

GYAH'-WISH ATAK-IA

THE TURTLE SPEAKS



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FEBRUARY 2012

Uskwe'etra



On the left is Chief Billy Friend holding the headdress made for him. Tribal Citizen Ronnie Burnside (middle) created this beautiful headdress and shared the meaning and symbolism of the traditional headdress. Tribal Citizen and Elder Ted Nesvold (right) beaded the Wyandotte Nation symbol centerpiece. Our Chief is of the Big Turtle Clan.

Uskwe'etra is the Wyandotte word for headdress. The following quotes about the traditional Wyandotte headdress are excerpts from a letter written by Charles Aubrey Buser. Mr. Buser was asked about traditional Wyandotte Clothing. The full text can be found at <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/culture/history/general-history/wyandot-clothing/>.

“Wyandots and other Iroquoians used feathers from the wild turkey, with now and then a hawk or eagle feather.”

“Just as it was often possible to determine a tribe by the way a pot was hung over a fire, it was also possible to determine the tribe of a discarded piece of clothing. If you choose the traditional warrior headdress, use no more than one upright feather although the Wyandots sometimes had a similar, but trailing feather as well as a dozen or so small “nest” feathers. The Iroquoian headdress was called “GUS-TO-WEH”. The Mohawks used three upright feathers. The Onondagas used two. The Tuscaroras, Cayugas, Oneidas and Senecas used one. The Wyandots used one or two, usually with one upright and one trailing. The Mohawks used a cap with open sections. The Wyandots and others used a closed cap.”

Gyah'-wish Atak-ia

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The Chief Says.....



Kweh,
I hope this letter finds all doing well and that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. I would like to wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year.

The past year was a great year for our tribal nation, as we saw many projects completed and many tribal services added. Our tribal Social Service budget went from \$440,050.00 in 2009 to

\$1,241,850.00 this budget year. Our scholarship amounts have gone from \$500.00 a semester, 3 years ago, to \$2,000.00 per semester, beginning with this spring semester. Our tribal staff is always looking for ways that we can add and improve upon the services we provide to our citizens. We are looking forward to this New Year and the changes that it will bring.

On the Economic Development side of things, last year was the best year that we have had to date. In a tough economic cli-

mate, we were able to see a 30% increase in total profits from all of our economic entities. Our 7th Street Casino, in Kansas City, posted double digit growth again for the third straight year. Jean Yuen, our General Manager, and her staff continue to do an outstanding job of curtailing cost and increasing profits. As I stated at Annual Meeting, due to the 12 years of litigation and the cost of development, the Tribe assumed a large amount of debt on the project but has since been able to eliminate a large portion of that debt and is starting to see more earnings come to the Nation. The Nation should have all of the debt and the development cost eliminated in the next 3 years and will then see the full profits of the casino coming back directly to the Nation. Our two casinos in the Wyandotte community continue to hold their own, in spite of competing with 11 other casinos in Ottawa County. We have seen our traffic counts and our coin-in numbers both rise this past year and have made several changes that we hope will pay off this upcoming year. We have a great team of employees at the Wyandotte Nation Casino and the Lucky Turtle Casino, who continually are looking for ways to improve our casino properties.

Our Small Business Administration 8A businesses continue to do well in spite of several rule changes made by Congress this past year. Bearskin Services was named the "8A Small Business (continued on next page)

From Norman Hildebrand, Jr. -Second Chief



Kweh,
I hope by the time everyone reads this our weather will still be mild and enjoyable but, as everybody knows, in Oklahoma that could change very quickly. The Wyandotte Nation was blessed with a very good year in 2011 and we expect it to continue into 2012.

Many of our Social Services programs have been extended to a 200

mile radius so we can provide assistance to more Wyandotte Nation tribal members. The Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) which is federally funded was decreased this year, but we should be able to provide assistance to all that apply for this program. Contact Kate Randall, Dana Butterfield, or Tara Gragg. If Tara's name doesn't sound familiar that's because she was recently hired as a social worker for our Family Services Department. I would like to welcome Tara to our Wyandotte family and we are proud that she is also a Wyandotte Tribal Citizen.

