is spent on the average American (\$5,065). Statistics provided by the US Commission on Civil Rights say that deaths from alcoholism are 770% more likely among Native Americans than the general population; from tuberculosis, 650%; and from dia-

betes, 420%. In some tribes, one in two people suffer from diabetes. Just this year, congress approved a 1.9% increase in funding, yet the medical inflationary rate is 9%, which actually constitutes and approximate 7% decrease in funding.

Despite the many challenges ahead, the Wyandotte Nation and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe are committed to both maintaining and improving our healthcare programs through the spirit of Self-Determination.



Grandparents

ARE YOU A GRANDPARENT RAISING A GRANDCHILD?

If so, we can help....call 1-800-256-2539 Ext. 253.

If you, or someone you know, is the primary caregiver for their grandchildren and would like information about **RESPITE** vouchers for childcare, and support group meetings. Please contact the Wyandotte Nation Caregiver Program.

Eligibility requirements for this program are as follows: 1) You must be 55 years of age or older and have a CDIB card. 2) You must be the primary caregiver residing with a child who is 18 years of age or younger and have legal relationship with child. A non-Indian program is available through OASIS. 1-800-426-2747.

Cultural Week - May 31 - June 4, 2004



Ten members of the Longhouse Women E-group were at Cultural Week. Seven pose for a group picture and later a group hug. **L-R:** Sallie Andrews (TX), Tami Wolliver (TX), Barbara Aston (Idaho), Linda Sioui (Wendake Canada), Juanita McQuistion (OK), Patty Garrison (OK), Julie Donnelly Wills (OK). Not Shown: Chief Jan English (KS), Monica Rains (CO), Sherri Clemons (OK).



(Left) Ashley Simmons models the regalia that belonged to Jane Zane Gordon. Ms. Gordon wore the regalia in 1921 when she visited the White House and President Harding (Ashley is holding the photo of her visit). The regalia was brought to show by Mary Jane Gallaspy.



Hazel Wallace enjoys the sessions and the fellowship of Cultural Week.

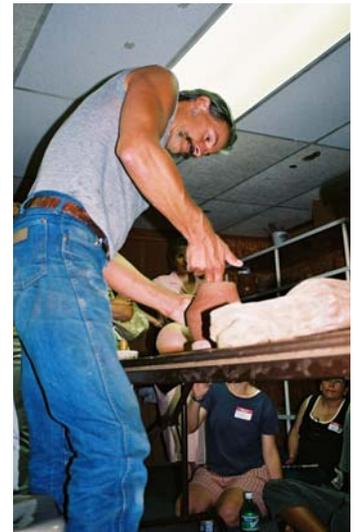


Barbara Aston (Idaho) studies the Carlisle Indian Industrial School memorabilia on Thursday Night.

Picture (Right) Richard Zane Smith demonstrated traditional pottery making during the art session.



(Above) Dennis Smotherman taught about the Honor Guard during the art session.



Thursday night, a show and tell time was fun and special. Patty Garrison gives Juanita McQuistion an article about her father, Grover Long.



Picture (Left) The Seneca Nation joined the fun on Tuesday Evening and brought their dancers who got everyone on their feet!

Cultural Week (cont.)



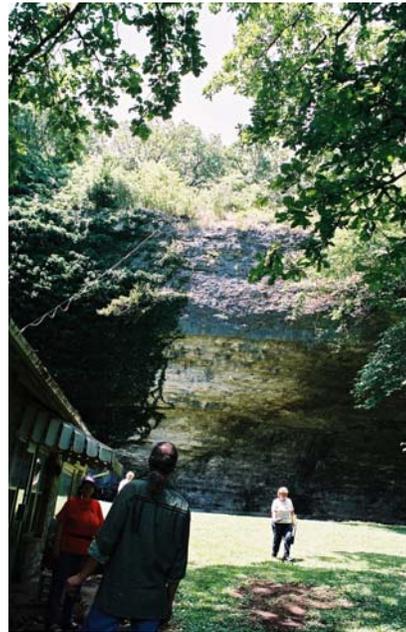
Sherri Clemons (L) and Sallie Andrews (R) enjoy Zane's cave and visiting with each other.



