

The Turtle Speaks

GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA



Volume 17, Issue 2

www.wyandotte-nation.org

May 2013

Reaching Out

Town Hall meeting
brings distant tribal
members closer

Page 10-11

(Pictured) Chief Billy Friend speaks at the Wyandotte County Historical Museum's April 21 opening of the traveling Smithsonian exhibit: 'Native Words, Native Warriors.' The exhibit will be at the Bonner Springs (Kansas City) museum through June. For more, visit our website.



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

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Important Dates:

May 17: Election Filing Period Begins (See p5)

Sept. 11-15: Culture Days Schedule (See p3)

Sept. 14: Annual Meeting (See p5)

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

Wyandotte Nation
Board of Directors

Chief	Billy Friend
Second Chief	Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
Councilperson	Ramona Reid
Councilperson	Vivian Fink
Councilperson	Juanita McQuiston
Councilperson	Eric Lofland



Library receives
makeover
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Lost Creek Recycling
Center opens
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Contact us

Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 848-0724.



We've set up a new page on Facebook (**Wyandotte Nation**). 'Like' us to stay up-to-date on all the latest happenings, events and photos at the Wyandotte Nation, and catch up with other tribal members.

Visit: www.facebook.com/pages/Wyandotte-Nation/571696826185246

Calendar

2013 Upcoming Events

May 14

Preschool graduation ceremonies

Graduation ceremonies will be held in the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Gymnasium. During the commencement ceremonies, six Wyandotte Nation citizens will wear their first cap and gown.

May 17

Annual Golf Scramble

The Wyandotte Nation Annual Golf Scramble, which helps raise money toward the Pow-Wow will be held May 17 at the Eagle Creek course. It will have a 9 a.m. shotgun start. The cost per four-person team is \$300. Door prizes and fun times are to be had. If you are interested in putting in a team, call (918) 678-2297 x244.

May 27

Memorial Day program

The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard will be presenting a short program on Memorial Day in the Wyandotte Cemetery. It will begin at 10 a.m.

July 3

Fireworks show

The fireworks display will be July 3 at the Pow-Wow grounds. Live music and food vendors will also be going on before the fireworks go off at dark. Everyone is welcome.

Aug. 9

National Night Out

The 2nd Annual National Night Out community event will take place at Wyandotte HS. There will be activities for all ages.

Wyandotte Nation
Annual Culture Days
Wednesday, Sept. 11

9 to 9:15 am – Welcome and introductions.
9:15 to 10:30 am – Our Great Chiefs from 1649-1843 (Lloyd Divine).
10:30 to 10:45 am – Break.
10:45 to Noon – Language (Dr. Craig Kopris).
Noon to 1 pm – Lunch On Your Own.
1 to 2 pm – Know Your Nation (Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand).
2 to 4 pm – Special Interests. Your choice; Pine Needle Basket Weaving, Advanced Language or (TBD).
4 to 4:15 pm – Break.
4:15 to 5:30 pm - Wyandotte (Clan Based) Government. (Marilyn Young)
5:30 to 6 pm – Break and travel time to Title VI Building.
6 to 8 pm – Annual fried chicken dinner.

8 pm – Wampum Belt of Friendship.

Thursday, Sept. 12

9 to 9:15 am – Welcome and introductions.
9:15 to 10:30 am – Our Great Chiefs from 1844 (David Culver and Deryl Wright).
10:30 to 10:45 am – Break.
10:45 to Noon – Language (Dr. Craig Kopris).
Noon to 1 pm – Lunch On Your Own.
1 to 2 pm – Know Your Nation (Tribal Department Directors).
2 to 4 pm – Special Interests. (See above)
4 to 4:15 pm – Break.
4:15 to 5:30 pm - Wyandotte (Election Based) Government. (Katie Chinn)
5:30 to 6 pm – Break and travel time to Title VI Building.
6 to 8 pm – Traditional Dinner.
8 pm – Wampum Belt of Friendship.

Friday, Sept. 13

9 to 9:15 am – Welcome and introductions.
9:15 to 10:30 am – Language (Dr. Craig Kopris).
10:30 to 10:45 – Break.
10:45 to Noon – Q&A (Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee).
Noon to 1 pm – Lunch on your own.
1 to 5 pm – Participants will be given a choice to work on their special interest projects, Wampum Belt of Friendship, or take a tour of the grave sites of our chiefs.
5 to 7 pm – Dinner on your own.
7 pm – Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.

Saturday, Sept. 14

-Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.
10 am -Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting.

Sunday, Sept. 15

-Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.

SPECIAL NOTE: This year we are going to sit down as one people – as united Wyandots from Anderdon, Kansas and Oklahoma – and make a Wampum Belt of Friendship. The Culture Committee is asking that designs be submitted for the belt. The Committee will select one of the designs and after our evening dinners all participants will be given a chance to work on the belt. The belt will be placed in our upcoming culture center/museum to forever remind us that we are one people. If you would like to submit a design email it to culture@wyandotte-nation.org or mail it to the **Wyandotte Nation, Tribal Heritage Department, 64700 E. Highway 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370**. See you in September!

If you plan to attend Culture Days 2013 please register online at:

www.wyandotte-nation.org/community/tribal-heritage/culture-days/2013-schedule/

The strength of the Wyandotte Nation

“Let us rejoice daily for little seasons of time in the good things we do and of which we are a part.

Doing this influences our entire approach to life and can greatly affect our outlook.”

- Jack H Goaslind

Kweh,

I hope that this quarter’s tribal newsletter finds all doing well and enjoying the beginning of a new season.

Citizens of the Wyandotte Nation should be very confident and secure in knowing that we are strong.

Great use has been made of the resources the Tribe has been given, including time and energy. It’s all resulting in a brighter and more secure future for all Wyandottes in this generation and those to follow. As Chief, I am thankful for a wonderful team of employees, managers, directors, volun-



**BILLY FRIEND
CHIEF**

teers and a Board of Directors who are creative, innovative people, diligently pouring their energy into a positive future for the Wyandotte Nation.

I am also very grateful for the efforts of our ancestors and those who have paved the way for us. Because of their efforts, we have the hope of a brighter and better tomorrow.

As a leader I understand and realize it is because of our ancestors’ determination, perseverance, and faith in our Creator and each other that brought our Nation so far.

A few weeks ago, I stood at the Old Mission Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, the site where our ancestors gathered on July 12, 1843 and Squire Greeyes gave his passionate farewell address before we left what had been our home for over 100 years.

As I stood there I began to reflect on the images of our past and the present and was reminded of just how far we’ve come. Even though we were uprooted from our ancestral homeland and forced west – and we had an unknown future – our story reflects a continuation of our tradition and our heritage. It’s been passed down to us from generations long ago, and today we still stand

strong.

We have made great progress in providing opportunities to meet the most basic needs of our tribal citizens in the areas of health care, housing, education and employment. There are still improvements to be made, but we are well on our way.

Our Culture Committee members are also working diligently to protect our history, culture, arts, humanities and language for future generations. I want to personally commend them for the commitment that they have each made toward these efforts. The revitalization and preservation of the content of our history, is just as vital as career training and development for the future. Each day, we are all working attentively at those things that will sustain us now and in the future.

In closing, I would like to say a special thank you to all of our tribal citizens in the Northwest who attended and participated in our first ever Tribal Town Hall Meeting in Seattle, Wash., in March. We had over 200 register for the meeting and 191 in attendance for the first meeting. Some were unable to

See From the Chief, Page 9

Taking Annual Meeting on road proves to be a success

Kweh,

I hope this article finds everyone well and full of spring fever, any way the weather man says it is spring. I wish the weather itself would listen to him. The seniors in our duplexes are talking about planting vegetables, flowers and trees. We have quite a unique community back there, it always amazes me what they come with for what the Tribe can do to make it better.

I attended a Health and Human Services consultation recently and heard a lot of concerns of tribal leaders about the effects of the sequester and what impact cuts in education, health and other various social services would have on their respective tribes. When the Fed-

eral Government talks about cuts, Indian Services and programs for the elderly are always the first and seem like the hardest hit. People on Social Security got a 1.7 percent cost of living increase (don’t spend it all in one place) while our Congressional Leaders got something around I think 13 percent, this is supposed to be a government for all the people, how many of them are going to



**NORMAN
HILDEBRAND, JR.
SECOND CHIEF**

feel the effects of the sequester?

There was a topic that was tossed around with some concern and that subject was the definition of an Indian. We have been in this country for thousands of years, we know what we are and who we are it’s amazing that our learned leaders in Washington D.C. can’t remember who we are after all the history we have been through, it seems to me if they don’t know what an Indian is by now they never will.

We recently took our Annual Meeting on the road to Seattle, Wash., and met tribal members in that area. We got acquainted with some truly amazing people, after a few minutes talking with these

See From the Second Chief, Page 9

“I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the set, I go into the other room and read a book.” – Groucho Marx, Comedian

Top Shelf

Library receives makeover

By WILLIAM SWAIM
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

With an ever expanding collection of books and DVDs, and confined to the same amount of space, the Wyandotte Nation Library was – literally – “bursting at the seams.”

But thanks to a little reorganization, the library’s makeover means patrons will have better and easier access to the growing collection.

