

GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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November 2007



Wyandotte Nation Pow - Wow

by Sherri Clemons

The Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Committee would like to thank all Tribal Members and employees that came and supported our annual event. It was a great success and we hope everyone had a good time. Twenty different tribes were represented for the contest dances. This year during the Veterans' Special, we had 108 and that is not including the ones who could not get in the arena. This Special is one the committee is very proud of and we would like to invite all veterans,

men and women to come and let us honor you for the price you paid for all of us. This Special is on Saturday evening and we begin sign up on Saturday afternoon. It is and has always been the goal of the tribe and committee to make the pow-wow a fun and safe event and with the support of the police department and the maintenance department; we feel this goal is achieved. A big "Thank You" to all the guys. We hope to see everyone next year and if you have any comments, feel free to contact my office.



Tiny Eads - Honored Person

The Wyandotte Nation Honored Person for 2007 is Helen "Tiny" Eads. She has been the Executive Secretary for the last nine years. In her position, she is required to know the schedules of Chief, Second Chief and Tribal Administrator and is the main contact for business associates. She has become well known in the Indian World and has built up a great reputation all over the United States. Thank you Tiny for all your hard work!



Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

**Wyandotte Nation
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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

Another holiday season is fast approaching and it is certain that visions of ham, turkey, dressing, Christmas gifts, visits from and

with relatives and friends will fill our thoughts and plans. This is a wonderful time of year for many of us and fun, food, and festivities cause happiness to be in our hearts. Let us not forget, however, there are folks who are less fortunate than we. If you know of someone who might need a little help during this holiday season, see if you can spread a little joy and happiness. When our ancestors felt good about something they did, they would say, "It makes my heart feel big." Get a big feeling in your heart. It feels pretty good.

This past year has been good to us. We have seen the Wyandotte Nation Casino open and provide jobs for many people in the area. The preschool has a new addition to

their building that looks and functions wonderfully. Our Housing Department is working on a housing development that will be located behind the cemetery area here at the Nation's headquarters. The Cultural Committee and Pow-Wow Committee did an excellent job this summer on their events. Our Board of Directors and staff are working hard looking at improvements for the future of the Nation.

Please teach our children the true meaning of Thanksgiving and Christmas. Let's make it a permanent part of our culture.



From Billy Friend - Second Chief



Once again I hope this letter finds all doing well. It has been a very busy few months here at the Tribal Headquarters. Our Annual Meeting went very well and I want to thank everyone who attended and participated. I also want to congratulate Tiny Eads on being honored this year as the "Wyandotte Nation Person of the Year". Tiny is the executive secretary for the Nation and has done an outstanding job for the past nine years in that capacity.

Our Powwow had to move indoors because of weather conditions but Sherri Clemons and the Powwow

Committee did a great job in adapting to the situation and we once again had an outstanding Powwow. Progress on the new powwow grounds continues and we look forward to dedicating and using them for the first time at next years Powwow.

I also want to take the time to commend a very special group of men here at the Nation known as the "Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard". The Honor Guard is made up of tribal veterans who volunteer their time and resources to serve the Nation throughout the year at many different events. Each year they gain more and more notoriety not only locally but across the state and nation. For the past several years they have participated in the Veterans Day Parade in Branson, MO as the only Native American Honor Guard and have become the featured attraction at the parade. If you have the opportunity to attend

this parade and weekend celebration I would encourage you to attend it is one of the largest gathering of veterans in the nation. The honor guard also recently participated in a ceremony at the University of Oklahoma honoring the Oklahoma National Guard Troops of the 45th Infantry Brigade as they were being deployed to the Middle East. The estimated attendance of this event was over 10,000 people. They continue to receive invitations to participate at various events and have done an outstanding job representing the Wyandotte Nation. If you are a veteran of the armed services and would like to participate in the Honor Guard please contact Sherri Clemons.

As always it is a great honor for me to serve you as Second Chief. Until next time, may our Creator watch over, protect, and bless you and your families.



Kim Garcia

Wyandotte Cultural Days started off this year on Wednesday, September 5, with a traditional meal prepared by the Title 6 Staff. We had a wonderful time with great food and fellowship with other tribal members as well as members from the Seneca-Cayuga Tribe. On Thursday morning, we met

on the hill behind the Bearskin Wellness Center for morning prayers. From there, we all went to the Wyandotte School for an assembly with all the elementary students. Richard Zane Smith and his wife, Carol, led the kids in songs in the Wyandotte language and told a few stories. Hearing all of the children speaking and singing in the Wyandotte language was inspirational to say the least.

The rest of Thursday and Friday was filled with language classes taught by Richard Zane Smith and Dr. Bruce Pearson, history classes taught by Juanita McQuiston and Darren

English, a speech by Second Chief Billy Friend, Show-and-Tell, prayer time, and social time that all led up to Friday evening when the Pow-Wow began. We had a wonderful time and hope that more can make it next year.

We are tentatively scheduling a trip to Upper Sandusky, Ohio. This is where our ancestors lived before moving to Kansas and then Oklahoma. If you would like more information on this trip, please contact Kim Garcia at (918) 678-2297 ext 217 or kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org.



The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation is a U.S. Department of Treasury certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) designed to address the lack of access to capital and financial services in Native American communities.