Chief Steve Gronda presented his arrowheads and other collectibles during the art session.



On Thursday, a field trip took the place of the art session. Here participants visit the Walker Cemetery.



(Above) A stop at Zane's cave was awesome and fun.



(Above) Mary Jane & Irv Gallaspy (Lafayette, LA) with Chief Steve Gronda (Michigan) center



Each morning we had a smoke ceremony - on Wednesday morning we dedicated a tree in memory of Juanita's sister, Jean Capstick.

(Right) Mike Hamilton presented a lesson on flutes - flute making during the art time.



(Left to Right) Holly, Kristen Zane (Kansas) and Richard Zane Smith (New Mexico/OK)



(Left) Juanita McQuiston presented two lessons on traditional clothing during the art sessions.

Historical Library

We, in the Historical Library, would like to thank each one for donations to the Historical Library, this year.

We have "On the Back of a Turtle", by Lloyd Divine for sale. \$5.00
 "Ohio History" Volume 89/Spring 1980 /#2. Containing, the pages of the article, "The Clash of Leadership At The Grand Reserve",

\$7.50 By Robert E. Smith
 Come see what is in your Library.
 Hours: Monday and Tuesday 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Please call for an appointment. (918) 678-2297 ext. 242.

Huron Wyandot: Traditional Narratives told by Catherine Johnson, Smith Nichols, John Kayraho, Star Young and Mary

McKee Edited and Translated by Bruce L. Pearson. Collected by Marius Barbeau.

\$20.00 to the Wyandottes
 \$30.00 non Wyandottes.

Juanita McQuiston
 Historical Committee



Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma Publications - Price List

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

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

Thank You

A TRIBUTE TO CHIEF LEAFORD BEARSKIN

by Tom Colgan

The greatness of a man is measured too often by the size of the stage from which he speaks. The defining of one's stature becomes in proportion to the quantity of numbers of the people upon whom an impact has been made. The laurel wreaths of honor and the titles of greatness go, then, upon the heads of those who have been lifted up by fame that naturally comes with their position.

But, sometimes, on lesser stages, outside of the limelight of the masses, walks true greatness that should not go unnoticed or unrecognized, and yet, too often, few ever realize it or see it. And, sadder still is when people get so self-focused, so caught up in their daily problems and struggles, they take for granted others around them, and they can't see greatness even when it is in their midst. Too often, a person must die before others truly realize the value that has been added by their presence. In death, greatness is able to cast a shadow that somehow gets lost while one is still living.

Today, September 11, 2004, around the beautiful waters of Grand Lake, the Wyandotte Indian Nation holds their annual Pow-Wow, celebrating their heritage by performances and rituals that illuminate their past. It is a focus for young and old to remember and understand who they are and who they have been as a people, as a nation, and as a group that goes farther back than all American history.

Thousands gather near the small town of Wyandotte for this short period of a few days, and the experience stamps upon their memory another reason to be proud of being a part of this ancestry. There is reason for pride in being a Wyandotte.

And, in the midst of this gathering is a quiet tower of strength, celebrating his 83rd birthday. His name is Leaford Bearskin. To someone new just passing by, he is the slim, elderly, grandfather-like gentleman, who is the Chief of the Wyandotte Tribe. The size of the crowd

is that of a small town Friday night football game. But, the average American motorist, driving on US highway 60 and stopping for gas at the Turtle Stop, just east of Twin Bridges State Park, would have no idea, that in the middle of that field beyond the truck wash, among the simple trap-pings, on such a small stage, stood true greatness.

Chief Leaford Bearskin has been an extraordinary leader for 21 years for the Wyandotte Nation, leading them into business ventures with much development and expansion. His programs and building complexes have enriched and bettered the lives of his people. His achievements, his accomplishments, his goals for the future, and his love and dedication for people, attest to his greatness. But, a real understanding of his stature needs to grasp the whole picture of his life and person.