The three new elder duplexes are finished and everyone has moved in. Some are still buying furniture but they are getting settled. They absolutely love it here. I have lunch with some of

them at Title VI and I hear talk of community gardens and even block parties. We have created a very unique Tribal community and we are very proud of it. There will be the addition of another elder duplex sometime this year. If a tribal member has a home that needs weatherization, call our Housing Department and see about getting that done. We want all Tribal members to stay warm this winter.

We have recently purchased additional Wyandotte artifacts from the Ohio and Illinois areas. They were part of a private collection that came up for auction. If we hear of any other auctions or sales of Wyandotte artifacts we will certainly be there.

We are in the planning stages to establish our own Tribal Court System to better protect and serve everyone in the Wyandotte Nation jurisdiction. Our Recycling Program will move into their own facility sometime this year west of the Bearskin Fitness Center. These are just a few things that will be contributing to the growth of the Wyandotte Nation in 2012.

I want to wish everyone good health and happiness.

Tizameh

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Second Chief

Chief says

(continued from page 2)

of the Year" by the Department of Energy in 2011 and has now been nominated for the SBA Prime Contractor of the Year Award. We were awarded several new contracts, with the biggest of those being a Department of Energy contract at the Western Power Administration in Folsom, California.

This past year, we purchased Howard Machine Shop in Carthage, MO and renamed it Wyandotte Precision Products. It has been relocated to the Bearskin

Building at the Joplin Airport in Joplin, MO. In the future, we plan on applying for an 8A designation for this business and competing for federal contracts in the aerospace and defense industry.

All in all, it has been a very busy but productive year for the Wyandotte Nation. Personally, I had the opportunity to speak at two national conferences. I was invited by Native Nations to speak in New Orleans on the subject of "Getting Land Into Trust for Gaming" and then was invited to speak in Washington, DC on the sub-

ject of "Reaping the Benefits of Native 8(A) Status". I always enjoy these opportunities, as I am allowed the honor of telling others how great a Tribe the Wyandotte Nation is to be a part of.

As always, it is with great honor that I serve you as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation. If you are in the area, my door is always open for a visit. Until next time, may God watch over and protect you and yours. "I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." Psalm 91:2

History of Wyandot Mission

(excerpt from the Classic Wyandot)

The Rev. James Bradley Finley was a Methodist minister who began his service among the Wyandot, and other tribes of the Ohio River valley, in 1809 as a circuit rider. He was eventually appointed missionary to Wyandot Mission at Upper Sandusky, which was founded in 1816 by John Stewart, who is considered the father of Methodist Episcopal Missions. Poor health forced Rev. Finley to resign his ministry and move back to more comfortable surrounding in 1827; however, he continued to represent the interest of the Wyandot until 1838. Rev. Finley died in Eaton, Ohio, in 1857.

Rev. Finley's book, *History of the Wyandott Mission, At Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Under The Direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church*, is a masterpiece that doesn't stop at illustrating the successes of his ministry; it also gives an invaluable look into our early Wyandot culture. Rev. Finley loved the Wyandot people and was impressed by our sense of character. The excerpt below from, *History of the Wyandott Mission*, is his personal description of what he knew the Wyandot to be in the early 1800's. See if his description of our personal characteristics then, still hold true today.