Loans: The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation provides loans to start-up and existing Native American-owned businesses for a variety of purposes and recognizes that every business is different, considers every client's needs and circumstances, and tailors its assistance to meet those needs. Our loans can be used to purchase property, equipment, and inventory, restore and rehabilitate structures and provide working capital. They carry interest rates set depending on risk level, have terms typically of three to 10 years, and include a loan origination fee. Loans often require collateral, typically including real estate, equipment, inventories, receivables or personal assets, but may also be made against cash flow. The loan maximum is \$200,000.

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Contact the CPCDC today to obtain a loan application as well as business plan development and loan packaging assistance.

Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation

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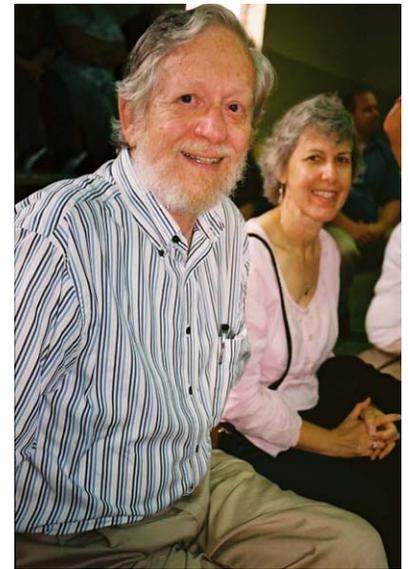
WYANDOTTE CULTURAL DAYS 2007



Second Chief Billy Friend shows a Medicine Stone during Show & Tell time during Cultural Days.



Chief Bearskin shows the pipe that he uses for smoke ceremonies.



Dr. Bruce Pearson and Julie Pearson attend Cultural Days each year. Dr. Pearson is the linguist who has been working with the Nation for several years. Julie is an experienced language worker, too, and offers great insight.



Dr. Bruce Pearson works with two attendees at Cultural Days. Ramona Reid, behind the ladies, serves on the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors and participated in all Cultural Days activities.



Richard Zane Smith shows the model Longhouse that he built to teach Wyandotte Elementary School students about our way of life in past years.



Students gather in the gym at Wyandotte Elementary School, Wyandotte, Oklahoma, to share their knowledge of the Wyandotte language with special guests from Cultural Days. Richard and Carol Smith have been given a classroom of their own in which to teach our language to the students there. Most of these students are of Wyandotte or Seneca descent.



Member News

Honor Guard

The Wyandotte Nation has been very busy this fall season.

September 7th-9th they were at our annual Pow-wow and as always, brought our nations colors in with the greatest respect and honor.

September 14th – 16th they were requested to be Head Honor Guard and Gourd Dancers at this year Eastern Shawnee Pow-wow.

They have been invited to attend the mobilization ceremony of the Oklahoma National Guard's 45th Infantry Brigade Combat Team on the 18th of October in Norman, Oklahoma. The Oklahoma National Guard is honoring its Native American heritage as it prepares to deploy to Iraq. Wearing the Thunderbird shoulder patch and known as the Thunderbirds, this unit traces its heritage to the Native American tribes located in Oklahoma, Colorado, New Mexico, and Arizona. The citizen soldiers of the 45th Brigade have served historically in WWII, Korea, and in Afghanistan. They are now preparing to answer their nation's call once again. The Wyandotte Nation is proud and honored to be a part of this special event.

November 9-11, 2007 will once again see the Honor Guard in the biggest celebration of veterans in the United States. Branson, Missouri hosts this annual event and the Nation's Honor Guard has been invited the last nine years. They will be taking along several native dancers this year to dance the parade route with us. The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard is a very in demand group at Pow-wows, schools and Veteran gatherings.

November 17th and 18th they have been asked to be the Head Honor Guard in Springfield, MO at the Annual SMSU Pow-wow.

Thank you for all the sacrifices for our nation.

Newest Officer



Wyandotte Nation is proud to announce that member Ronnie Burnside has completed the necessary tasks in order to become a police officer.

Ronnie was born in Sapulpa, Oklahoma in 1966 to Mr. and Mrs. Don L. Burnside. He is the grandchild of Byard L. Burnside and Marguerite Long and the great grandchild of Grover E. Long. Ronnie has strong ties to the Seneca Tribe and Eastern Shawnee Tribe through the Long family.

Ronnie is married to Suzanne M. Burnside and is the father of 6 girls: Natasha, Kisha, Howie, Theresa, Firefli, and Veronica. Ronnie was raised mostly in the northeast part of the country, but moved back to the Wyandotte area in 1998 to raise his family in the area where his family ties were the strongest.

In 2001, Ronnie suffered a serious back injury, which left him in a body cast for almost a year. Ronnie persevered and made a full recovery. By 2005, he was able to return to work for the Eastern Shawnee Tribe at the Bordertown Casino in Security. Since that time, he has reached the status of Security Supervisor and has completed several trainings. In May of 2007, he began

training at the C.L.E.E.T. Academy for Reserve Police Officers and graduated in September 2007.

Ronnie is now a Reserve Tribal Police Officer for the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, and is pursuing a career as a full time Tribal Police Officer with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe.