He was 62, when he was elected Chief. He had already had two 20 year careers. Leaford Bearskin, to anyone who knows 20th Century American History was a part of legendary events. And, he is not someone who was just there during important times, but he was a major player. His accomplishments are, indeed, of legendary stature. He was a pilot throughout World War II, a B-24 bomber Commander, who flew an incredible 46 combat missions in the Pacific Theater. In 1948, he flew 29 missions in the famous Berlin Airlift. More than 50 years ago, he had already done more than most people do in a lifetime. He served in Korea, Alaska, and throughout the United States in numerous positions of authority and command. After active duty, he served with the Federal Civil Service working with the Titan and Minuteman Missile program in California, and as an Administrative Manager serving the operations at multiple air bases. For 40 years, he served his country, and now, for more than two decades, his people, the Wyandottes.

His life work has been an awesome

legacy, deserving of the mantel of greatness in its own right. However, his character makes him stand out even more. In history, there have been many whose greatness came from their deeds, but you were forced to overlook their human shortcomings and weaknesses. Greatness of deeds has often been blind in character. But, Chief Leaford Bearskin would wear the mantel of greatness, without the reality of being a legendary figure involved in legendary historical events. He would wear the label of greatness for his character, his honesty, his integrity, and his dedication and commitment to his tasks and to his people. He has done it with such humility and modesty, that few in the crowd really know or understand his legendary status as an individual human being.

The measuring of greatness is a difficult task to comprehend. The realizing of an individual's stature, who still is with us, is not something that any of us do well. But, all know Chief Leaford Bearskin is a good man, and he is a great chief. And for most, that is what is important to them. They wish a happy birthday to the man who has made their lives better. He is their beloved chief. He makes them proud to be a Wyandotte. He stands tall among them, and makes them want to stand tall, also.

But, I feel sad for the driver, who bought his gas and drove off. What a missed opportunity to see true greatness and legendary stature, for it was so close. For it is there, in him, in the finest and highest quality, that humanity has to offer.

Happy Birthday, Leaford Bearskin...
Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, and ...
human being extraordinaire.

**"...true greatness and legendary stature...
in the finest and highest quality
that humanity has to offer..."**



Some members of the Cultural Committee

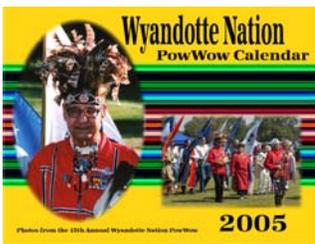
L to R: Ronnie Burnside, Lloyd Divine, Richard Zane Smith, Earlene Roskob, Michael Hamilton, Isaac Smith, Patty Garrison



Glenn & Martha Owens, participants of the Title VI Nutrition Program. (Pumpkin weighed 77 1/4 lbs.) September 2004

PowWow Calendar

The 2005 PowWow Calendars will be available for purchase in November. If you would like to buy one, they are \$10.00 each. For more information contact Sherri Clemons at 918-678-2297 ext. 244.



PowWow Fundraiser

by Sherri Clemons
The PowWow Committee is still taking donations for the benches at the PowWow grounds. It is \$50.00 per bench & your name will be placed on a plaque at the grounds. Thanks to those who have already donated. Work will begin this fall, so they are ready for next year.

Are You Interested?

by Sherri Clemons
The Wyandotte Nation is planning on some classes for crafts. It has been suggested to hold a beading class, shawl class, dance class, etc. If you are interested or have a certain class you would like to do, send your suggestions to the Wyandotte Nation, Attn: Sherri Clemons, P.O. Box 250, Wyandotte, OK 74370. We can't do everything at once, but we will see what we can work on.

Gift Shop News

FOR WINTER

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

Handcrafted Pottery

by tribal member Matthew Zane starting at \$15
Prints by Jim Stuckenberg \$55

Leanin' Tree Cards

Decorative Stationary - 18 sheets with envelopes \$8.50
Laser and Inkjet compatible

Still Available

Decorative Gourds

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

Check out our other Gift Items

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

Metal Turtle Shapes - \$8.00
Turtle Necklaces - \$6.00
made by tribal member Monica Raines

Indian art on leather - \$18.00
Indian Art on Pillows - \$45
Mandellas (4 sizes) \$25 - \$145
Sand Paintings \$25 - \$40
Various Ceramics \$1.50 and up
Authentic Silver and Turquoise Jewelry

Wyandotte Cookbooks
Volumes 1 and 2 - \$6 each

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

Lucky Turtle Casino Opens

The Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma opened The Lucky Turtle Casino on May 17, 2004, on the north side of Grand Lake in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma. The new facilities were built adjacent to the Turtle Stop, a convenience store and truck stop complex that the Tribe has successfully run for more than a decade. With the addition of a new restaurant, the Bearskin Diner Cafe, a full service menu is now available for the casino patrons and the truck stop customers.