“I don’t know how we did it, but we made the library bigger,” said Leeanna Radabaugh, Wyandotte Nation Education Receptionist. “I don’t know how to describe it; it just looks huge.”

Tammy Charles, Wyandotte Nation’s Education Director, said they added three stacks of shelving to accommodate the growing collection, painted the walls, added a section for a monthly showcase, and dedicated a new children’s area. The new stacks were built to match the existing shelves.

Work started in March and wrapped up recently, save a few touches here and there.

“The reorganization was needed. We



Leeanna Radabaugh reorganizes books on one of the new stacks in the library.
(William Swaim/Communications Specialist)

were bursting at the seams,” Charles said.

A grant was used to fund the purchase of materials, such as the books and DVDs. Charles said they will continue to grow as long as they receive this basic grant.

In addition to the new features, the library also features a vast DVD collection (801), has Wi-Fi hub, and a high speed computer lab for students and patrons to utilize.

Charles said they are also in the process

of automating. When fully implemented, people can just punch in the title and it should reflect accurate, real time inventory on hand. It will also make it easier to check books in and out as well.

They are also in the process of organizing the shelves by author, excluding their most-read books falling under the topics of Western and Christian books, which will have their own sections.

“People can come in and use their laptops or our computers,” Radabaugh said. “We have a good variety of fiction. We have a cooking section, history books, and autobiographies. About the only thing we do not have are genealogy books.”

The library is not done growing.

Charles said they have applied for another big grant and are hoping to find out in September if they receive it. She said the focus of the grant deals with three points: technology in literacy; print in literacy; and culture in literacy.

The point they stressed: Fifteen minutes of out of school or work time

A new children’s rug adorns the children’s section of the library. It was part of the library makeover.



Election filing period begins May 17; Annual Meeting Sept. 14

The opening date to file for candidacy for the 2013 election is May 17.

All candidates interested in running for elective office need to file no later than 4:30 p.m., June 16, when the filing period closes.

The Wyandotte Nation will hold their Annual Meeting and Election at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Okla., on Sept. 14, 2013. The Annual Meeting will be held at 10 a.m. and the election from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. to decide the following positions:

- Chief
- 3 Board of Directors members
- 3 Grievance Committee members

The term of each position is four years. Current members will hold their office until successors are duly elected and given their oath of office.

All qualified members of the Wyandotte

Nation who want to be placed on the ballot must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" in person with the Election Board Secretary or a designated representative at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building, located at 64700 E Hwy 60, in Wyandotte.

No person can be a candidate for more than one office at any one time. The Election Board Secretary will post a complete list of all candidates, along with their respective office of candidacy, at the Tribal Complex no later than three days following the close of the filing period.

A \$50 filing fee will be assessed for each candidate filing for chief and the board of directors. A \$10 filing fee will be assessed for Grievance Committee candidates. Each candidate for elective office can make these fees payable to the Wyandotte Nation by certified check,

cashier's check or money order.

The fees are used for election purposes. The filing fee must be paid on the same date the prospective candidate submits his or her Declaration of Candidacy. The fee is non-refundable.

The official polling place for tribal elections will be the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center classroom. The polling place will be open from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Any voter in line at the polling place but unable to cast a ballot before 11 a.m. will be allowed to finish voting. The polling place will be staffed by at least two polling officials designated by the Election Board.

Each voter will be required to present a photo ID and Tribal Membership Card. If the Tribal Membership Card has a photo on it, this will satisfy both of these requirements.

Reading

Continued from Page 4

reading will expose individuals to over 2 million words per year.

She said if they do receive the grant, it will enable them to update all the computers, bring in iPads, more seating, develop more programs, and extend the hours.

"One of the things we found out when we did a professional development assessment at Wyandotte Public Schools is that they didn't even know we had a library here," Charles said. "They didn't know we had high speed Internet access and no one around here really has Internet this fast at home."

Charles added that they have good Internet resources for the kids, but the

hours just don't work well for some of the students' schedules. She said they need someone to be here at 8:30 or so at night to accommodate those students who may have extracurricular activities.

She also said the grant will allow them to bring in some cultural presentations and host culture classes. She said they plan on partnering with the Bearskin Fitness Center to help promote fitness and healthy eating to better serve the community.

"We have some pretty good things coming up. I don't want to call them lofty, because they are attainable, if we receive the funding to make it happen," Charles said.

The Importance of Reading

'Fifteen minutes of out of school or work time reading will expose individuals to over 2 million words per year'

As for the immediate future, the library has a summer reading program coming up after school ends in May. They will also continue to add to the current collection.

"I think we stay fairly current on everything that is a new release that fits into the reading genre of our individual," Charles said. "Now do we go out and buy every new release on Tuesday? No. Because we have people that would never check them out. We pretty much know our patrons and their readership, and we try to meet that."

One only needs a photo ID and to fill out the membership form to become a member of the library. People can check out up to three movies for a week and up to six books for two weeks. Overdue fees are enforced.

The library is located at 64700 E. Hwy 60 in Wyandotte. For more information, call (918) 678-2297.

Member News

Blue Ribbon Painting

Gabe Shelton proudly displays his blue ribbon after his painting was recognized for first place by the Brush and Palette Club in Grove. Gabe is the grandson of Rhonda Klindworth.



A place for 'community'

By WILLIAM SWAIM
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

For people living in a rural community, finding available entertainment can be a challenge as there just isn't a lot to do.

While watching plants grow may be entertaining for a horticulturist or botanist, for the average person, well, it's just simply boring.

For teens, idle hands can open a window to trouble. For adults and seniors, it may lead to just pure boredom, and well, sometimes trouble too.

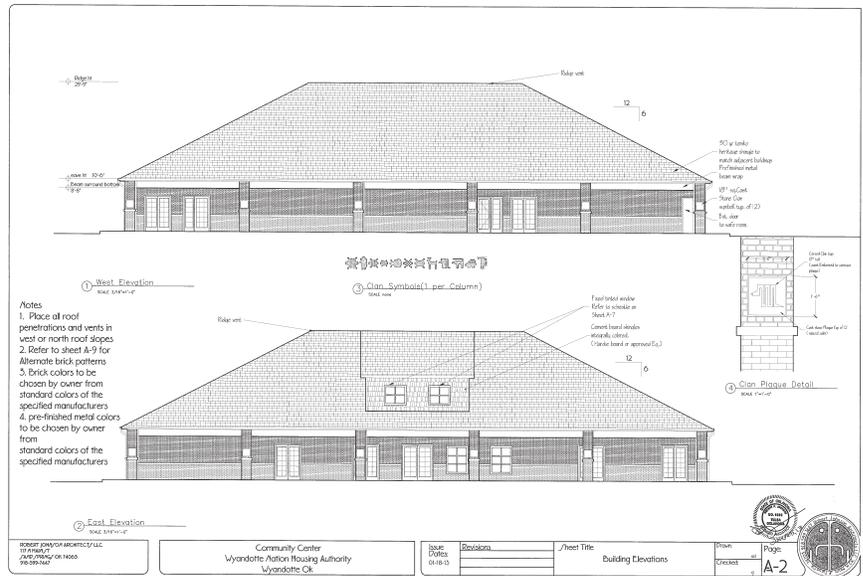
With plans for a community center underway, the Wyandotte Nation is hoping to provide a cure for boredom. Well, maybe not so much a cure as a remedy.

Plans for the nearly 7,000 square foot community center are underway with the hope of breaking ground sometime this summer.

Kathy DeWeese, Wyandotte Nation Housing Director, said bids for the proposed community center will go out shortly.

Floor plans for the community center will provide space for a senior center, activity center, kitchen and a saferoom. It will also be the new home to the housing department, which should make the offices more accessible to all.

"It will give the seniors something to do and the kids something to do too,"



Blueprint for proposed community center. (Wyandotte Nation Housing Department)

DeWeese said. "There are not a lot of activities for the kids, so this center will be open to give the kids something to do to and keep them off the streets.

"What we really wanted was to have different things for our seniors to do. We have a lady who will possibly come in and teach them how to make baskets. We're hoping to have cultural classes, like 'how to make shawls to have for the Pow-Wow. There is talk about doing a quilt with maybe all the tribes and clans of the Tribe, and making it into a quilt. There will be all kinds of activities for the seniors to do."

DeWeese said the center will also be available to rent space out for baby showers, birthday parties, and other activities.

The activity center will feature pool tables, ping pong tables and a Wii video

game system.

The saferoom has enough space to hold at least 100 people in the event of adverse weather conditions.

The kitchen will not be serving daily meals, but is available for special events.

DeWeese said the facility will be open to any age. The housing offices will be closed after normal business hours. She said the plan is to try and keep the centers open until 9 or 10 in the evening. The storm shelter can be accessed at any time.

The community center isn't the last of the plans. DeWeese said once they complete the community center, they are looking at bringing a Splash Pad to the Wyandotte area next year.

"We're just trying to build up this community area - areas that can be used not just by tribal members, but the whole community," DeWeese said.

News from the 7th Street Casino

By CASEY ELLETT

7th Street Casino has made it through the snow, and it is exciting to see spring on the other side. Kansas City experienced a snow-filled winter collecting feet of snow compared to



Wyandotte, OK only experiencing inches here and there. Even with the challenges Mother Nature presented 7th Street Casino has continued posting fantastic numbers. Remarkably, 7th Street Casino has shown growth in year-over-year coin-in.