Harris Reunion

By Ramona Reid
rryndotok@tds.net

Well family, we did it again! With the cooperation of the weather at Twin Bridges Park, we had a great time. We met after the Annual Meeting and traditional dinner. We enjoyed desserts and shared pictures and stories. It's amazing how much we don't know about each other.

Cindy Bergfeld sent some special papers for you to fill out and send back to her. She said not many had, so PLEASE do it now. Her address is Cindy Bergfeld, 325 Rugged Earth Dr., Austin, TX 78737. This will help us add to our genealogy.

The Pow-Wow was super too. It will be even better next year when you come and join us at our new Pow Wow grounds east of Wyandotte on Highway 60. It will be the weekend after Labor Day so plan ahead. See you there if not before.

Roll # 3695

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

“A Journey of Discovery” by David Culver

This past July, my girlfriend Ms. Desiree Violette, a member of the Cherokee Nation and I traveled to the Wyandotte tribal cemetery in Kansas City, the Wyandotte Homeland in Ontario, Canada and to the Wendake Reserve in Quebec. We were fortunate to meet many gracious people who provided a brief glimpse into the history of the Wyandotte people.

As this was our first visit to the tribal cemetery we learned there are four chiefs buried there, including two who were born before the Declaration of Independence was signed. We also saw the recently dedicated mural on a nearby wall.

We flew to Toronto and made our way to Niagara Falls, when touring a small shop near the falls we saw a stone carving of an Indian done by a local artist. We noticed the Indian represented wore the same headdress as the new ones worn by the Honor Guard, surely a good omen. Next we traveled to Midland, Ontario and toured the Huronia Museum that includes a Wyandotte village with longhouses and examples of Wyandotte culture. We visited the museum at St. Marie among the Huron's, where our cousins who today live in Wendake traded with the Jesuit's and eventually left with them to

Quebec.

Sherri Clemons was very kind in providing an introduction to Mr. Charles Garrard of Toronto. It is not an understatement to say he has worked to save a part of our collective history. He immigrated to Canada from England in the 1950's and soon found himself involved in Wyandotte history. Today he has authored many papers on our history surrounding the time spent in Canada in the 1600's. He has conducted archeological digs in the area of the Blue Mountains and documented village locations. We spent a day with him and his gracious wife Ella who took us to locations where Wyandotte villages once stood and to places considered sacred by our people. He took us to a large open field and explained this was the village where the Wyandotte who had been decimated by disease, famine and war decided to leave Canada and travel to the U.S.

We drove to Quebec and were surprised to find the Wendat's were hosting a Pow Wow, we got to meet Chief Max Grois Louis, who introduced us to the crowd at the Pow Wow. We toured their small reserve (only a few miles square) and had a great meal at the Chiefs restaurant. It

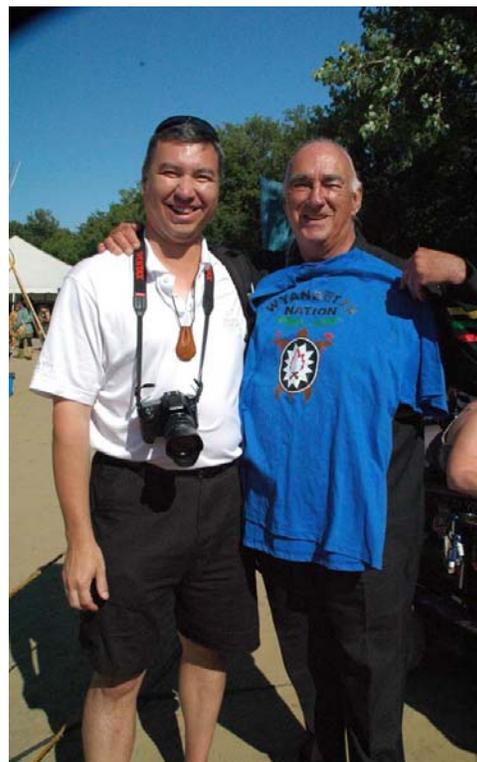
was quite an experience to travel all the way to Canada to be met by Wyandotte's and to see the familiar turtle.

Desiree is a professional photographer and documented our journey with some great pictures. We have a small album that we would be happy to share with all who are interested.

This was truly a journey of discovery, in my lifetime we have come from a non-recognized tribe with little assets or culture to our present status with a robust independent tribal government, healthcare, education and culture awareness. I think our ancestors would be happy to know we have come full circle. If you get the chance I highly recommend this trip, in order for us to move forward as a people we must truly understand our beginning.



L to R: Ms. Desiree Violette, Mr. and Mrs. Charles and Ella Garrard, and David Culver in the area of the Blue Mountains (the home of the Wyandottes in Canada during the 1600's)



David Culver and Chief Grois Louis from Wendake where he is holding the Wyandotte Nation T-Shirt given to him by David.



Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

09/17/2007

BEARSKIN HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS CENTER LAUNCHES U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES' HEALTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

Wyandotte – Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center announces a new program for parents and caregivers of young adolescent girls. BodyWorks, developed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office on Women's Health, focuses on helping girls ages 9 to 13 and their families create healthier lifestyles.

A large share of adolescent girls have poor eating habits and do not get the recommended daily amount of physical

activity. In developing the BodyWorks program, the Office on Women's Health (OWH) found that many girls skip breakfast, have non-nutritious lunches and don't eat dinner with their families. Girls spend about three hours a day watching television, playing video games, using the computer, and talking on the telephone, without parental limitations.