In a simple and tasteful setting, with an emphasis on new and sparkling clean, without elegance or pretense, this new little casino is attracting a lot of business by creating an aura of contagious winning amidst a stellar zeal for hospitality. All employees are motivated by the pride of giving the friendliest and best customer service in the area. The casino is not trying to compete with the glitter of the gaming world's famous names, but is trying to offer a setting that satisfies the most basic desire of most guests, and that is a quality gambling experience, where the possibility of winning is a very real expectation. Where winning happens a lot is the place where people want to play. And when that happens in a clean, fresh, friendly environment, you must be at the Lucky Turtle.

Julie Lawson, hired in February, is the new manager behind the building of the team staff of great guest services. With a background as a marketing director and national sales of gaming machines, she brings her experience from the gaming industry, and has successfully put into place an exciting operation

for the Wyandotte Nation.

The casino offers Ladies' Night on Mondays and Mens' Night on Tuesday, which gives players \$5.00 in free play from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m. Hot Seat drawings are held on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday. A variety of other promotions run throughout the month, including \$10.00 Birthday Bucks to celebrate your special day. Upcoming drawings are:

November 22 - Turkey Fryer or Roaster and Hot Seat Turkey giveaways.

December 23 - \$500 Wal-Mart gift certificate.

New Years' Eve - A Cancun Trip for 2 (two).



Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

**Wyandotte Nation
Board of Directors
Leaford Bearskin
Chief**

**Earlene Roskob
Second Chief**

**Ramona Reid
Councilperson**

**Vivian Fink
Councilperson**

**Norman Hildebrand
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**Juanita McQuistion
Councilperson**

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

The Wyandotte Nation

P.O. Box 250

Wyandotte, OK 74370

(918) 678-2297 or

(800) 256-2539

fax (918) 678-2944

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Tribal Department Reports

Family Services

Kate Randall, Director

Dana Butterfield, Family Services Assistant

Greetings. The Wyandotte Nation 2004 Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow was a great success and we were glad you could join us. The Staff hope you had a safe trip back to your families and have good memories of the weekend. For those of you who could not attend this year's Annual Meeting, Pow-Wow or Cultural Week enjoy the wonderful photographs in this issue.

The upcoming seasons are Nature's way of preparing us for change. We look forward to the cooler days, fall foliage, and all of Mother Earth's surprises. Here at the complex we look forward to the Pre-School children in their Halloween costumes. In November we look forward to the Title VI Thanksgiving Dinner and invite everyone to join us on November 19. In December please do not miss the Childrens' Christmas Party on December 11. We encourage all of our Wyandotte Nation Families to bring their children for snacks, fellowship, gifts and yes, Santa. The Wyandotte Nation has had a good year and so much to be thankful for.

Tribal Operations: There were ninety nine new members added to the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Roll at the September 2004 Annual Meeting. A list of those individuals follows. New membership cards were mailed the last week of September. Please notify Dana or Kate if your membership cards have not arrived. We ask all tribal members to stay in contact with this department regarding a change in marital status, address changes, new births and loved ones we have lost.

New Enrollees:

Membership applications are taken by the Family Services Department all year although new members are only added ONE time per year at the Annual

Meeting in September. We encourage eligible members to submit their applications, along with an Original state certified birth certificate prior to the August 15, 2005 deadline.

Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood Cards: Applicants are required to fill out a "CDIB" application in order to receive this card. It is not a Membership Card for the Wyandotte Nation. The CDIB card certifies that you possess a certain degree of Indian Blood.