May and June promise to be exciting months with a variety of exciting events that are sure to capture the attention of the Kansas City market. From

Mother's Day to Cinco de Mayo in May to the Scooter Challenge, Happy Hour, and Coed Night in June, 7th Street Casino is guaranteed to be hot spot all spring and summer long.

As always, we want to thank all parties that help make 7th Street Casino the amazing place it is. We truly could not do it without your support and praise. Let's get ready for an exciting couple of months.

New team nets drug shipment

BY KEN MURPHY, CHIEF OF POLICE

Within the first 90 days of deploying our new drug interdiction team of Officer R.C. Gilmore and K-9 Joker, the Wyandotte Nation Police Department netted a large drug shipment that was destined for southwest Missouri from California.

Stopping this Mercedes SUV on Hwy 60 near the Turtle Stop for having a headlight out was far from routine.

Officer Gilmore noticed right away that the stories of the two occupants didn't match up. He used his drug interdiction skills, and the trained nose of K-9 Joker, to investigate further. This resulted in arrests of the pair for small quantities of methamphetamine and heroin.

Assisted by Officer Brad Black, Gilmore determined there was probably more drugs hidden somewhere in the vehicle. A thorough search found approximately one pound of crystal meth concealed within the dash of the 2000 Mercedes Benz.

DEA agents were alerted and the investigation continues while both suspects remain in custody under federal indictment. The street value of the uncut methamphetamine was estimated at approximately \$73,000.

The majority of crime that we encounter has some connection to illegal drug use so we've developed a comprehensive plan to address it. This includes prevention through education of our youth in programs such as the DARE in the Wyandotte Schools and aggressive enforcement.

We have some of the most experienced and highly trained officers in the region. Officer Ken Brodrick has over 18 years of experience as a DARE officer and does



Officer R.C. Gilmore with K-9 Joker.

an outstanding job working with our youth and school staff.

Officer Gilmore is trained in highway interdiction with K-9 Joker and I expect he'll have a significant local impact as well as continued success in disrupting the flow of illegal drugs through the U.S. 60 corridor.

These efforts, in addition to the 24 x 7 community policing of our Patrol and Investigations Divisions, will help us meet our vision of providing a safe environment for those who live, work, and visit the Wyandotte community. We also work with the Tribe's Meth and Suicide Prevention Initiative that is managed by the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center.

We want to invite everyone to come out and join us for our 2nd Annual National Night Out community event Aug. 9 at the Wyandotte High School. There will be activities for all ages and giveaways. Watch for more details as the date nears.

For more information contact Investigator Zumwalt at (918) 678-3100.

News from the Wyandotte Nation Casino

BY CASEY ELLETT

The Wyandotte Nation Casino is ready for an exciting spring, and smoking hot summer.

May is sure to be a hit with all types of holidays to support some great events. The party kicks off, with our "Cinco de Mayo Celebration" on May 5; featuring free T-shirts, fantastic food



and drinks special, and \$500 cash drawings every 30 minutes.

May continues with a special event just for "mom" with our "Mother's Day Giveaway" on May 12. Every mother is sure to have a ball with exclusive free play offers and drawings just for her. Finally, the month will certainly end on a high note with the Wyandotte Nation Casino "Memorial Day Scratch-a-thon" on May 27. We ordered 500 scratchers with over \$10,000 in prize waiting for

some lucky guests.

June and July pick up where May left off with our "Free Play for a Year Giveaway," "Just for Dad Free Play Frenzy," and the induction of a new "Morning Mob, Luck be a Lady, and Boys Night Out!"

In the end, the events are always fun, but it is a great team that keeps guests coming back. We sincerely thank everyone who helps make Wyandotte Nation Casino such a great place to work and play.

No e-wasting time

With blessing, Lost Creek Recycling Center opens for business

By WILLIAM SWAIM
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

With the conclusion of the smoking ceremony and blessing from Chief Billy Friend Thursday, April 11, the Wyandotte Nation officially opened its doors to the public for its newly constructed Lost Creek Recycling Center.

“Today, as we do the smoking ceremony, we are going to pray and ask the great Creator to bless this building, bless all those who walked through the door, and bless the endeavors of the work that is done here,” the Chief said during the ceremony. “The work done here will not only be beneficial to our generation, but seven generations ahead as we work toward preserving and protecting the environment.”

Several Wyandotte town officials were on hand for the ceremony, as well as area media, the general public, tribal members and staff. Staff served food and handed out products made from recyclable materials to those who attended the grand opening.

The Lost Creek Recycling Center, a 4,000-square foot building located at 4 Lost Creek Dr. (behind the Bearskin Fitness Center) in Wyandotte, Okla., is open to the community and surrounding area Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The facility features 24-hour drop boxes for after hour material drop offs or in the event staff is out picking up materials during normal business hours.

“I think it is going to be a great asset to the tribe and a great addition to our environmental department,” the Chief said, adding the Tribe has always collected recyclables, but had to send them off and watch someone else make the profit off of them.



Chief Friend performs the smoking ceremony at the Lost Creek Recycling Center grand opening April 11 in Wyandotte. (William Swaim/Communications)

“Not only are we going to be able to collect and do the recycling ourselves, but then we will also be able to sell it ourselves and help supplement the environmental department financially.”

The recycling center’s benefits reach beyond the Tribe, however, as Wyandotte and surrounding communities can take advantage of the services provided.

“When you have a small commu-

nity, a small rural community such as Wyandotte, they usually don’t have the opportunity to recycle. It’s usually found in more of your urban areas, in more of your cities,” the Chief said. “It will be a great asset to the community.”

Christen Lee, Environmental Director for the Wyandotte Nation, said community

Recycling

Continued from Page 8

input early in the process was crucial for the Wyandotte Nation to develop a plan to best serve the recycling needs of the area.

She said the facility accepts the following materials: paper, plastic, cardboard, tin and aluminum. During special events, e-waste and other materials may be allowed.

Construction began in August 2012 and was completed for around \$200,000.

“As the Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, I am very proud of our environmental department. This is a great accomplishment for us to have this recycling center here,” Chief Friend said. “Saving the environment is one small step at a time and having everyone doing their part. I know that Christen and her staff are dedicated to the cause of preserving and protecting the environment.”

Funding for the project came in part from a cooperative national grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Indian Health Services (IHS) and



Left, a crowd gathers for the grand opening of the recycling center. Below, The Lost Creek Recycling Center sign in front of the new facility in Wyandotte.



the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The \$104,000 grant was one of just five awarded in the U.S.

An Indian Reservation Roads (IRR) grant will cover the cost of the driveway and parking lot at the facility. The Wyandotte Nation funded the rest of the project not covered by the grants.

Lee said the paving is about the only thing left to be done. “We’re not quite done yet, but we will be open for business,” she said.

Area businesses interested in having a recycle bin can call (918) 678-2297, ext. 241. Lee said they would also like to work with schools, scouts, 4-H groups and other organizations. Those interested are encouraged to contact the Wyandotte Nation, (918) 678-2297, ext. 241.

From the Chief

Continued from Page 3

attend because of inclement weather, but we were overwhelmed by the response.

In our first planning meeting, we were considering that if we had 50 citizens attend the event it would be a success, but after the word got out the response we received was amazing. It was such an honor for me to be able to meet many of our tribal citizens and their families for the first time. To be able to take our

annual meeting that we hold in Oklahoma out to different areas of the country, where we have large concentrations of Wyandotte citizens, has been a vision of mine the past several years.

We have over 5,000 tribal citizens and only 300-500 are able to attend the meeting each year here in Oklahoma. I want every Wyandotte to feel connected to their Tribe and be proud of who we are.

We will be doing two more meetings in May, in Irvine, Calif. (Southern), and

in Sacramento, Calif. (Northern). This fall we will begin the process for identifying locations and dates for meetings in 2014.

As always it is with gratitude and great honor that I serve you as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation. May God watch over and protect you and your family until we meet again.

Psalms 133:1 “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity!”

From the Second Chief

Continued from Page 3

people it seemed like we had known each other for years, there was just a special connection between everyone. We are doing the same thing in California the first weekend in May, can’t wait to meet our tribal members in that part of the country.

I like to think the Wyandotte Nation

is unique and innovative in how we do things and how we conduct business. I mentioned to a local tribal leader about how we are taking our Annual Meeting on the road. He insisted I let him know how it went; he said they talked about doing the same thing.

Recently I was talking to a tribal leader from the southern part of the state and she

was asking me about our Annual Meeting and how we conducted different aspects of the meeting. She said I gave her some good ideas for their annual gathering.

Chief Bearskin laid down a very good foundation for us to follow and it is with extreme pleasure that I was chosen to continue to build on that foundation the future of the Wyandotte Nation.

God Bless Everyone
Tizameh

Reaching out

Town Hall meeting brings tribal members together

By **KIM GARCIA**
WYANDOTTE NATION

A few months ago, Chief Friend asked several employees to a meeting. He shared with us his vision of Town Hall meetings nationwide for tribal members.

We have several thousand tribal members that will never be able to get back to the Tribe for the Annual Meeting, never be able to have a time to be with other Wyandottes, and never have a chance to know what all of us really do.