Overall, girls expressed a desire to have their parents be stronger role models for fitness. They wanted their parents to set boundaries for unhealthy eating habits and sedentary activities, and to engage the entire family in increasing physical activity.

The BodyWorks program, therefore, focuses on parents as role models and provides them with the tools and support they need to create healthy lifestyles for their children. Parents who enroll in the BodyWorks program

will receive a BodyWorks toolkit and will attend regular group meetings to help maintain behavior change. The toolkit serves as a guide to creating an overall healthy lifestyle. It includes a video on healthy shopping and cooking strategies, a recipe book, food and fitness journals, a weekly meal planner refrigerator magnet and more.

"We believe that healthy girls become healthy women," says Jonelle Rowe, M.D., M.A., senior medical advisor for adolescent women's health at OWH. "BodyWorks teaches parents to be role models for their daughters and encourages them to establish better eating and activity habits for their families."

For more information on the BodyWorks program contact Kelly Walker, 918-678-2282 ext 259.



BodyWorks is a 10 session Obesity Prevention Program targeting parents and caregivers of adolescent girls (ages 9-13) to help improve family eating and exercise habits. It focuses on parents as role models, and provides them with hands on tools to make small, specific behavior changes. The program is designed for community use, and is provided to parents and caregivers at no charge (teens attend 2 sessions with their parent/caregiver).

Classes offered at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
Contact 918-678-2282 ext 259 for more information



Tribal Department Reports

4th Quarter

Family Services

Kate Randall & Dana Butterfield

Fall has officially arrived in Northeastern Oklahoma as Indian summer has brought us cooler temperatures, shorter days, bonfires, football games, pumpkins, ghosts and goblins. October officially begins the Nation's scheduled fall and winter activities such as our pre-school and Senior Halloween parties, preschool and Senior Thanksgiving Feast and in December, the annual Christmas Party. We encourage those of you who can attend to join in on the fun at the Tribal Complex. For those of you who cannot attend, we hope this newsletter brings you to us through our pictures and articles. For us here at the Nation, it has been a good year with many blessings to give thanks to the Creator.

Tribal Operations/Enrollment

The Nation's Annual Meeting and Pow-wow festivities were held during the weekend of September 8, 9, & 10th. For those of you in attendance, it was one of our "rainy" weekends, but rain didn't damper our spirits. The Pow-Wow Committee did move the pow-wow to an indoor arena due to inclement weather; however, we still had eighty five contest dancers and many spectators. This year we added 131 new tribal members to the Nation's roll. A special thanks to the enrollment committee members Janet Walker, Ruth Bardt, Debbie Bailey and Leesa Hibbard for their assistance. Membership cards have been mailed to the addresses listed on the applications. If you have not received your card please contact us to follow up.

Family Services:

LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program for Oklahoma Residents)

In 2006 we applied for and received the tribal LIHEAP program during the month of December. We are currently awaiting news on our grant application for the winter of 2007. Postcard notification will be mailed to Oklahoma residents during

the month of December when we receive notice.

Promoting Safe & Stable Families:

The (PSSF) grant offers support to our tribal families in our service area. Services include but are not limited to: emergency crisis assistance, utility assistance, rental assistance, school supply vouchers and winter clothing for children. Please contact this office for eligibility criteria or to request an application. It is our goal to keep our families safe and intact through support services.

Tribal Tags:

The tribal tag program supplied 143 Turtle Stop vouchers for all those tribal members who attended the annual meeting to help defray the costs of fuel. Tag Revenues have enabled family service to purchase child safety passenger seats to help insure the safety of its tribal children. Passenger seats are available for pick up at the tribal headquarters.

Presently we have over 1,450 tribal license plates issued in the State of Oklahoma. We encourage our tribal members to make tag appointments to avoid scheduling conflicts. For new vehicles please remember to bring: The original state title (signed and notarized); insurance verification; and your Wyandotte Nation Membership Card. For renewals we will need the renewal registration that has been mailed to you and your insurance verification.

Indian Child Welfare: Adoption & Fostering

During the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, Native American children were often placed in boarding schools in hopes that decision would speed their cultural assimilation, much like the theory of the orphan trains. In the 1950s and 1960s, the Indian Adoption Project placed hundreds of Native American children with white parents, the first national effort to place an entire child population transracially and transculturally. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare act reversed this policy. ICWA made the adoption of Native American children by non-native people difficult by

erecting barriers to their adoption by anyone without tribal affiliation. In every State in the Nation there is a lack of Indian Families willing to adopt or foster Indian children who have been temporarily or permanently removed from their families. This lack of tribal families has been a primary cause to place Indian children outside the Indian Child Welfare Act placement preferences. For more information on foster parenting or adoption in your State, please contact us.