Family Services: We continue to offer support to our Wyandotte Nation Families through the implementation of Promoting Safe & Stable Families Initiative Program. Services include but are not limited to: child passenger safety seats, emergency crisis assistance, utility assistance, rental assistance, school supply vouchers and winter clothing for children. Service area/income guidelines are applicable for some services. Please contact this department for eligibility criteria. Family Services Staff has an open door policy and we encourage our Tribal Members to stop by the Administration Office if we can be of assistance to you.

Indian Child Welfare: The Family Services Department assists with matters pertaining to Indian Child Welfare. The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 was a congressional act which was designed to protect the Indian child, family and the tribe from unwarranted interference by the Anglo culture. If an Indian child is removed from his or her home, it is the intent of social services to place the child with family members, extended family or members of the child's tribe. If you would like to consider becoming an adoptive home or an Oklahoma Tribal foster family, or have questions pertaining to child welfare, please contact Kate Randall. The Wyandotte Nation has a continuing Tribal State Agreement with the State of Oklahoma to recruit tribal foster families.

Tribal Tags: Tribal members who reside within the boundaries of what is considered "Oklahoma Indian Country" may title and register their vehicles with the Wyandotte Nation. Currently, the Tribe is titling/registering passenger and recreational vehicles at a rate that is at least 40% less than the state of Oklahoma. Not only do Tribal members benefit from the savings from this program, but the funds generated stay with the Tribe and go back into Tribal programs. Since the beginning of this program back in August of 1999, the "official" days the Tag Office has been open for business is the 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. We do understand that these days are not always convenient for everyone and are more than willing to make appointments on other days when a Tag Agent is available.

New Wyandotte Nation Tribal members are: Felicity Lauryn Agee, Rachel Dawn Agee, Zackory Michael Agee, Jonathan Louis Anderson, Rachael Denise Baker, Devon Steven Baldwin, Maddison Nicole Barnes, Don Ernest Beeson, III, Larahmy Glen Blakley, Meghann Lea Blythe, Andrew James Brock, Stone Alan Brower, Kirsten Nicole Bruegel, Kimberly Dawn Bui, Travis Walter Caldwell, Adam James Canonaco, Lanie Lou Carl, Emily Mychal Carron, Alexander Steven Carter, Antonio Seth Carter, Blake Austin Casey, Aaron Robert Charlton, Andrew Stephen Charlton, Jonah Ethan Charlton, Andrew Scott Chilson, Luke Christopher Chilson, Jason Collin Manhart, Gyler Maxwell Cole, Dustin Scott Collinworth, Keya Scheyenne Corsbie, Sierra Sharee Corsbie, Charles Patrick Coyle, Cade Bradford Crowell, Kyra Menna Dart, Kyndall Nicole Davis, Nash Braiden Davis, George Lambert Diller, Dalton Charles Duley, Skyler James Duley, Shelby Lynn Eads, Micheal Lee Edwards, Carter Dale Ezell, Payton Thomas Ezell, Ronald Joseph Fullerton, Vivianne Joy Garent,

Dayton Douglas Godfrey, Memphis Michael Godfrey, Mary Grace Goldmeer, Hannah Paige Gragg, Katana Blair Hamilton, Kenzi-Mae-Elaine Holcomb, Calvin Lee Hudson, John Keyton James, Jonnie Baxon Jones, Justin Dewaine Keffer, Madisen Ryan Keffer, Allie Michelle Lawrence, Michael Ryan Lawson, Jeanie Irene Lindsay, Matthew George Lindsay, Joy Michaelene Manhart, Dakota Lynn Mathis, Tyler James Mathis, Zane Conner McCleary, Frances Sage Munton, Leela Brianna Munton, Rylee Lynn Nesvold, Gage Andrew Pace, Jordan Trinity Paige, Courtney Lee Prosser, Kailey Ann Robitaille, Maxwell David Sako, Carrie Lynn Sheets, Aaron Jacob Shelton, Ashley Marie Smith, Westly James Snell, James Amon-George Sypherd, Mistye Deann Taffner, Allison Nicole Thomas, Joshua William Vandever, Bailey Mischelle Vaughn, Derik Patrick Vaughn, Vicki Lee Vaughn, Leea Samantha Vigus, Wesley David Zane, Jared Cedric Zane, Sara Lynn Wright, Kodie Danielle Wilmoth, Katelyn Mary Wilmoth, Jennifer Kay Weynand, Skylar Dee Weaver, Cameron Jerome Washington, Logan Taylor Wallace, Landon Julian Sloan, Joell Deandra Manhart, Neil Andrew Manhart, Joshua Dwayne Murley, Amanda Lynn Schell, Bethany Anne Schell.