"In infancy the Indian males are placed on a board, and wrapped with a belt of cloth or skin, to make them straight. In

early life they are subjected to hardships, and stimulated to acts of courage, activity, and firmness. The females are rather low of stature, and slow in motion. This may arise from their manner of life, being brought up to hard labor, and to carry heavy burdens. The men possess a lively imagination. This is discovered in the strength of their figure of speech and illustration. Their memory is remarkably retentive; and this may arise from their being destitute of the knowledge of letters, and having to commit all to memory. The correctness with which they can retain is most astonishing. In a speech made to them, every point is retained, considered, and answered distinctly. Their history and traditions are all kept in this way. They comprehend with great acuteness what belongs to their interest; and have given unnumbered specimens of their native strength of mind, and of their eloquence. They excel in stratagem to effect their purposes, both in the chase and in war. They are proverbial for their benevolence, and for the strength of their attachments to a friend, implacable [incapable of being appeased], revengeful, and untiring in the pursuit and punishment of their enemies. They are strongly suspicious, and always on the watch. They set the highest estimate on their liberty, and look with contempt on those who think themselves above them. They glory in daring feats, either

in war or on the chase. They suffer privation [poverty] without murmur, and torture without complaint; and believe it unmanly, and below the dignity of a high-minded Indian, to complain, on any consideration. They seldom manifest any surprise at any thing or circumstance, nor do they betray any curiosity, but look with sober indifference on all things. They are calm and cool in their deliberations; and when once their minds are made up, are unchangeable in their purposes. They never forget an act of kindness, but will seek an opportunity to repay it; and I know of nothing that will so effectually bind the Indian, and make him feel his obligations, as repeated acts of kindness. The word friend amongst them means something, and will make them risk life and property to save a friend. But on the other hand, they never forget an injury or insult; nor will they ever be at rest until they fully satisfy the passion of revenge; and are untiring, and always on the watch, to execute their designs."

Finley, Rev. James Bradley. *History of the Wyandot Mission, At Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Under The Direction of the Methodist Episcopal Church*. Cincinnati: E. P. Thompson, 1840: 48-49. Print.

News Release

New Online Course Introduced for Native American Small Business Owners

WASHINGTON – Native American entrepreneurs have a new tool to help determine if they're ready for business ownership and to help them get started. Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success is a free, self-paced online business course developed for Native American business owners. The course provides an overview of basic business principles and makes them aware of the programs and services available from the U.S. Small Business Administration.

Native American Small Business Primer: Strategies for Success will enhance the agency's effort to provide important resources for emerging Native American entrepreneurs," said SBA Administrator Karen Mills. "Our ultimate goal is to help create jobs and stimulate economic and business development in our Native American communities. This course is an essential business development tool for the

entrepreneur's toolbox."

The new online course: emphasizes business planning and market research as essential steps to take before going into business; informs Native American entrepreneurs about the legal aspects of starting a business, including the type of ownership (legal structure) and licensing; and provides key information on seed money for starting up, raising capital, and borrowing money. In addition, there is a section on how to estimate business start-up costs that can help assess the financial needs of going into business.

The course is available from the SBA's Online Small Business Training web page under Online Courses for Starting Your Business at : <http://www.sba.gov/content/online-courses-starting-your-business>.

SBA's Office of Native American Affairs works to ensure that American Indian, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiian communities have full access to all SBA pro-

grams and services. Each year, more than 200,000 American Indian and Alaska Native and 29,000 Native Hawaiian-owned businesses add billions to the American economy.

Course participants completing the online training programs can earn a certificate of completion from the SBA, with their name, date and course title. The Native American Small Business Primer course is one of nearly 30 online tutorials offered by the SBA's Online Business Training (www.sba.gov/training). Free courses are offered on Starting a Business, Managing a Business, Financing a Business, and Contracting.

SBA can also help pair new business owners with expert advisers, counseling and mentoring services through an SBA representative or resource partner about management assistance, financing options, or participating local SBA lenders. Contact: Cecelia Taylor (202) 401-3059 Internet Address: www.sba.gov/news

Promotion



Please join me in congratulating Jocelyn Marlow on her position as Administrative Assistant for the Law Enforcement Department and the Clinic. Jocelyn has worked at the Fitness Center as a front desk attendant

since November of 2010 and is very excited about the opportunity to work full-time for her Tribe. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and working out. We are very lucky to have Jocelyn and wish her the best of luck in her position.