New Wyandotte Nation Tribal members:

Layne Mackenzie Allen
Amber Dawn Angel
Tia Mary Aschenbrenner
Daxtor Lee Baker
David William Barfknecht
Brooke Allison Bond
Dylan Christopher Bond
Avery Charles Bott
Presley Nicole Brecheisen
Jennifer Marie Bryant
Justin Allen Bryant
Brayden Alex Burt
Addison Kathryn Diane Butcher
Makenzie Grace Butler
Levi Paul Carl
Nellie Sue Cartwright
Kalen Ryan Childers
Carter Blake Clapp
Riley Madison Collinsworth
Krista Lorayne Colvin
Ava Elizabeth Coyle
Colton Warren Crowell
Jersey Krystine D'alexander
Aaliyah Chenoa Delgado
Sheryl Jean DeMarsh
Robert Charles DeMarsh
McKenzie Marie DeMarsh
Sonia Rose DeMarsh
Aaron Dawson DeMarsh
Tiffaney Marie Drake
Noah James Duley
Walker William Dunaway
Micayla Sue Easterly
Chloe Rachelle Friend
Adine Ann Fullerton
Mallory Paige Garner
(continued on next page)

Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)

Lindsay Claire Garner
 Spencer Marshall Garner
 Jeffrey Michael George
 Daniel Lee Grace
 David Allen Grace
 Robert Eugene Grace
 Zachary Ray Grumbein
 Izak Erickson Guernsey
 Austin James Harvey
 Morgan Laine Highsmith
 Hayden Scott Hildebrand
 Avry Isabella Hodson
 Daniel Bradford Hodson
 Alexandra Michaela Houk
 Pete Thomas Houk
 Margaret Pearl Hudson
 Samantha Diane Ince
 Madyson Ashlye Ince
 Austin Leroy Gary Jackson
 Kayedence Cheyenne Johnson
 Ronnell Danette Jonas
 Dawson Ronald Jonas
 Danette Marie Jonas
 Kyle Edward Keefer
 Shyanne Marie Keefer
 Myriah Jeaniel Kennedy
 Richard Ian Kennedy
 Laine Nikol Keough
 Kieran Malaki Keough
 Elizabeth Jane King
 Ian Charles Lofland
 Trevor James Lofland
 Joshua Dylan Long
 Daniel Harrison Long
 Jessica Marie Love
 Samuel Bradburn Love
 Betty Carroll Mann
 Connor Jayce Marlow
 Elias Rocky McCleary
 Chase Allen McCormick
 Liberty Marie McCurdy
 Justin David Meredith
 Nathan Ryan Meredith
 Hailey Ann Meredith
 Stephanie Ann Miles
 Heather Lynn Miles
 Alex Daniel Minturn
 Jessica Michelle Mitchell
 Sydney Rae Moore
 Hannah Mae Morgan
 Kadence Haven Murry
 Macie Lee Murry
 Quinten Dale Murry

Kallie Renae Murry
 Sydney Elise North
 Johnathon Thomas Lars O'Ryan
 Noah Austin Peterson
 Jennifer Lynn Phelps
 Ethan Kenneth Ramos
 Eponine Brooke Ramos
 Erin Gale Ramos
 Jason Kane Rash
 Jessica Jaylene Rash
 Garrett Mason Rash
 Krystal Dawn Robbins
 Marissa Marie Robbins
 Mark Allen Robins
 Traylen Zayne Robitaille
 Matthew Kevin Russell
 Gracen Lee Shelton
 Brenda Diane Skogen
 Ayrica Halle Skogen
 Ayla Jo Smith
 Aaron Phillip Smith
 Jady Sapphine Smith
 Kenneth Brian Abijah Spencer
 Paige Annabelle Szidon
 Madalyn Rosi Szidon
 Caden Alexander Thompson
 Elizabeth Joy Timek
 M'kaylah Jane Todd
 Sofia Raquel Vasquez
 Noah Thomas Vaughn
 Caleb Ace Vreeman
 Isaac Jay Vreeman
 Arlene Frances Weber
 Hunter Jeffrey White
 Sydney Rachelle Wilhelm
 Kyah Nicole Wilhelm
 Jacent Ray Williams
 Colbyn Bryan Wilson
 Kasey Jae Wolfenkoehler
 Isaac Grey Zane
 Levi Devin Zimmerman
 David Eugene Zimmerman, III
 Aidyn Eli Jonah Zimmerman
 Lexi Jo Ziolo
 Madison Jo Ziolo

HOUSING DEPARTMENT

The Wyandotte Nation Housing Department began in December of 1996. Over the past eleven years, the department has shown substantial growth. The housing department staff consists of Reba Guilford, Housing Director, Kathy DeWeese, Housing

Specialist, and Paul Paquin and Brian Adkins, Project Coordinators.

NAHASDA is the present program under which the Housing Department operates. This program allows the tribe some flexibility as to various housing services offered. Under this program the tribe will provide limited homeowner-ship, rental, and rehabilitation services. There are now fifty families that have been serviced with homes. In 2006, the department received a grant for rehabilitation of homes owned by tribal members. Thanks to this grant, thirteen homes have received much needed repairs.

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

Our newest project is located behind the tribal complex. The infrastructure and road work is nearly completed for a new apartment complex and senior units, which we hope to have completed within the next year or two. We will have 24 family units and 8 senior units.

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

Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department

The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department would like to say thank you to Sherri Clemons and the Pow-wow Committee for all their hard work and wonderful job on the "2007" Pow-wow. (continued on next page)

Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)

Also, congratulations to Carla Culver for receiving honors on having the new Preschool addition dedicated to her, for her years of hard work and service to the "Turtle Tot" Education Program.