Planning and Development Department

Construction at the Sewage Treatment Plant is rapidly winding down. At this time equipment testing is finishing and site clean up is underway.

We received notification of funding from the Department of Justice STOP Violence Program. The initial funding is for two years and is a planning grant to address domestic violence against Indian women. This new program will be implemented as part of the Family Services Department activities for the next two years. We also received notice of funding from the Department of Justice for the Tribal Resources Grant for the Police Department. This

\$18,000.00 grant will assist in purchasing equipment for the Wyandotte Nation Police Department.

We are working with the Housing Department to develop an Indian Community Development Block Grant for infrastructure improvements needed to expand the Housing stock.

Plans are continuing with the clean up and beautification of the Tribal area. Our housekeeping staff welcomed a new person this summer. Jacque Caywood is the new housekeeper in the Education building.

The Planning Department has developed the capability to prepare detailed maps using a Geographic Information System or GIS. This capability came to the attention of the Bureau of Indian Affairs who provided a multi-year grant to the Tribe to prepare maps illustrating Trust lands within the BIA's Miami Area Agency.



Construction nearing completion at the Ottawa County RSWD No. 1 new sewage Treatment Plant!

Education Department Preschool

Preschool is back in session for the 2004-2005 school year. All Pre-School classes are full. The students have taken two of the many field trips that are planned for this year.

Our first family program will be for the fall session and will be held on Friday, October 29 after we visit all tribal facilities for trick-or-treating. All family programs are held in the Title VI so that the elders as well as the families can enjoy and participate. Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held on November 5. Due to our rising enroll-

ment and staff participation, we have again sought out a larger facility. Eastside Assembly Church has graciously agreed to allow us to use their new Family Life Center, which will accommodate our large group. The holiday season will be a busy time for our classes as they prepare for the Christmas parties, events and plays at the local colleges.

Our after school program is in full operation with approximately twenty-five children being picked up after school for care. A snack is served to all in attendance and homework help is offered by staff. Kelsey Burleson and Trisha Burns have joined the staff of the after school program to assist the full-time staff.

If you are interested in an application, please call Ms. Culver at 918-678-2297 ext. 230.

Library

The Wyandotte Tribal Library is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. We have a wonderful selection of books, tapes and periodicals for the patrons to browse through and to check out. Karen McNelis and Jessie Winscott are familiar with our facility and look forward to meeting you and providing assistance.

Child Care & Development Fund Program

The Child Care Program is very busy serving 160 families and 243 children, which includes 84 Wyandottes. We utilize 36 licensed childcare centers and 24 licensed day care homes to provide care for 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.

Currently plans are in the works for a childcare providers' training that will focus on the need for physical exercise in childcare. A licensed physical education instructor will work with the providers and physical education equipment will be provided to each facility (continued on next page)

that attends. The CCDF program is working to raise awareness concerning the health and safety needs of children in care.

Tribal Scholarships

With the beginning of a new semester the Education Director is very busy issuing tribal scholarship vouchers to current students as well as sending out applications to prospective recipients. The deadline for application for the fall semester of 2004 was May 1, 2004 at 4:00 p.m. New applications will be available upon request after January 2005 with a due date of May 1, 2005 for the 2005-2006 school year.

Scholarships are available for eight semesters in the amount of \$500.00 each. You must meet all criteria to remain on program and submit your grades in a timely fashion to insure funding.

The Education Director would like to remind our Oklahoma tribal members and parents of an opportunity through the Oklahoma Higher Learning Access Program. This is a program for students 8th, 9th and 10th grade. Eligibility is determined by the amount of income reported on tax returns. Each of you are encouraged to look at the information on their web site as a way of future planning for your child. Their web address is www.okhighered.org/ohlap/. Please contact the Education Director (Carla J. Culver at ext. 230) for assistance if needed.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

The WIA program operates under the supervision of the Education Director. Brad King (ext. 234) is the program specialist and is able to serve all federally recognized Native American members that are seeking employment, training, and educational services that reside in Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas. Currently, fifty individuals are participating in this program. Limited opportunities exist in this program but all are welcome to apply.