New Hire



Janis Everley has joined the Law Enforcement Department as the Justice System Coordinator. She has a strong legal support background and brings a wealth of knowledge to the department. She is

very excited about her new position and looking forward to helping the department grow. In her spare time Janis enjoys spending time on the lake boating, skiing, and fishing. Welcome to the team Janis!

Retirement



After serving the Tribe for almost five years, Arthur Anderson has announced his retirement. Mr. Anderson has worked as the WIA Program Specialist in the Education Department and has brought many

smiles to children's faces over the years. We would like to say thank you for your contributions and wish you the best. Arthur plans to spend time with his family and enjoy one of his favorite past times.....fishing! .

Retirement



Congratulations to Dariann Hunnicutt on her recent retirement. Dariann worked for her Tribe for over twelve years and served as Caregiver Specialist for ten of those years. Thank you Dariann for all that you have done for the Tribe and for the many lives that you touched. You will be greatly missed!

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

New Hires



We are excited to introduce our new Tribal Social Worker, Tara Gragg, to our Family Services and Indian Child Welfare Department. She comes to us from OKDHS with 10 years of experience in Child Welfare and School Based Social Work. Tara is a Wyandotte Tribal citizen and is very honored to be serving her Tribe. She is an active member of Forest Park Baptist Church and loves singing on the Praise Team. Tara also enjoys reading, scrapbooking and family weekends at the lake. Come by and help us welcome Tara to our team.



Please join me in welcoming Amy Shaffer as a Police Officer to our Law Enforcement Department. Amy has worked for the Tribe in our Accounting Department as an intern and has decided to use her military background and begin a career in law enforcement. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, riding dirt bikes, and hunting. Amy is very passionate about working for her Tribe and we are very pleased to have her on our team. We wish her much success in her new position.



Congratulations to Holly Hilliard on her new position as Youth Coordinator at the Bearskin Health & Wellness Center! Holly has worked for the Tribe since June 2011 as a front desk attendant at the Bearskin Health & Fitness Center and recently graduated from MSSU. Holly will be in charge of the new youth program that Bearskin Health & Wellness Center is implementing. She is very passionate about her work with children and is excited about the new opportunity. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family, hunting, fishing, and garden-

ing. We are pleased to have Holly and wish her much luck in her new position.



We are pleased to announce the addition of Sarah Hardin as a Police officer to our Law Enforcement Department. Sarah grew up in this area and is very excited about the opportunity to relocate closer to her family and serve this community. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, and planning her upcoming wedding. Since coming to WNTPD, Sarah says she realizes what a great work family she has as well. She feels doubly blessed and thanks the Tribe for giving her an opportunity to be part of their family. We are pleased to have Sarah on our team and wish her much success with the

Wyandotte Nation!



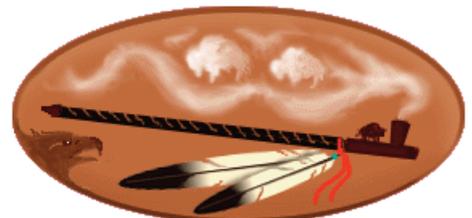
John Dilliner has joined our Law Enforcement Department as Police Officer. John brings with him a wealth of experience in the law enforcement

field and has been recognized for his outstanding efforts in DUI. enforcement. In the winter he likes to go to Tulsa and watch the Oilers play hockey. In the spring and summer he likes to go to Tulsa Driller baseball games. He also tries to attend the Loyal Shawnee spring bread dance, as well as the Greencorn festival in Whiteoak. John is very excited about his opportunity to work with the Tribe and looks forward to his new career. We wish John the best in his new position. Welcome to the team!



Ken Broderick has joined our Law Enforcement Department as our new SORNA Police Officer. Ken brings over 25 years of law enforcement experience

and has been recognized for his outstanding achievements in the DARE program. While he doesn't have much spare time, when he does, he enjoys spending time with his family. We are very pleased to have Ken on our team and wish him much success with his new position.