I've heard him share this vision a few times throughout the last several years and the opportunity was now. Chief Friend chose employees that were able to answer questions concerning tribal benefits on a nationwide scale. It was essentially a traveling Annual Meeting (I wanted to call it the Road Show but I was out-voted).

On March 23, the first Town Hall Meeting took place. A friend, fellow Wyan-



(Above) Tribal members enjoy a meal at the first of its kind Town Hall meeting at the Radisson in Seattle.

(Right) Karin Taylor's family takes time to pose with Chief Friend and Princess Emilee. From left, McKenna Elliott, Karin Taylor, Chief Friend, Princess Emilee, Lore'K Garofola, Chris Garofola holding baby Sophia Garofola, and Jered Taylor.

dotte, and tribal employee stated that history was made with this meeting. It really made me think about what happened at the Radisson in Seattle, Wash.

There were registrations, name tags, videos, lunch, photos, and a business meeting. The PowerPoint presentation had the wrong year on the very first slide. Princess Emilee was so gra-

rious to point it out to me and it worried me the rest of the presentation. Thank you for that Emilee. But what really happened?

Cousins that haven't seen each other in close to 45

years reunited. Family was introduced to each other. Six sisters in their golden years came together with their children, grandchildren, and

See Town Hall, Page 11



(Above) Princess Emilee takes time for a photo with Katie Thomsen during the Town Hall meeting in Seattle. The meeting was an opportunity for tribal members spread out nationwide to meet other Wyandottes and learn more about the state of the Tribe.



Cousins, Betty Conrad and Frank Ling, met at the Town Hall meeting for the first time since they both moved away from Wyandotte as young children.



The Hays sisters take the opportunity to have a photo with Chief Friend, Princess Emilee, and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Wyandotte Nation tribal courts open for cases

By WILLIAM SWAIM
COMMUNICATIONS SPECIALIST

Anyone who has had dealings with the traditional U.S. justice system knows the words efficient and quick are rarely used in the same sentence.

As the system struggles to address the high volume of serious matters it has to contend with, an alternative has emerged for Wyandotte Nation tribal members.

The Wyandotte Nation opened the district portion of its Tribal Courts March 1 and its focus is to respond to a growing need in the community, addressing crime-related problems often ignored or given low priority by the larger justice system.

“Traditional courts take so much time to get through the system because they are overloaded with cases,” said Jan Everley, the Wyandotte Nation’s Tribal Court Clerk.

“The Tribal Courts are more impartial, have effective results and we’ll have results in a faster manner than traditional courts because we won’t let things drag on. We’ll face them head on.”



The focus of the court is to respond to issues that affect life, civility, and safety in the Wyandotte community and to make the justice system more accessible and responsive to tribal members, local residents and businesses.

“It’s more personalized for the tribal members,” Everley said. “From what I’ve seen in other tribal courts, tribal members feel like they are getting a more fair and impartial hearing by the judge.”

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Courts will be comprised of a Supreme Court and District Court, and possibly a Community Court. The District Court consists of a District Court Judge and Prosecutor to manage the cases filed with

the court. The Supreme Court consists of five Supreme Court Judges. The Supreme Court is not operational yet.

All decisions made by the District Court will be recognized by the State and CFR Courts. The Supreme Court will have full authority on any appeal from the District Court to affirm, reverse, modify or vacate any action in the District Court or other entity from which an appeal is taken as authorized by law.

The tribal courts have jurisdiction over all civil and criminal actions arising under the Constitution and Laws of the Wyandotte Nation, which occur in the tribal jurisdiction or which may be assigned to it by Legislative or Executive Order.

Everley said the court will adhere to tribal codes in dealing with state and federal laws. The codes define how the Tribe prefers to handle certain cases while following state and federal regulations. She said it makes it more fine-tuned for tribal members.

Everley said the court will meet once a month on the fourth Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m., unless an emergency situation arose requiring more immediate attention. She said they would then have a special hearing.

She said there were currently two cases pending in April.

“We will continue to develop the court,” she said. “We also want to set up a Community Court that would offer alternatives to sentencing. I think it would benefit a lot more people than sentencing and just putting them in jail - not including major crimes, of course.”

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Courts are located at 64600 E. 145 Rd (housing building). The hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Thursday. The court is closed from noon to 1 p.m. for lunch.

For more information, contact Everley at (918) 848-0758.

Town Hall

Continued from Page 10

great-grandchildren. Wyandottes met other Wyandottes.

A woman in her late 60s exclaimed she never thought she’d ever get to see her Tribe like this in her lifetime. I met a man (quite possibly related to me) that is a very talented silversmith (and no, I’m not stating he’s talented because he’s related to me, although that is very likely the case).

Another woman showed me her self-taught beautiful loom-beading skills (I’ve already recruited her to teach a class at Culture Days).

During the meeting, when Chief Friend began explaining the benefits offered nationwide, the people exploded with applause with each one. After the meeting, we heard over and over again, “Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!”

Many said, “The Tribe is so well run, our Tribal Government needs to teach something to the Federal Government!”

Several said they had no idea how big and how well diversified our tribe really is. Our teamwork for the meeting left many impressed (although Dana Butterfield really did most of the work).

To sum it up, what really happened Saturday, March 23:

People received something that so many people search their entire lives for... a sense of belonging.

Our Northwestern Tribal Citizens now feel a connection to the Tribe. They feel a deeper connection to one another. We in Oklahoma feel more connected to the Northwest.

And I feel like I’m exactly where I’m supposed to be - Wyandotte Nation.

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center updates appeal process

If referral or emergency care was denied by Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Contract Health Services, the patient and/or provider has 30 days from the date the denial letter is received to appeal for reconsideration.

Effective June 1, 2013, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Contract Health Services appeal process will be as follows:

Kelly Walker, CPT, CES, MS
 Director of Health Services
 Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
 1 Turtle Drive
 Wyandotte, OK 74370

If the decision is upheld, the second level of appeal can be made in writing within 30 days to:

Appellate Board
 Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
 1 Turtle Drive
 Wyandotte, OK 74370

If the decision is upheld, the final level of appeal can be submitted in writing within 30 days to:

Robert Hopper, MD
 Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
 1 Turtle Drive
 Wyandotte, OK 74370

Call-ins are reported to Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center in Wyandotte, Oklahoma at (918) 678-3227. This call should be made when a patient has an emergency and is unable to go to the nearest IHS facility or Bearskin Healthcare. The patient must call in within 72 hours after the beginning of the treatment. This 72 hour period is extended for ages 65 and older to 30 days from the beginning of treatment.

For further information, contact the Contract Health Services Office at (918) 678-3227 or visit Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center in Wyandotte.



Wyandotte's Shane Vandenburg lifts a police car during the Bearskin Strongman Competition April 20. (William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation)

Bearskin Strongman competition & Run for Nisasi'Kawa results

Heavyweight	Lightweight
1st, Dan Hickman (Pittsburg, KS)	1st, Sheridan Wilhes (Miami, OK)
2nd, Shane Redden (Commerce, OK)	2nd, Chris Epperson (Joplin, MO)
3rd, Chad Julian (Miami, OK)	3rd, Travis Eads (Miami, OK)



Wyandotte's Mike Kirk enjoys a brisk 5K run Saturday, April 20, during the Run for Nisasi'Kawa. (William Swaim/Wyandotte Nation)