Environmental Department

The Wyandotte Nation Environmental

Department consists of Christen Creson, Program Manager, Kathleen Welch, Program Assistant, and Janice Wilson, Water & Education Technician. They have been very busy throughout the late summer and early fall keeping up with local, state, & federal Environmental issues. Janice Wilson and Kathleen Welch have been conducting annual private well tests. Anyone within a 50 mile radius that would like their wells tested, can contact the Environmental office at 918-678-2297, ext. 245 or 235. They have also been busy monitoring the area lakes and streams, and fighting the battle against pollution.

"RENIE THE ROBOT" has had a tune up and is ready to get out in the public again. If you are within a 50 mile radius and would like him to visit your school or organization, please contact Kathleen or Janice for more information.

We will also be conducting sampling for "Chronic Wasting Disease" (CWD) in deer for the Native American Wildlife Society. We will be set up on Nov. 22, 23, & 24 in the morning at the following check stations in Ottawa County:

-----Wilson's Country Store, Wyandotte,
----- Shawnee Grocery, East of Miami
----- Cook's Processing, South of Miami.

Turtle Stop News

Turtle Stop is now open for business 24 hours a day 7 days a week. The employees and myself would like to thank each and every one for their patience during our time of construction. We are offering free showers to truck drivers who purchase \$100.00 in fuel. Our Truck/Car Wash is open 24 hours a day 7 days a week. Our customers are raving about the excellent job it does. We offer a free car wash token when you purchase a car wash and 8 gallons of fuel. The Bearskin Diner is now open 7 days a week from 5:30 a.m. until 9:00 p.m. with an ongoing special of HB & Suzies for \$2.99, and CB & Suzies for \$3.25.

We would like to congratulate one of our employees, Amanda Winfrey, for being crowned the Northeastern

Oklahoma A&M College Homecoming Queen at Robertson Field on Oct. 9th. Amanda represented the NEO Nursing School.

Terri Wyrick, Manager

Title VI News

We had a great summer and now we are trying to prepare for Old Man Winter, getting out our longjohns and gathering wood for the fireplace. Ha!

The Elders went to the Tulsa State Fair October 1, 2004. They enjoyed the ice capades and seeing all of the sites.

We have 32 Elders going to Branson, MO., October 22, 2004. They are going to see two shows.

Our Halloween party will be Friday, October 29, during the noon hour. There will be a costume contest. The top four will receive a prize. Music will be provided by the Country Gentlemen Band. We will have smoked turkey legs, brisket, corn on the cob, fried apples and a great time.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be Friday, November 19, 2004, during the noon hour. We will have turkey and dressing and all of the trimmings. Yum Yum !!!

Our Christmas Buffet will be Friday, December 17, 2004, during the noon hour. We will have homemade candies, cookies, brisket and as usual, Santa will be here to share it all with us.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season.

Brenda House, Title VI Director
Dari Ann Hunnicutt, Caregiver Spec.
Laura Staggs, Food Service Supervisor
June Linton, Food Service Worker
Ora Lee Combes, Kitchen Aid



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

2004 Pow Wow





2004 Pow Wow



Nation Employee Review - Get Acquainted !

Through the guiding efforts of the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Leadership, the employee population continues to grow. Each quarter, one employee will be selected for review.

The Fourth Quarter Employee Review: Carla J. Culver, Wyandotte Nation Education Director. Carla, a tribal member, was born to Carl and Gladys Powell. She is the daughter of a Methodist Minister and attended Jay, Welch, Afton and Fairland Schools prior to graduating from Fairland High School. Carla later attended Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College, transferring to Missouri Southern College (now University), graduating MSSC with a BS Degree in Education. Carla has also studied Master's level coursework.

Carla has two children, Carol Winkler and David Culver. She also has one grandson - Austin Winkler, age 7.