BEARSKIN HEALTHCARE & WELLNESS CENTER

1 Turtle Drive
Wyandotte, OK 74370
(918) 678-2282
Fax (918) 678-2759



Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Youth Program Ages 11-17

The Bearskin Fitness Center is inviting all youths ages 11-17 to participate in our new after school program. Our program will be centered on creating a positive and fun environment for young adults to become active and productive in leading a healthy lifestyle. The program will offer structured and meaningful activities to keep the youth engaged and active. The hours will be M-F from 3:30-7pm. Transportation will be provided by the Wyandotte School District to our facility for Wyandotte students participating in the program.

Youth will be given 30 -45 minutes of homework/ tutoring time when they arrive. We will warm up as a group doing cardiovascular activities such as running/jogging/walking before we start daily activity. Every Wednesday will be a pool day in which our daily activity will be pool centered. The activities will be planned and put onto a calendar for the youth and their parents/guardians.

The program will start January 30, 2012

Youth Weekly Schedule

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3:30-4:30 Homework/ Tutoring/Snack 4:30-5:00 Group Cardio workout Running/jogging/ Walking 5:00-6:30 Group activity Will be on monthly calendar. 6:30-7:00 Snack/ Get ready to go home	3:30-4:30 Homework/ Tutoring/ Snack 4:30-5:00 Group Community Project. 5:00-6:30 Individual Work out/will rotate biweekly 6:30-7:00 Snack/ Get ready to go home	3:30-4:30 Homework/ Tutoring/Snack 4:30-5:00 Group Cardio workout Running/jogging/ Walking 5:00-6:30 Swimming Activity/ Every Wednesday 6:30-7:00 Snack/ Get ready to go home	3:30-4:30 Homework/ Tutoring/ Snack 4:30-5:00 Group Community Project. 5:00-6:30 Individual Work out/will rotate biweekly 6:30-7:00 Snack/ Get ready to go home	3:30-4:30 Homework/ Tutoring/Snack 4:30-5:00 Group Cardio workout Running/jogging/ Walking 5:00-6:30 Group activity Will be on monthly calendar. 6:30-7:00 Snack/ Get ready to go home

Casino News



It's a new year full of new beginnings! LTC was very sad to say good-bye to a much valued (and loved) employee, Trudie Pendergraft! She will be missed dearly. We would like to send out a big thank you to all the staff for making this transition as seamless as possible. Although no one will ever fill her shoes, we are excited to find the right candidate to join the Lucky Turtle family.

Another New Year's has come and gone with great success! The celebration was wonderful and customers enjoyed a night of food, fun, and excitement. Out with the old and in with the new! 2012 is here, and we are already seeing great changes at Lucky Turtle Casino. We just wrapped up some game changes, and have some exciting promotions planned for each of the following months; including the Cajun celebration Mardi Mayhem and the red hot V-Day Payday (Valentine's Day) in February.

Customers spoke and we listened! Swirling Sundays are back in full swing every Sunday, along with multiple hot seat drawings throughout the week for cash prizes! These are just a few examples of all the exciting things going on at "The Turtle". Go ahead, come outta your shell and see for yourself!



The 2011 holiday season is in the books and Wyandotte Nation Casino had a season for the ages! The New Year's Eve celebration was beyond exciting for both guests and employees; from being able to enjoy a delicious first class meal, to participating in the \$10,000 Gift Giveaway, everyone was in spirit of celebration! We

credit much of the success to our outstanding staff, and everyone who lent a helping hand in the preparation and execution of the event.

The improvements to the interior and décor of the property are very close to concluding. The slot machine and table games pit relocations are complete, along with the construction of the new stage. To add to these great additions, new carpet will be installed in the very near future along with the installation of the new 30 ft. LED "Wyandotte" sign on the back interior wall of the casino.

The next few months are sure to be action-packed with promotions! From the annual Mardi Party and St. Patrick's Day Celebration to Four Fridays of Froggin' Fun, Dealer's Exposed Blackjack Tournaments, and the massive Free Play for a Year Giveaway; there will truly be an event for everyone!