5K OVERALL RESULTS

Place / Name / Age / M-F / Location / Time
1 Micheal Carman, 49, M, Joplin, MO 18:42
2 Coy Vowels, 13, M, Wyandotte, OK 19:37
3 Robert Berry, 44, M, Miami, OK 21:54
4 Madison McBrien, 12, F, Miami, OK 23:50
5 Jared Whitehead, 37, M, Seneca, MO 23:56
6 Kenny Glass, 24, M, Wyandotte, OK 24:04
7 Mike Kirk, 53, M, Wyandotte, OK 24:28
8 Seth Brown, 20, M, Seneca, MO 25:12
9 Ally Graves, 24, F, Joplin, MO 25:12
10 Arturo Garcia, 43, M, Seneca, MO 25:18
11 Miriam Graham, 24, F, Goodman, MO 25:32
12 Jordann Alexander, 20, M, Fairland, OK 25:56
13 Mark Goode, 47, M, Fairland, OK 26:12
14 Emily Bryant, 14, F, Wyandotte, OK 26:28
15 Nicholas Baron, 25, M, Wyandotte, OK 26:47
16 Debbie Hilestad, 33, F, Wyandotte, OK 26:54
17 Travis Jones, 36, M, Wyandotte, OK 27:34
18 Emili Gould, 30, F, Wyandotte, OK 27:49
19 Krista Kirk, 43, F, Wyandotte, OK 28:29
20 Cody Teal, 12, M, Miami, OK 28:50
21 Kaden Eyler, 8, M, Wyandotte, OK 29:03
22 Magan Eyler, 33, F, Wyandotte, OK 29:03
23 Mason Shadwick, 13, M, Wyandotte, OK 29:05
24 Andrea Berry, 39, F, Miami, OK 29:45
25 Tara Baron, 25, F, Wyandotte, OK 30:04
26 Dylan Bryant, 16, M, Wyandotte, OK 32:12
27 Nycollé's King, 27, M, Wyandotte, OK 32:28
28 John Gourd, 53, M, Wyandotte, OK 32:30
29 Joy Bryant, 39, F, Wyandotte, OK 32:39
30 Andreana Perez, 40, F, Joplin, MO 32:59
31 Rhonda Friend, 47, F, Joplin, MO 33:13
32 Bobi Eckert, 23, F, Seneca, MO 33:15
33 Cia Berry, 14, F, Miami, OK 33:22
34 Leanne West, 42, F, Branson, MO 33:23
35 Mariah West, 18, F, Branson, MO 33:25
36 Austin Gould, 32, M, Wyandotte, OK 34:12
37 Mollie Leek, 29, F, Wyandotte, OK 34:52
38 Dana Butterfield, 43, F, Seneca, MO 38:49
39 Kenzie Buffalo, 17, F, Miami, OK 40:30
40 Geoff Buffalo, 47, M, Miami, OK 40:48
41 Missy Burns, 52, F, Wyandotte, OK 41:18
42 Leeanna Radabaugh, 45, F, Seneca, MO 42:04
43 Ceymon Hibbard, 13, M, Wyandotte, OK 42:04
44 Christie Harbaugh, 43, F, Anderson, MO 42:27
45 Shelby Dalton, 14, F, Anderson, MO 42:27
46 Kaytlynn Johnson, 15, F, Fairland, OK 43:19
47 Kadin Turner, 15, M, Miami, OK 43:19
48 Lisa Foster, 47, F, Miami, OK 44:38
49 Carol Philpott, 65, F, Miami, OK 45:03
50 Sharon Addington, 65, F, Miami, OK 45:49
51 Kristy Arment, 40, F, Wyandotte, OK 50:02
52 Kaylee Arment, 13, F, Wyandotte, OK 51:29
53 Tammy Charles, 51, F, Miami, OK 52:04
54 Shelby Shadwick, 15, F, Wyandotte, OK 53:45
55 Zack Turner, 16, M, Wyandotte, OK 53:45
56 Aspen Patton, 6, F, Seneca, MO 54:12
57 Melissa Patton, 37, F, Seneca, MO 54:13
58 Tammy Gibson, 51, F, Miami, OK 56:06
59 Justin Gibson, 50, M, Miami, OK 56:24
60 Brandon Mitchell, 13, M, Neosho, MO 59:55
61 Hannah Patton, 11, F, Seneca, MO 59:57
62 Priscilla Jones, 33, F, Granby, MO 1:00:14
63 Jonathan Tynor, 14, M, Miami, OK 1:02:16
64 Dayton McCracken, 13, M, Finley, OK 1:02:17
65 Jeanie Cox, 40, F, Big Cabin, OK 1:02:39
66 Curtis Cox, 45, M, Big Cabin, OK 1:02:40
67 Kacee Cox, 8, F, Big Cabin, OK 1:03:16

Bearskin Healthcare

Please be sure to contact the Bearskin Health Clinic before you make your next Optometry, Dental or Audiology appointment to discuss benefits eligible to you!

888-864-0725

Per Tribal Member
 Dental Benefit \$750
 Optometry \$175 Single Lenses
 \$225 Multi-Lenses
 Audiology \$2000 Hearing Aid

To be eligible for services, all tribal members must have an electronic record established.

Challenge Day program comes to Wyandotte

Challenge Day came to Wyandotte Public Schools March 26-28. It served 300 students from grades 7 through 11.

The Challenge Day mission is to provide youth and their communities with experiential programs that demonstrate the possibility of love and connection through the celebration of diversity, truth and full expression.

Challenge Day, in its 25th year of successful programming, was brought to Wyandotte by the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative grants of the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribe. The program builds connection and empathy and fulfills the vision that every child lives in a world where they feel safe, loved, and celebrated.

Challenge Days are powerful, high-energy programs in which youth and adult participants are guided through a series of learning processes. The overall goals of the program are to increase personal power and self-esteem, to shift



dangerous peer pressure to positive peer support and to eliminate the acceptability of teasing, violence and all forms of oppression.

Challenge Day is designed to unite members of the school, both adults and students, and to empower all participants to successfully eliminate peer pressure and bullying. It addresses the issues of violence, teasing, social oppression,

racism, harassment, conflict management, suicide, peer pressure, and drug abuse.

The program immerses students in a full day of team and trust-building exercises aimed at breaking down the traditional walls that separate them and build a connection among students and adults. During the program, youth are given several opportunities to speak out about what's really going on for them and what they need from one another, with the promise of confidentiality.

At the end of a very emotional, high energy day, most of the students and participants feel bonded and empowered to make a positive difference in their community.

Both school administrators and community members felt the program was immensely successful at raising awareness and bringing the students closer together.

News from Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge

WACY HUMBLE

Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge



The weather is heating up, as well as the kitchen at Twin Bridges Restaurant.

Chef Bowen and his staff continue to display why Twin Bridges Restaurant is one of the premier dining experiences in the area.

Valentine's Day was a huge success for the restaurant, and much of the same is expected for our next big restaurant holiday, Mother's Day. Chef Bowen has a delicious Mother's Day menu prepared that is sure satisfy all.

We are very excited to announce that in the near future Twin Bridges Restaurant will be featuring "never ending" specials. The details are still in the works, but be on the lookout for "never ending" fried chicken and "never

ending" pasta specials coming to Twin Bridges Restaurant soon.

Also, Twin Bridges is spicing up Tuesdays with the "Midday Delight Special." Beginning in May, guests will enjoy \$5 Free Play with the purchase any lunch valued at \$5.99 or greater.

Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge greatly appreciates all of its valued customers, and will continue to strive to exceed expectations in quality and customer service.

News from Lucky Turtle Casino

WACY HUMBLE

Big things are happening at Lucky Turtle Casino.



The Lucky Turtle has been a very busy place in recent months mostly due to the introduction of KCMS (Konami Casino Management System). The installation of the system has allowed "The Turtle" to expand the versatility and

scope of promotional events.

The Lucky Turtle Casino now has an array of monthly promotions, ranging from power pick drawings, match play offers, and point multipliers (with more in the works). With all of the new benefits and options, guests and employees alike are very pleased with the addition of KCMS.

The much anticipated event for the month of May is also soon approaching. We invite everyone to join us on Friday,

May 17, for the Lucky Turtle Casino's 9th Anniversary. Beginning at 2 p.m., special 9th anniversary T-shirts will be handed out to guests on the gaming floor. But, the real fun begins at 6 p.m. with power pick drawings every 30 minutes for an amazing \$900 cash. It is sure to be a packed house, and we can't wait to see everyone there.

As always we greatly appreciate all of the valued guests and staff at Lucky Turtle Casino, and look forward to many exciting things to happen in the future.

Member News

Andrews honored for historic preservation efforts

On April 11, Sallie Cotter Andrews received the NSDAR Historic Preservation Medal from the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The honor was presented by the Captain Molly Corbin Chapter of the NSDAR which meets in Grapevine, Texas. In addition to national recognition, she received a Certificate of Award from the local chapter.

Sallie was nominated for her historic preservation work in Grapevine, for her service as a Wise County Historic Preservation Commissioner, and for her 24 years of work with the Wyandotte Nation on the Historical and Cultural Committees.

"It is not really work when you get to do exactly what you love! Seeing history come to life and being a part of our successes in historic preservation is a real blessing," she says.



McCombs honored for academic achievements

Owasso (Okla.) High School Senior, Kameron Todd McCombs, son of Todd and Mandy McCombs, has been selected by the Oklahoma Foundation for Excellence as a 2013 Academic All-Stater.



A total of 599 Oklahoma public high school seniors were nominated this year and from this remarkable group, just 100 were chosen as Academic All-Staters.

Kameron also earned a perfect score of 36 on the ACT test. The number of students earning a perfect score on this test is less than one-tenth of 1 percent of the 1.67 million students taking the test this year.

He has also been selected as Valedictorian of his senior class consisting of more than 600 students, and will be recognized as a 'Distinguished Graduate' for the Owasso High School graduating class of 2013.

He has been selected as a Presidential Scholar by the University of Tulsa where he plans to double major in Chemical Engineering and Mathematics, and will enter college as a sophomore due to the AP exams and courses he had taken in high school.

Kropp honored for basketball, DAR essay

Katelyn Kropp, daughter of Steve and Rachele Kropp of Napoleon, Mo., and granddaughter of Shirley Adams Kropp, was honored recently for an essay (see below) she wrote for the Daughters of the American Revolution annual contest.

Katie is a senior this year at Wellington-Napoleon High School

in Na. and will be attending college at Northwest Missouri State in the fall.

She also reached a milestone in basketball this season, scoring 1,000 points.

Her basketball honors for this year included All-District, All-Conference, Conference MVP and All-State. She has recently been asked to play in the Lion's All-State game held June 8 in Marshall, Mo.

Our American Heritage and Our Responsibility for Preserving It How are our freedom and responsibilities as good citizens changing?

Heritage is our past, present, and future. Those who came before us have given us the tradition, beliefs, and guidelines to live our life the way we do today. It has been our responsibility and freedom as Americans, to uphold our heritage and ensure its presence in the next generation. Our background is what has fashioned us into the people we are today. Whether we are shaped into teachers, soldiers, or the next American president, it is our job to put forth good citizenship and stay true to our heritage. Though this may be our American duty, it seems our freedoms and responsibilities as good citizens are changing.