Carla has been employed with the Wyandotte Nation since January 1986. During her employment with the Nation, Carla has strived to assist with education of preschool children (approximately 45 per year enrolled); scholarships for high school students preparing for college (approx. 60 per semester awarded), as well as, adult education assistance (approximately 12 per year awarded) for non-traditional students returning to college. Carla's successful management of program dollars has provided many children with day care assistance for working parents (approximately 260 children with child care assistance). She also supervises the WIA Program, assisting Native Americans living in 7 counties (2 Kansas/5 Missouri) by offering on-the-job-training and work experience support. Carla has also been instrumental in establishing the Wyandotte Nation

Library and Computer Lab.

The Turtle Tot Preschool Program, under the Direction of Carla, has also grown. Carla and her staff, have con-



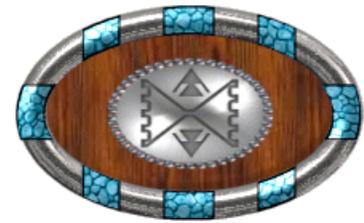
tributed to the growth and development of many preschool children. The Turtle Tot Program has received several awards and has been recognized by Washington DC as a model preschool providing a teaching tape, which has been circulated in several states. National Indian Education Association (NIEA) recognized the Turtle Tot Preschool as a "showcase" program. The Nation is very proud to offer this service and feels this program enables children to have an enhanced foundation upon entering the public school system.

Carla has made a tremendous contribution to the Wyandotte Nation by her

devotion to the growth and development of educational opportunities for many age groups. Carla is a dedicated tribal member, serving on the Pow Wow Committee, and other administrative committees as well as other educational committees within the public school system and other tribal governments.

Carla has experienced change through the educational process and technology advancement, while continuing to maintain a level of success for students and her entire staff.

Carla would like to remind all tribal members to visit the library and view the many items available for check-out. For information regarding preschool enrollment, day care assistance or educational assistance, contact Carla Culver at 918-678-2298, x 230.



(below) Children participating in the games during the Pow Wow.



Big Thank You.....

by Sherri Clemons

The 2004 PowWow was a great success. The committee works very hard all year to put on the best powwow. They would like to thank everyone who helped volunteer. No one person can put on an event so large as this. It takes a lot of teamwork and a great deal of support from our Leaders. Without the Chiefs and Board of Directors supporting us, we could never do the job we do.

We would also like to thank the maintenance crew for the hard work to make the grounds beautiful, a place to we can be proud of. Many remarks were made on how nice it always looks. Thanks guys!

Thanks to all the Nations' businesses for your support. Your support is very much appreciated. Work has already started on next year's PowWow. Pray it is as great a success as the past year.

PowWow Committee

Harris Family Reunion

Twin Bridges Park, Wyandotte, OK

By Ramona Reid

September 10, 2004

The John James Harris family gathered on a beautiful "fallish" day, again. Our crowd was a little smaller than usual. A number of people had come for Alice Hildebrand's funeral and couldn't make a second trip. But those of us that did enjoyed a wonderful time of visiting, good food, sharing of pictures, and stories of back when. There were few new faces and prizes. For the oldest in attendance: Reva Waubunsee of Miami, OK; youngest: Shyanne Keffer of Luther, OK; Tom Keffer came the farthest, Redding, CA. Most of us attended the annual meeting Saturday morning, and then the PowWow, which was even bigger and better this year. We are growing! So until next year at the same time and place, health and happiness to you all.

Sincerely,

Ramona Reid

(Tillie Mathews granddaughter)

Holidays.....



Kids Christmas Party

December 11, 2004

10:00 - 12:00 p.m.

Kids: 0-12 yrs.

Come see Santa and get a gift. Refreshments will be served.

The Nations' Complex will be closed the following days in November & December, 2004.

November 11

Veterans' Day

November 25 & 26

Thanksgiving Holidays

December 16

Staff Christmas Party

December 23

Offices close at noon

Reopen on December 27

December 30

Offices close at noon

Reopen on January 3, 2005



Kids Games during the PowWow



Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

**Tag Days: 2nd and 4th Thursdays
of each month 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.**

**Office will be closed
November 11, and
December 23 at noon.**

For more information or to make special arrangements, call Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-2297 or (800) 256-2539 ext. 219