The month of September started with The Environmental Department handing out hand wash sanitizing kits to all the food vendors at the Pow-wow, as a part of our GAP Education Program.

This month also found our department attending several meetings dealing with numerous aspects of the environment. Christen attended week long meetings in Kansas City the week of September 17th-21st, dealing with natural resource damage issues.

October has snuck up on us quickly and with that found Janice and Kathy traveling to Shepherdstown, W.V., for Natural Resource Damage Assessment & Restoration Training, the week of October 1-5th. With the Tar Creek Superfund site just north of the Tribal jurisdictional lands, the waters flowing through the superfund site flow into the Spring and Neosho River and end up being transported down stream into Grand Lake. Heavy metal contaminant's include: Lead, Zinc and Cadmium which are transported daily and have a grave impact on the Tribe's jurisdictional waters. With these issues and many other environmental impacts taking place daily, the department monitors 2 sites on Spring and Neosho Rivers at Twin Bridges Park, 3 sites on Lost Creek and 1 site on Sycamore Creek, on a monthly basis.

On October 6th, our department had a booth set up at the Bearskin Health Fair. We had crafts for children and had several hand outs and giveaways pertaining to our department and its activities.



This month will also find our department involved in meetings with 6 other northeast Oklahoma tribes, relating to environmental issues that affect us all. One such meeting is with Brian Cleary, a legal consultant, bringing us valuable information concerning the tribe's natural resources.

November is an equally busy month the Thanksgiving Holiday Season and helping out the other various departments with their dinners and activities. The last week of November will find Christen traveling to Dallas, TX for the annual RTOC/EPA Summit.

December will soon be here and with that, "Merry Christmas" from the Environmental Staff!

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

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

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

Christen Lee, Environmental Director (x241)

Kathleen Welch, Environmental Assistant (x235)

Janice Wilson, Environmental Technician (x245)

Planning/Development Department October 2007

The last few months the Tribe has received several grants. In August the Tribe signed the contract for the grant received from the Oklahoma Arts Council to help with the Annual Pow Wow. The Tribe received a grant from the Department of Justice Community Oriented Policing Department for bullet proof vest and other supplies and equipment for the Police Department.

The third was a grant from the Department of Housing and Urban Development Indian Community Housing Block Grant Program for improvements to the Tribe's water system and construction of a new water tower. This includes extension of mainline,

pumping station, 60,000 galloon elevated water storage and deep well and well house. The award was \$750,000.00. It also includes construction of a road to service the water plant. The location is due east of the existing housing infrastructure project.

The Tribe has also seen three major and one minor construction projects occur during the last months. The first is the construction of a sidewalk beside the Turtle Stop. This will be a huge benefit for any pedestrian traffic between the Fitness Center and the Turtle Stop and the Lucky Turtle Casino. Picture of this completed project is below.



Construction has started on the housing infrastructure project behind the Tribal offices. Sewer lines are in and progress continues on the construction of water, electric and roads for a future housing addition. Pictures of progress are below.



Sewer lines are installed.



Future road for housing addition.
(continued on next page)

Department Reports (cont.)

(continued from previous page)



Drainage area and part of greenbelt.

Construction is complete on the pre-school addition and the staff is beginning to move in. This addition added five new classrooms, three new bathrooms, a new entry way and a multi purpose room. Pictures of the new addition are below.



Entry way and storage bins to new addition.



Sink and cabinets in the classroom.



New addition will be dedicated to Ms. Carla Culver, Education Director

Title VI News

ELDER SERVICES

September 20, several health care and other businesses joined together and chartered the Cherokee Queen River Boat for Elders in Grove and the surrounding areas. Thirty one from our Elders program attended. They provided lunch and held drawings for door prizes.

We are planning to attend the Sr. Citizen Fair in Grove October 9. They will have a health fair, trade show, bingo, live music, and lunch.

We would like to invite you to join us for chair aerobics every Thursday and Friday mornings beginning at 10:30 am. We are having a great time loosening up our muscles and old creaky bones. On some of the exercises it actually sounds more like we are popping popcorn.

We are receiving food from the National Relief Charities every three months to use in our food program and for our Elders to use at home. We are also receiving items such as lotions, tooth paste, after shave, bubble bath, etc. to be given at our health screenings, support groups, and special events.

We will be holding a free eye screening Thursday October 25, from 10:00 am. - 1:00 pm.

We are trying to prepare for Old Man Winter, who is just around the corner.

Our Halloween music party will be October 31, at lunch time. We will have turkey legs, fried apples, and lots of goodies. We will also have a costume contest and prizes.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be Thursday, November 15, from 11:30 am – 1:00 pm.

We will have turkey and dressing and all of the trimmings.

Our Christmas Buffet will be Friday, December 14, from 11:30 am -1:00 pm.

We will have smoked brisket, smoked turkey, egg rolls, buffalo wings, chip and dip, fondue, salads, homemade candy, cookies and much more.

CAREGEVER

Dari attended the Health Fair at the Bearskin Health Center October 6. She gave information about the program to participants and gave out goodie bags.

Support Groups: Caregiver Group meets the 1st Thursday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Wyandotte Tribal Complex. Grandparents Group meets the 1st Friday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at the Grove Public Library.