I have lived a whopping seventeen years and have undeniably witnessed changes in our responsibilities as good citizens. In my high school I am a member of the National Honor Society which puts a lot of importance on community service, an important aspect of a good citizen. However, I have noticed that many find it hard to get out and do just seven hours of volunteering in the community. Failing to lend a helping hand to those in need is a firsthand witness that our responsibilities as good citizens are changing. Another change I hear of on a daily basis is complaints about our government. Some say they want more given to them without having to work for it, but the government cannot give without taking from someone else. Our country was built by hard work and faith; two more aspects of good citizenship and our American heritage.

Because of the importance I have placed on my own heritage, it is hard to watch people go about their day with their duty of preserving our heritage unfulfilled. I feel so strongly about this is because of how I have been raised. I am blessed to have been brought up in a hard working, Christian family. My parents and their parents before them have tried hard to never forget their heritage, which has now been passed down to me and my brother. My Native American heritage from my father's side is very important to me and my family. The countless struggles the tribes went through showed how strong fellowship and working together could be. I'm proud to not only have the characteristic of service, hard work, and faith from my American heritage but fellowship and working together from my Native American heritage as well.

Like my family and I, we all have a responsibility to preserve our heritage. Americans have the freedom and responsibility to live by what this country was built on. Our background, traditions, and beliefs make us who we are. It's unfortunate that we have witnessed more and more change. However, it's not only that our responsibilities and freedoms as good citizens are changing, but our desire to take on the task as well.



Tribal Department Reports

News & Notes

New Hire

We would like to welcome Mike Smith to the Wyandotte Nation Police Department.

Mike has over 28 years of law enforcement experience and brings a wealth of knowledge to the department. When Mike is not working, he enjoys boating and fishing.

We are very happy to welcome Mike to our team and wish him much success in his new position.



Workforce training

The Human Resource Department is interested in offering training to tribal members who have recently graduated from high school or college, or who may be reentering the workforce, or who just want to brush up on their interviewing and resume writing skills, and we would like your feedback.

The class would be held in Wyandotte and last a couple of hours. If you are interested in participating please contact Deana Howard or Becki Bureson at 918-678-2297, Ext. 220 or 237. We look forward to hearing from you.

Please be sure to check out the tribal website for current job postings.

Education

BY TAMMY R. CHARLES
EDUCATION DIRECTOR

If you are interested in any of the programs that are housed in the Education Department, please call our offices or send an email and we will do our very best to help you with answers and services.

Preschool

The 2012-2013 Preschool year will end May 16. The last months of the school year are always full of activities and filled with memories of our last 10 months together. The students enjoyed the many activities during the Week of the Young Child; concert by Stephen Fite, a day long outing to play on the inflatables, biscuit with a buddy, a trip to the petting zoo and our Wyandotte Nation Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow. Graduation ceremonies will be held in the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Gymnasium May 14. During the commencement ceremonies, six Wyandotte Nation citizens will wear their first cap and gown. The staff of Wyandotte Nation Preschool wishes them well in their future educa-

tional endeavors and I hope to see them on tribal scholarship programs in the future.

We are receiving applications for the 2013-2014 year at a steady pace and it looks like we will have full classes with many new faces.

Afterschool Program

The before and after school children will change to the Summer Program when public school dismisses for the summer break. We have several that ride the bus to school and ride to our facility for afterschool care which includes snack, help with homework and recreation activities.

Summer Program

Summer Program will begin May 17, and there are several items of interest on the calendar for the group already. We will again participate in a month long collaborative cultural program with Family Services, Environmental and Bearskin Fitness Center, participate in the Just for Kids event, have swimming lessons, host an onsite Vacation Bible School program and much more.

Child Care & Development Fund Program

July 1 is the deadline for submitting the biennial child care plan. This grant funds the child care subsidy program that we administer. The assistance makes it possible for tribal members to attend school or work and place their children in licensed facilities.

In the area of child care, I want to encourage parents of young children to begin watching for initiatives in their areas that are part of the new federal legislation to make quality child care available to all children. The Wyandotte Nation children who reside outside of our service area are eligible for child care assistance from other federal grantees. If you or any of your families need our help locating a program in your area, please contact our offices.

Tribal Scholarships

May 1 was the deadline for the submission of scholarship applications for the fall of 2013 semester. If you missed the deadline, please contact the office and request an application. If funds are available after the initial applicants have been serviced, those late applications will be considered on an as received basis. If funds remain after all enrolled college students have received assistance, the undergraduate program is working with high school students to assist with payment for concurrent classes after the state appropriated funds have been applied.

The vocational and master's program receives applications throughout the year as those programs have varying start dates. Upon admission to the undergraduate program, to renew for subsequent semesters you must provide current

semester grades in an approved form from the higher education institution and supply a copy of the next semester schedule. For spring term those documents must be received by Feb. 15 and for fall semester Oct. 1. All Wyandotte Nation scholarship funds are made payable to the institution.

Over the past few months, the education staff has been building a database of past scholarship recipients. The data entered thus far indicates that the Wyandotte Nation has issued more than \$1.5 million dollars in scholarships. With further input and the increase in scholarship amounts for current students, we are certain the figure will climb exponentially.

For those tribal members in their high school years, I would like to make you aware that many scholarship committees look at school activities, volunteer participation as well as your GPA. Your Tribal Citizen status is the key to your Wyandotte Nation Scholarship...make sure that children are enrolled to be an eligible recipient. This year there have been several requests for official documentation of tribal membership for other scholarship applications, Dana Butterfield is the contact for those documents.

Workforce Investment Act

The Workforce Investment Act will be accepting applications in anticipation of funding approval for fall semesters.

Services

Lessons from my animal friends

By KATE RANDALL

As Indian People we know that animals were a vital part of our ancestry. Most stories involve animals and other living things when elders talk to children to point out the important qualities of each living thing.

Not only did animals and birds provide food, shelter and other needed items, they taught people many life lessons. For the fourth spring my friends, the Canadian Geese are nesting by a pond on our property. The first thing in the morning I check on my feathered visitors. The geese are creatures of habits in their feeding and everyday rituals. I have witnessed firsthand their loyalty and emotional attachment to one another.

The geese mate for life, they have tremendous family values and they will put themselves in danger to protect their mate or goslings. These tremendous parents will diligently defend their nest and territory throughout this nesting cycle. Papa Goose will chase away any intruders, and the territory battles can be quite exciting to witness! Momma Goose only gets off her nest for

Continued on Page 16

Tribal Department Reports

a very short period of time to feed while Papa Goose remains on watch duty.

After the hatch, I must admit that I am a little disappointed to see them go. The entire time I was their hostess, the devoted pair was gracious and were very entertaining guests.



If you have a park in your neighborhood where these great creatures can be witnessed, take the children to see them and share their story of love and family devotion.

In the Indian Spirit of lessons from our animal friends, love and protect our offspring - for they are truly gifts from our Creator.

Spring/Summer Programs

\$250 High School Juniors/Seniors Program

Radius: 200 miles. Dates: Oct. 1, 2012 through July 1, 2013. Please be reminded to apply for the high school junior/senior program. The benefit will pay for expenses such as announcements, cap and gown, senior pictures or other related expenses. (Application and receipts required).

\$100 Extracurricular Program

Radius: 200 miles. Dates: Oct. 1, 2012 through July 1, 2013. This program is for school-age children and can be used to pay for items such as pictures, school sport items, lunches, or activity fees. (Application and receipts required).

Supplemental Health Benefit

If you haven't received your Benny card yet for this program please contact the Family Service staff to update/verify your address. If you have questions regarding the eligibility of specific medical charges please contact FMH CoreSource at (800) 990-9058 x42086. Statements will be mailed quarterly and you can check your balance at any time by contacting FMH CoreSource at the above number.

Seniors

Elders Assistance

Benefit \$250. Age 62-plus. Dates: Oct. 1,

2012 through Sept. 30, 2013. Radius: 200 miles. This program will reimburse you for any household related expense. (Application and Receipts are required)

Senior Citizen Summer Utility Program

Benefit \$100. Age: 62-plus. Dates: Begins July 1, 2013 and ends Sept. 30, 2013. (Application and copy of utility bill is required)

Social Service Programs

The Family Services Department has an array of tribal, federal and state funded programs to assist families in crisis. The radius and benefit are determined based on client intake. Please keep in mind that year around infant / child passenger safety seats are

available at the tribal headquarters. Medical/hardship fuel vouchers are available at the tribal headquarters. The Bearskin Clinic may send out patients to other locations for treatment and we can help with those gas expenses. (Application/Intake required)

Future Announcements

The Family Services School/Fall programs will be announced in the August edition of the Turtle Speaks. The back-to-school program will begin Aug. 1. A 200-mile radius applies. The program will again offer \$100 per student for back-to-school expenses. Walmart cards will be available; you may use the reimbursement program with proof of expenses. (Applications and receipts are required).

During the month of June, there will be an afternoon youth program for children ages 7 through 12. Please call for a schedule if your child is interested in attending. Children attending the summer Turtle program will be participating for this age group.