Thank you to everyone at Wyandotte Nation Casino for making the first quarter of 2012 unforgettable; we couldn't do it without you!



There is no debate from any of our guests; Twin Bridges Restaurant was the star of the show on New Year's Eve. Our excellent Twin Bridges Restaurant and Lounge team was able to serve over 370 of our best players in just over a seven hour time frame and the reactions from guests were amazing. Twin Bridges truly gave every player the VIP experience with a superb meal and unforgettable service. On top of that, Twin Bridges Restaurant is still adding some finishing touches to the new lunch and dinner menus, which should be complete at any time.

Twin Bridges Lounge is preparing for some changes as well with new drink menus set to roll out mid-February. The Lounge has several promotions planned for the next few months including a Big Game (Super Bowl) party, a Mardi Gras Celebration, and, of course, the always popular St. Patrick's Day Bash! The Deli (formerly known as Campfire Concessions) is geared up and ready for 2012. The new menu, featuring the growing in popularity toasted sandwiches, has been met with great remarks from countless guests.

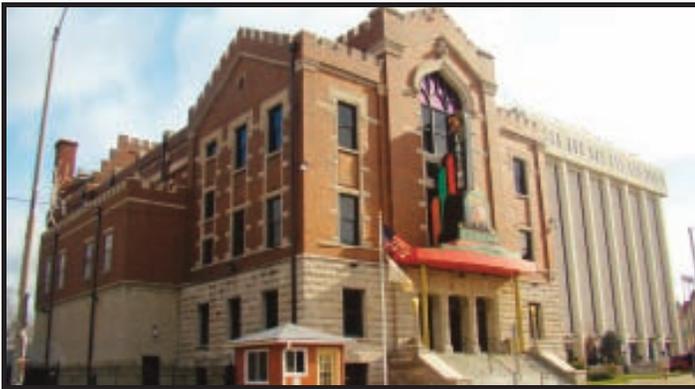
The Food and Beverage department has been extremely busy over the last quarter and plans to keep that momentum going through 2012 with excellent service, great food, and a positive experience you won't soon forget.

Casino offers gaming with a personal touch

By Michael Bushnell
Northeast News

A casino is a casino is a casino. Bells, whistles, monstrous machines with miniscule payouts. It's all the same, right? Wrong. 7th Street Casino shatters that old casino stereotype and offers a more personal approach to casino gaming – where players win, often.

(Pictured below is an exterior view of 7th Street Casino, located at 777 N. 7th St., in Kansas City, Kan. 7th Street offers more than 600 slots to choose from.)



Located just across the Inter-City Viaduct in a re-born and bustling downtown Kansas City, Kan., 7th Street Casino is someplace service staff actually greet you with a smile when you come through the door.

Wyandotte Gaming, 7th Street Casino's parent company, wanted to play a larger role in the revitalized downtown KCK landscape, so the company negotiated the sale of the old Scottish Rite Temple at 7th and Ann, adjacent to the Huron Indian Cemetery. What followed was a \$21 million dollar restoration of the exterior of the facility and a fantastic adaptive re-use of the interior space. 7th Street Casino offers more than 20,000 square feet of newly re-designed gaming space spanning three floors, all with an enhanced gaming experience in mind. Hungry? The newly christened Casino Café is a great

place to grab lunch, dinner or a quick snack while enjoying an afternoon of gaming. The previous menu has been completely re-vamped with new items and daily specials that start at just \$4.95! Night Owl specials are even less!

Special promotions? "We've got them!" says Marketing Director Brandi Severson. "Our players know they win here."

They offer regular weekly promotions such as Motown Monday, 7X Points Tuesdays, Player-Oke and Retro Wednesdays, in addition to monthly gaming floor promotions and slot tournaments every Sunday that's guaranteed to be a lot of fun and could put some extra scratch in your pocket at the same time! If you've never been upstairs on a Sunday afternoon to see it – you've got to check it out – it's a stitch!