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

Questions about our Caregiver program? Please call 1-800-256-2539 ext.253 or 227

As always, we invite you to come and visit us anytime. We wish everyone a very Happy and Blessed Holiday Season. Brenda House, Director, Elder Services ext. 227

Dari Ann Hunnicutt, Caregiver Specialist ext 253

Alexandra Boyd Food Service Team ext. 228

Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Ext. 228

Pam Deaton Food Service Team Ext. 228

Menu: Ext. 226

Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

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

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

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

Casino News



by Kim Harnar

We are pleased to announce Brian Mayotte as General Manager for both Lucky

Turtle Casino and Wyandotte Nation Casino. As General Manager, he will be responsible for security, facilities, table games, slots, finance, marketing, retail, and player's club. Brian works with the existing department heads and managers performing the day to day operations of both the casinos. We are excited to bring Brian here to Wyandotte. The years of casino experience that he brings with him is an excellent opportunity for Wyandotte Nation Casino.

The Twin Bridges Restaurant and Chef Mark Heyburn were featured on the

Carol Parker Show. Chef was showcasing his talents while preparing a new menu item. Please stop by for lunch or dinner and checkout the new additions to the menu and enjoy the wonderful atmosphere of Twin Bridges Restaurant.

In August we completed our "Grand Opening Summer" giveaway with a very happy guest driving away in a brand new red convertible mustang.

Join us in October for Howling Hot Seats every Friday night. We will give away over \$10,000 in cash. Also eligible members of Club Wyandotte can participate in our Trick or Treat promotion. Members are able to come in and pick a candy bar from our treat basket and win cash up to \$500. It pays to be a Club Wyandotte member. In Blackjack we have Spooktacular 7's and The Wyandotte Wammy promotions.

For the month of November every Friday night earn your chance to win one of three Northpark Mall shopping sprees. Three lucky people will win either \$5,000, \$3,000 or \$1,000. Also, Mr. Money Bags will be here to give away lots of cash and prizes every Monday and Tuesday.

In December we will celebrate New Years Eve – Come and ring in 2008 with us. Cash, prizes, party favors, and champagne at midnight. It is going to be a magical night.

Progress is continuing at the Kansas City Kansas casino. This facility is a very unique and beautiful structure. Please look for upcoming announcements for opening dates and special promotions.

Until next time,
Let's Live It Up



by Trudy Pendergraft

We are coming into another fall at the Lucky Turtle Casino,

with another great 9 months behind us. We had a full house with our Four Wheeler giveaway on September 26th. We are looking forward to our "Set of Tires and Road Service" drawing on October 17th. But don't be worried about the "Thirteen Black Cat's" for the Hot Seat drawings on Halloween on October 31st. All will have money amounts behind them so come in and have a bewitching night with your friends at the Lucky Turtle.

For the Health Fair we set up a Pumpkin Patch so each child could pick out their own pumpkin when they went on the hay ride, we worked together with the Fitness Center on having enough pumpkins for 101 children and

our sister Wyandotte Casino with the set up to make it a fun filled day. Thanks to everyone for their help, the kids loved it.

We will be going to the Turtle Tots with "Lucky" to hand out treats to the children for their party on Halloween so dress up and make it a fun day for the children.

November brings a time of thankfulness. All of us at the Lucky Turtle are very blessed for the opportunity to work for a great Nation.

We will be starting out on November 1st with random Hot Seat Drawings each day for a Free Turkey and don't forget our Veterans on November 12th we are doing a \$5.00 Free Play to all Veterans. By the way, let's thank our Veterans for their time they served our great country.

On November 14th, we are going to "Cook our way through Thanksgiving" by giving cooking tools. (Turkey Fryer, Roaster, and a Cooker)

Now let's not forget Old St. Nick for Christmas, we are giving (4) Four \$500.00 gift certificates on December 19th to four lucky winners.

We will be bringing in the New Year with free food to all our customers, with party hats, beads, and Hot Seat drawings every hour from 7 p.m. till 12 midnight for \$208.00. Also, we will hand out tickets to all players for final drawing of \$2008.00 to be given away right after the midnight hour.

So come in and start you New Year with your Lucky Turtle family. Happy New Year to all.



Education Department

Preschool:

Classes resumed for the fall term on August 16, 2007. We began school with limited space and the staff and students have been very adaptive in working with the changes and construction. We currently have thirty-eight students in our two classes. Two field trips were held during the month. We visited the Fire Safety Program conducted by the Miami Fire Department on Tuesday, October 9th. The Pre-school program visited the pumpkin patch at Fredrickson Farms in Carl Junction, Missouri on October 12th.

Volunteers from the Wyandotte Fire Department, headed by our own Garold Alumbaugh, maintenance supervisor for the Wyandotte Nation, visited the Preschool and let the students crawl through the cab and use a fire hose as a reinforcement to our fire prevention education. Bearskin Fitness Center has again started to conduct physical education classes with the preschool students. They will have class once a week. The students and staff are getting ready for the Halloween Program and parties on October 31 and our annual Preschool Thanksgiving Dinner on November 9th. If you are interested in your child attending preschool, please contact the Education Office at Ext. 230.