Enrollment & Tag

By DANA BUTTERFIELD

ENROLLMENT: In 1999 the people of the Wyandotte Nation voted to enact a new Constitution. This new Constitution drastically changed the enrollment process and required the Board of Directors to enact rules governing voluntary withdrawal of membership, termination of membership, the membership application process, provisions for appeal of denial of membership and adoptions.

In August of 2000, the Board of Directors voted to enact an Enrollment Ordinance that addresses each of the items mandated by the Constitution.

Under the 1937 Constitution an individual had to trace directly, without a skip in gener-

ation, to the 1937 Base Roll. This meant that some grandchildren and great-grandchildren of those on the 1937 Base Roll were denied membership based on the fact that their parents were not enrolled, either because they were enrolled with another tribe or they were deceased before they were enrolled.

The new Constitution allowed this to be changed as well as opened enrollment to use Wyandotte Nation Rolls older than the 1937 Base Roll. On March 4, 2013, the Board of Directors voted to amend the Enrollment Ordinance to address issues that have been raised over the past 13 years concerning enrollment. Both the Constitution and the Enrollment Ordinance can be found on the Tribe's website www.wyandotte-nation.org under the Government tab.

In accordance with the Ordinance, an individual must provide original legal (birth certificates or death certificates) documentation tracing ancestry to an individual who is listed on a Wyandotte Nation roll. Historical information (obituaries, census records, etc.) alone is not acceptable.

Applications are accepted year round, but members/citizens are voted into the Tribe only once a year at the Annual Meeting. The deadline for applications to be considered for the current year Annual Meeting is Aug. 15. Applications received after this date will be held until the following year.

The Enrollment staff will research the applicant and present all applicants to the Enrollment Committee to review and verify eligibility. The names are then submitted to the General Council at the Annual Meeting for admittance as members/citizens of the Wyandotte Nation.

The Enrollment Department is now issuing citizenship cards that include the name, sex, date of birth, roll number and degree of blood. Those who are over 18 can choose to include a photo and signature on the card as well. If you would like to obtain the new style of card please contact the office for an application or it can be downloaded from the website.

The question of "what is a CDIB?" has been one that is heard often. The Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood is a federal document that the Wyandotte Nation compacts with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) to issue on their behalf. The BIA requires that birth certificates or death certificates be on file for each person that traces back to the 1937 Base Roll (i.e. applicant, parent, grandparent). Many of our older files do not contain these documents so you may be asked to present them when requesting a CDIB. This application is also available through the Enrollment office and on the website.

TAGS: Since 1998 Wyandotte Nation members/citizens who reside in Oklahoma have been able to title and register their vehicles with the Tribe. The Supreme Court ruling that the Tribe

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Tribal Department Reports

Parenting and Indian Child Welfare

BY TARA GRAGG

Traditional Indian Parenting was characterized by patience and kindness. Relationships were very important.

Children were kept close to the parent through the use of cradleboards or blanket carrying. Children were given many opportunities to learn from nature, adults and other children. Discipline was never separated from teaching the right way to do things. Self-control was as important as social control in most tribes and children were taught to have good judgment skills early in life. Children knew what were expected of them because the rules were clear and consistent, most often defined by the community as a whole.

Parents learn to parent from those who raise them. Through the years, because of relocation, boarding schools and other obstacles, the support of the extended family has sometimes been lost. Parents are often left to figure out life and parenting by themselves. Many parents now have little to no support system. If you know someone like this, I encourage you to reach out to them.

I have recently been privileged to learn a curriculum entitled, "Positive Indian Parenting." This literature suggests that we think about our own history as individuals. What shaped your way of parenting? What events influenced the way your parents and grandparents raised their children? This inward reflection can help us all evaluate the way we parent today.

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services staff would like to offer the "Positive Indian Parenting" class if there is interest from our tribal families. Please call and let us know if you would like to

attend a parenting program.

Parenting is the most challenging job we have and all over the country children are being removed from their homes due to abuse or neglect. Some of our parents may need your help today. Nationwide there is a shortage of both tribal foster homes and tribal adoptive homes.

If an Indian Child is taken from a parent(s), due to abuse or neglect, the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act requires placement of an Indian child with relatives, the child's tribe or any other Native family. If there are no relatives or tribal foster homes, those children in state custody are then placed in non-tribal foster homes.

The same is true of adoptive homes. Should a termination of parental rights occur, and the child(ren) are without extended family to adopt them, children would then be adopted by non-native families. It is crucial to preserve our Native traditions by keeping our children connected to the Wyandotte Nation. Currently there is a need in Oklahoma and other states for tribal foster families and adoptive families. An Oklahoma tribal family can apply to be a tribal foster home through either the Tribe or the State of Oklahoma Department of Human Services.

For adoption purposes, the Wyandotte Nation will accept a private adoptive home study. The adoptive home study is kept on file with the Family Services Department. Should a tribal child become available for adoption, you would be contacted.

Please call for more information, no matter where you live, and become that surrogate Indian parent to a child in need.

bases this program on states, the vehicle must be "principally garaged in Oklahoma Indian Country."

The Wyandotte Nation had determined for this program that the entire state shall be considered as Oklahoma Indian Country. Currently, individuals can title/tag passenger vehicles, motorcycles and recreational vehicles. For questions about this program please contact me.

Elder Services

We thought that Spring had sprung and were all set to go to the horse races in Claremore,

Okla., when Old Man Winter decided to come rolling back in with cold temperatures and severe weather and spoil the fun for everyone so we had to postpone it for another time.

The Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging is sponsoring a Cook's Training April 30 and May 1 in Edmond, Okla. Some of the Wyandotte Nation Food Service Team Members will be attending.

The agenda will be: Kitchen Safety & Sanitation, Principles of Elders Nutrition, Food Safety, Basic Nutrition & My Plate, RDAs & USDA Regulations, How to Calculate Food Cost, From Pork to Spice N Very Thing Nice, Appropriate

Menu Substitutions, and Your Creative Ways to Handle Odd Items and Leftovers.

Our Mother's Day Dinner will be held May 9. We will also have music and prizes.

We will cater the Wyandotte High School Alumni Banquet May 25. Registration is at 5 p.m. with dinner to follow at 6 p.m.

The Elders' Roundup will be held June 4 at the Buffalo Run Show Place. It will begin at 9 a.m. and end at 1 p.m. There will be booths, health screenings, door prizes and entertainment. Lunch will be provided. The theme this year is Grease.

Our Father's Day Dinner will be held June 13. We will also have music and prizes.

We are planning a trip to the Show Boat in Branson, Mo. The tentative date is July 10.

Good Shepherd Hospice will be hosting a Sr. Prom in Grove, Okla., June 28. Contact us if interested.

Our music parties are still the second and fourth Thursday of each month. Come out and play with us!

Caregiver Services

We are having a few more participants at our monthly Caregiver Support Group. The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Education/Environmental conference room at 10:30 a.m. It is open to all caregivers. Please contact Brenda for information.

As always it is a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation tribal members. Please feel free to call or come by and visit us.

- Brenda House, Elder Services Director ext. 227
- Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Supervisor ext. 228
- Lynda Wilson, Seth Higginbotham, Berle Blevins Food Service Team Members ext. 228; Menu, ext. 226

Housing Department

Another senior duplex has been completed. We welcome our new senior families.

The Community Center plans are in the process of being completed, and will be out for bid shortly (see related article). We are so excited for this project. The housing offices will be located in the new community center and will be easily accessible to all.

If you would like more information on our housing program, please contact our office. Federal income guidelines are followed.

If you live in the Indian Health Service Area, which includes nine counties in Oklahoma, and are in need of water or sanitation services, please contact us for an application.

We look forward to serving you.

- Kathy DeWeese-Housing Director

Tribal Department Reports

- Valari Richards-Housing Specialist
- Paul Paquin-Project Coordinator
- Levi Griffin-Project Coordinator
- Don Graham-Residential Maintenance Technician

Planning/Development

The trees are in bloom. These Redbud trees were funded from a tree grant we received in 2010.

We have submitted the CTAS (Community Tribal Assistance Solicitation) that was due in March. This grant would provide funding for courts, youth programs and equipment and training for the police department.

We have completed the architectural drawings of the new Community Center (see related article) that will be located in our housing/duplex area, and we will be advertising for a contractor soon.

The grant that is funding the building is from the ICDBG (Indian Community Development Block Grant) from last year.

We have submitted the ICDBG grant application in which we hope to secure funding for a culture center. If funded, the Wyandotte Nation Culture Center would include an auditorium, classrooms, conference room, Tribal Heritage offices, museum, gift shop, library and artifacts safe room, and would be located on the South West side of the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center on the South side of Turtle Drive.

If you have any questions for the Planning/Development Department, you may contact:

- Ron Kaiser, Planning/Development Director- (918) 678-2297 ext. 225
- Debbie Dry, Planning/Development Specialist- (918) 678-2297 ext. 215

Environmental Department

Our department is involved in various aspects relating to environmental issues.

On Feb. 6, we had Randy Rushin and Linard Arocha of Water Monitoring Solutions visit with Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch about appropriate locations for a permanent YSI monitoring station on Sycamore Creek behind the Pow-Wow grounds.