Since opening in 2008, the casino has sponsored a myriad of community events, such as the KCK Blues Festival, the Strawberry Hill Festival, as well as their annual golf tournament and Stride For Life 5K walk/run that benefits Wyandotte County Charities and KU Medical Center. This year's golf outing and Stride for Life Charity Events netted more than \$33,000 to area charities.

Business is up at 7th Street Casino, too! According to Severson, business has increased every year for the past four years.

"We might not be the biggest or the flashiest in town, but our players are extremely loyal and we're extremely grateful for that," Severson said.

Stop by 7th Street Casino today to find a new, more personable gaming experience in a cozy, non-corporate environment.

Relax and enjoy an afternoon or evening of great food, fun atmosphere filled with entertainment... you're among friends here.

Wyandotte Nation Tag Office

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

Roll #1533

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.

Tribal Department Reports

ELDER SERVICES

Well, the holidays are over and we are trying to get back in our normal routine once again. We would like to thank everyone from the other departments for assisting us with our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners. Without you it would not be possible for us to "spoil" our Elders as they so richly deserve.

Our Valentine Party will be Tuesday, February 14, 2012. We will have prizes for the Oldest Valentine, the couple that has been married the longest, the newlyweds, and, just for kicks, the one that has been married the most times and is willing to admit it.

Our Easter Party will be Thursday, April 5, 2012. The preschool students will hide Easter eggs for the Elders to hunt. We will have two Easter Bonnet Contests, one for the prettiest bonnet and one for the funniest bonnet. We will also have a Men's Sexy Leg Contest.

Our Music Parties are the 2nd and 4th Thursday of each month.

CAREGIVER

Dari Ann Hunnicutt, our Caregiver Specialist retired December 9, 2011. We wish her the best of luck! She will be missed! Please refer all of your Caregiver needs or questions to Brenda House.

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Education/Environmental conference room at 10:30 am. It is open to all Caregivers.

Brenda House, Elder Services Director ext. 227

Kandi Smith, Food Service Team Supervisor ext. 228

Leesa Hibbard, Lynda Wilson, and Seth Higginbotham, Food Service Team Members ext. 228

Berle Blevins, Experience Works Program ext. 228

Menu, ext. 226

Planning/Development

We have recently applied for the Indian Community Development Block Grant.

We were not funded by HUD for the ICDBG last year. If funded this year, we will build a Community Center in our new housing complex. The Community Center would include; housing offices, storm shelter/safe room, generator, game room and an area to host social gatherings. This is a competitive grant we apply for once a year, and it helped fund the Wellness Center Expansion, Water Tower Project and Housing Rehabilitation.

We are currently working on the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Grant through the Department of Justice. Last year, the CTAS provided funding for Equipment and Training, Hiring and included a Methamphetamine Initiative for our police department.

The Environmental Department has received a grant to build a recycle center. We have been working with the Environmental Department in choosing a site for the building.

Wyandotte Nation has a Tribal Historic Preservation Grant through the National Park Service. The grant provides salary, supplies and equipment for our Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO). We are in the process of working with our Heritage Department to apply for 2012 funding.

Each year, we apply for the Native American Basic Library Grant, through the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant is used for training and the purchase of books for the library. We are currently working with the Education Department to submit this grant for the current year.

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

Ron Kaiser, Planning/Development Director – (918) 678-2297 ext. 225

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

Bearskin Healthcare

Many changes and new faces have started the New Year off right at Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Cen-

ter. With the new gymnasium and pool addition, we have been fortunate enough to add positions and programs to better serve the community. Basketball leagues are forming, youth programs are developing, fitness classes are hopping and our childcare area is booming. Memberships are up as the New Year brings many getting a jump-start on meeting their fitness goals.