Construction is finally completed on the Education Center. The final walk through with the architects and construction firm was conducted on October 10. The keys were handed over to the Wyandotte Nation. The new addition contains five classrooms and a large gymnasium/multi purpose room. The activity room has a high ceiling to accommodate basketball and volleyball games. In the existing facility, the dining room has doubled in size to accommodate our summer program and a previous classroom has been converted to a cubby/locker room for all students enrolled. The after school program students are the most excited about having their own room and the use of a gymnasium for the winter months. A smoking ceremony and formal open house will be scheduled soon and we hope that many tribal members come to see this new portion of our facility.

Library:

The Wyandotte Tribal Library is open from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday. New books and videos are being added for our patrons' enjoyment. If you have a particular book or video that you are interested in, please contact Karen McNelis or Jessie Winscott. They look forward to meeting you and providing assistance. There is no charge for a membership card, which entitles you to utilize the library. We want to thank the library staff for their cooperation with our summer program as we have had to make use of their facility.

Child Care & Development Fund Program:

The Child Care Program is currently serving 155 families, which includes 81 Wyandottes. We utilize 78 licensed facilities to provide services for our Native American children. We offer assistance based on income to all federally recognized tribes. Participants must reside within a 100-mile radius of the tribal headquarters.

Application Requirements: Copies of:

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

Our CCDF program co-hosted a multi-county childcare providers training on Saturday, October 13, 2007. One hundred seventy-seven providers attended six hours of quality training that was facilitated by the Northeast Oklahoma Tribal CCDF programs in conjunction with the Oklahoma State University Cooperative Extension Service and Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Dru Bookout was the keynote speaker and she entertained the group and spoke about "wagging your tail even though you work like a dog."

Tribal Scholarships:

Students currently receiving tribal scholarships please don't forget to submit your fall grades and your spring schedule to the Education office as soon as you receive them which should be available in December. Your spring scholarship will not be disbursed until your grades have been received. Applications for the fall semester of fall 2008 will be available in the education office the middle of January. Housing assistance grants are available for those students who live in the four-state area which (continued on next page)

Educational Department continued.....

(continued from previous page)

includes: 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.

Students accepted into the Scholarship Program are:

Rex Allen – Greenfield, Wisconsin – majoring in Mechanical Engineering
 Allison Barkley – Asotin, Washington – majoring in Nursing
 Rachel Andre' – Puyallup, Washington – majoring in Biology
 Lyndy Armstrong – Shelby, Iowa - majoring in Radiology
 Kalli Farmer – Welch, Oklahoma – majoring in Nursing
 Megan Fowler – Springdale, Arkansas – majoring in Nursing
 Hazen Hale – Fairland, Oklahoma – majoring in Education
 Leslie Gettle – Meeker, Oklahoma - majoring in Biology/Physician's Assistant
 Eamonn Keyes – Wauwatosa, Wisconsin – majoring in Education/German
 Maggie Mawhiney – Fair Grove, Missouri – majoring in Engineering
 Samantha Wiese - Lebanon, Missouri – majoring in Geology
 Lacey Scanlan – Oklahoma City, Oklahoma – majoring in Psychology
 Elizabeth Williams – Allen Texas – majoring in Journalism
 Pami Spoon – Tulsa, Oklahoma – majoring in Nutrition
 Tyler Thompson – Richland, Washington – majoring in Engineering
 Kyle Hendricks – Kansas City, Missouri – majoring in Political Science
 Tosha Rider – Broken Arrow, Oklahoma – majoring in Dental Hygentist
 Melani Lyman – Wyandotte, Oklahoma – majoring in Nursing
 Matthew Wises – Lebanon, Missouri – major – undecided
 Ian Packard – Buffalo, Missouri – majoring in English Composition
 Pamela Stewart – Pierce City, Missouri – majoring in Nursing
 Allison Hoeme - Topeka, Kansas - majoring in Pre-Business

Those completing eight semester with the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program are:

Michelle Gray – San Antonio, Texas - Michelle completed an internship with Film & Music Entertainment LTD in London, England.
 Bryan Deshayes – Los Alamos, New Mexico – majoring in Mechanical Engineer, Project Management and Business.
 Tyler Hews – Van Buren, Maine – majoring in Physical Therapy.
 Magen Wright Genzler – Republic, Missouri
 Lea Baldwin – Wyandotte, Oklahoma – Lea graduated as a registered nurse in May and is currently working at Freeman Hospital in Neosho, Missouri.

Congratulations to scholarship recipient Ian Packard for receiving the Missouri State University Multicultural Leadership Scholarship. This Scholarship is available to all Native American students who are attending MSU. If you are interested in this scholarship, please contact the office of Student Financial Aid at 417.836.5262 or 1.800.283.4243.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA):

Arthur Anderson is now administering the WIA Program. Arthur was previously employed by the Wyandotte Public School System as a Para Professional for the Native American Programs. He has previous experience working with Native American students. Arthur will be a great addition to the Education staff and we are looking forward to working with him. Arthur and Carla attended the new administrators training July 30th through August 3rd in Pala, California. The WIA Program serves 9 counties: Crawford and Cherokee in Kansas; in Missouri: Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Dade, Lawrence and Barry. If you reside in one of these counties and you are interested in schooling of any type, please contact Mr. Anderson at Ext. 234. If you reside in Oklahoma, please contact Helen Christie at Inter-Tribal Council in Miami, Oklahoma at 918.542.4486.

Submitted by:

Carla Culver

2007 POW WOW PICTURES



Services Provided to Tribal Members

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