Our department has a portable YSI unit that it utilizes for monitoring various water parameters on seven sites on a monthly basis. The parameters are Ph, ORP, dissolved oxygen, temperature and conductivity. The purpose of a stationary YSI would be to record real time data during a 24-hour period and would help us better monitor any activities that could cause changes in the water quality.

The Lost Creek Recycling Center is now open and accepts cardboard, newspaper, office paper, #1 and #2 plastics, tin cans and aluminum. The grand opening was April 11.

Services offered: Private well water testing; septic system assessments; recycling center.

- Christen Lee, Env. Director (x241)
- Kathleen Welch, Env. Assistant (x235)
- Janice Wilson, Water Tech. (x245)
- Jon Quick, Env. Tech (x252)
- Recycling Center (918-678-4001)

Maintenance

Maintenance would like to welcome Braulio Ramirez to our team. He brings a lot of experience in painting, remodeling, and grounds keeping with him. He strives in keeping buildings and grounds up to date for the Tribe and its members. We hope he has a very successful journey with us here at the Wyandotte Nation and welcome aboard.

The Maintenance Department has been very busy with all the projects here: The recycle center drains and dirt work; the taking down of the large dirt pile west of the Casino has been a big job; remodels on the facilities at the headquarters; clearing fence rows; and keeping the grounds clean of brush, and mowing and brushhogging. We have some new equipment to help us with these tasks. Hope this letter finds all well and blessings be with you all.

- GAROLD L. ALUMBAUGH, FACILITIES DIRECTOR

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Clinic

Bearskin Health Clinic was established in June of 1994 and was originally located in what is now the tribal education building on Highway 60. Chief Leaford Bearskin had a dream to bring total wellness to the local community. In September of 1998, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center officially opened its doors. This state of the art facility was a vision that Chief Bearskin brought to fruition by partnering with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, which was guided by Chief Buck Captain.

Federal funding has been designated to provide an array of services to eligible members of the Eastern Shawnee and Wyandotte Tribes residing in the "service area" of Northeastern Oklahoma. This area includes the counties of Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee and Washington.

In addition, limited clinical services are provided to tribal members living outside the designated service area as long as funding is available and their utilization doesn't restrict access to the services for those whom the funding is intended. It is important to remember that this is not an insurance program and that services are always dependent upon federal and supplemental funding. Providing insurance verification (if patient has) helps in the supplemental process to ensure that services continue for those outside of the designated service area.

Bearskin Health Clinic is able to bill insurance companies for services provided and with this revenue generated, continue to offer care to individuals outside the designated area needing primary care services. If patients receive correspondence from insurance company, please complete requested

information and return in a timely manner. This ensures that Bearskin Healthcare will receive payment from the insurance provider.

Services offered on-site include: Primary Care, Pharmacy, Diabetic Clinic, Wellness Center and Clinical Laboratory Services. These are also known as Direct Care Services. These services are for the sole purpose of improving and maintaining health status. All members of the two tribes are eligible for all services offered on-site at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center regardless of where one resides. Off-Site services include: Optometry, Dental, Radiology Diagnostic Services and Audiology. The off-site services are provided to non-residents of the service area only as extra funds permit to do so. Members living in the designated service area are also offered Contract Health Services.

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

Assistance depends on eligibility, residence, medical priorities, alternate resources, and availability of funding.

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

The Contract Health Service Program is funded annually with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment, dependent upon the availability of funds.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe. Patient must also have an established medical health record at Bearskin Health Clinic and reside within the Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA).

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

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

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QUICK REFERENCE

Services provided to tribal members

Important Numbers

Police Department

Ken Murphy
(918) 325-3100 x12
kmurphy@wntpd.com

Nutrition & Caregiver Services

Brenda House
(918) 678-2297 x227
bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

Enrollment / Tags

Dana Butterfield
(918) 678-2297 x219
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Tribal Social Worker

Tara Gragg
(918) 678-2297 x255
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

Library / Scholarships / Job Training / Preschool / Adult Education / Child Care

Tammy Charles
(918) 678-2297 x230
tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org

School Supplies / Car Seats / Emergency Assistance

Kate Randall
(918) 678-2297 x224
krandall@wyandotte-nation.org

Human Resources

Deana Howard
(918) 678-2297 x220
dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org

Environmental

Christen Lee
(918) 678-2297 x241
clee@wyandotte-nation.org



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

CHS is a payer of last resort. All other resources to pay for medical care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Worker's Comp, Title 19, Sooner Care, automobile insurance, and/or group health insurance, including IHS facilities must be utilized first, when applicable.

The priority system helps patients have equal opportunity for specialty services and to make sure the funds are used to give the best possible benefits.

Priority System for Contract Health Services (According to the IHS guidelines)

I. EMERGENT/ACUTELY URGENT CARE SERVICES

Definition: Diagnostic or therapeutic services that are necessary to prevent the immediate death or serious impairment of the health of the individual, and which, because of the threat to the life or health of the individual, necessitate the use of the most accessible health care available and capable of furnishing such services. Diagnosis and treatment of injuries or medical conditions that if left untreated, would result in uncertain but potentially grave outcomes.

II. PREVENTIVE CARE SERVICES

Definition: Primary health care that is aimed at the prevention of disease or disability. This includes services proven effective in avoiding the occurrence of a disease (primary prevention) and services proven effective in mitigating the consequences of an illness or condition (secondary prevention).

III. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY CARE SERVICES

Definition: Inpatient and outpatient care services that involve the treatment of prevalent illnesses or conditions that have a significant impact on morbidity and mortality. This involves treatment for conditions that may be delayed without progressive loss of function or risk of life, limb, or senses. It includes services that may not be available at many IHS facilities and/or may require specialty consultation.

IV. CHRONIC TERTIARY AND EXTENDED CARE SERVICES

Definition: Inpatient and outpatient care services that (1) are not essential for initial/emergent diagnosis or therapy, (2) have less impact on mortality than morbidity, or (3) are high cost, are elective, and often require tertiary care facilities. These services are not readily available from direct care IHS facilities. Careful case management by the service unit CHS committee is a requirement, as is monitoring by the Area CMO or his/her designee. Depending on cost, the referral may require concurrence by the CMO.

V. EXCLUDED SERVICES

Definition: Services and procedures that are considered purely cosmetic in nature, experimental or investigational, or have no proven medical benefit V.A: Cosmetic Procedures -Payment for certain cosmetic procedures may be authorized if these services are necessary for proper mechanical function or psychological reasons. Approval from the CMO is required.

With each and every service provided, there are guidelines to follow. All patients must have a record established at Bearskin Healthcare before being eligible for a service provided (with the exception of the Wellness Center). This record includes: a copy of the individual's tribal membership card, social security card, driver's license or photo ID and any insurance cards that the patient may have. Front and back copies are required of all cards. In addition, a patient information worksheet to establish record can be mailed out to make this process easier. This information is critical for reporting the data to Indian Health Services at the end of each fiscal year. It is required not only for tribal audits but for the User Population Reports submitted every year to calculate funding.

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center is committed to providing primary and preventative healthcare and fitness services of the highest quality to tribal members and the community.

Historical

Sherri Clemons
(918) 678-2297 x224
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

Planning / Development

Ron Kaiser
(918) 678-2297 x225
rkaiser@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing / Well Septic Construction

Kathy DeWeese
(918) 678-2297 x239
kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org

Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center

Kelly Walker
(918) 678-3259 x4459
kwalker@wyandotte-nation.org

Clinic Appointments

Linda Coatney
(918) 678-3228 x4428
lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org
Elaine Fidler
(918) 678-3230 x4430
efidler@wyandotte-nation.org

Dental / Vision

Amanda Johnston
(918) 678-3221 x 4457
ajohnston@wyandotte-nation.org

Pharmacy (call-in only)

Brian Workman
(918) 678-2282 x4424
bworkman@wyandotte-nation.org

Fitness Center

Sharon Bartley
(918) 678-2070 x4431
sbartley@wyandotte-nation.org

Contract Health

Bridget Burleson
(918) 678-3227 x4427
bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org

Diabetes Clinic

Donna Spaulding
(918) 678-3258 x4458
dspaulding@wyandotte-nation.org

Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee Survey

The Wyandotte Nation Culture Committee has been working with Dr. Craig Kopriss to develop a language revitalization program for our citizens. The committee would like to ask a few questions to better prepare tools that can be used for this purpose. Please take a few moments and help by completing this survey. You may cut out this page and mail it to the Wyandotte Nation, Tribal Heritage Department, 64700 E. Highway 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370 or save yourself a stamp and take the survey online at www.wyandotte-nation.org/culture/culture-survey/

1. How do you identify yourself as a Wyandotte? _____

2. Are you a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation? Yes No

3. Would you like to learn about our traditional culture and lifestyle? Yes No

4. Would you like to return to a traditional lifestyle? Yes No

5. Would you like to learn our traditional songs and dances? Yes No

6. Would you like to learn our traditional language? Yes No

7. If you would like to learn our traditional language how much and why? _____

8. What is the best tool for you to use in order to learn our traditional language? *Please check all that apply:* Classroom in Wyandotte, OK ; Audio CD ; MP3 Files ; DVD ; iOS App ; Android App ; Our Website ; Other _____

9. Have you ever attended Culture Days? Yes No

10. If you have not attend Culture Days why? _____