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center is excited to announce the launch of an after school youth program, beginning January 30. This program is geared for youth ages 11 – 17 in Wyandotte and the surrounding communities. The program is designed to provide and establish a positive and safe learning experience that motivates and supports responsible healthy choices. The objectives include enhancing self image, learning life skills and job readiness skills. Heading up this program is our new youth coordinator, Holly Hilliard. Holly has been employed at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center since June, as a part-time front desk assistant while pursuing her degree in Elementary Education. With graduation behind her, she has hit the ground running in designing and implementing this new program. Holly's excitement and love of the community she grew up in is going to be a huge asset as she settles into her new position. We are excited to have her on board and look forward to all she has in store for us. Look for the insert regarding the youth program for all the details and a schedule. Holly is married to Bruce Hilliard and has one son, Orin.

In December, Sharon Bartley was promoted to Fitness Center Manager. Sharon joined the Wyandotte Nation five years ago and has held positions as Front Desk Assistant, Supervisor and Assistant Manager. Sharon is a take-charge person who is able to present creative ideas and communicate the benefits. She accomplishes all tasks with great initiative and with a positive (continued on next page)

Tribal Department Reports

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attitude which will be vital to her new role. We are excited about Sharon's new responsibility and look forward to many great things from her. Sharon is married to Chad Bartley and has two children, Ally and Brylen.

Along with these two changes in responsibilities, Wyandotte Nation Tribal Member, Jocelyn Marlow has become full time, working as an Administrative Assistant for both Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center and the Wyandotte Nation Police Department. Jocelyn has worked at the fitness center since 2002, taking a brief break to attend school and returning late last year. We welcome her back and are excited to see her put her many skills to work. Jocelyn is married to Jason Marlow and has two children, Connor and Veyda.

Recent part time additions include Shelly Burleson, Rashelle Manning, and Kayla Sihakhoth. We are very lucky to have all of these hard working ladies. Shelly Burleson is a third grade teacher by day in the Wyandotte Public School System. She is married to Brent and is an Oklahoma State University graduate. You will find Rashelle Manning working Monday through Friday, primarily in our new childcare area. She is married to Brent and has one daughter, Jade. Rashelle enjoys fishing and scrapbooking. Kayla is an energetic young lady from Alaska. She is an active member of her church, leading praise and worship regularly.

As always, Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribal members receive free memberships to Bearskin Fitness Center. It's a great time to start living that healthier lifestyle that you have dreamed about. Our staff welcomes you to come in and allow them to assist you in meeting your fitness goals. Classes are available for children through adults, with a wide variety, including swim classes, Zumba dance, Aquacise, Aqua Zumba, Move it! Move it!, Arthritis Foundation water classes, Silver Sneakers and water aerobics.

There is an open kids swim on Friday evenings from 6 – 8 pm. Come find your passion and enjoy working out and getting fit!

Bearskin Healthcare is proud to announce that the Practice Portal is coming soon. We are working on the development of this right now. Patients will be able to access specific medical information online at their own convenience.

The patient will have access to our practice portal and will be able to:

- E-mail the doctor (non-urgent clinical questions).
- E-mail our practice (billing questions)
- Request an appointment
- Request medication renewals.
- Request a referral.
- Fill out forms online.
- Access your medical records.

We will keep you informed on when the Practice Portal will be up and running online.

Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department

November was a very busy month for our department. On November 1st – 3rd, Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch attended the Trustee Councils of Tri-State and Tar Creek Trustee Council; Meetings at Missouri Southern State University, in Joplin, MO. These meetings are held on a bi-annual schedule and are used for updating information on NRDAR issues within the Tri-State Mining District.

November 6th – 8th was a Managers Training meeting in Branson, for all department directors in which Christen Lee attended. November 8th also found Jessica Stoerger attending the Tribal Environmental Council of Oklahoma (TECO) Meeting in Stroud, OK. At this meeting, the Wyandotte Nation was voted in as secretary of TECO. November 9th, Kathleen Welch attended the 6TREATY Meeting at the Ottawa Tribe in Miami, OK. The 6TREATY

consists of 6 area tribal environmental departments that are involved in the NRDAR issues of Tar Creek and downstream of the Tri-State Mining District. The following week of November 14th – 18th, Christen Lee attended the 2011 National Tribal Water Quality Conference in New Mexico. This meeting had the Region 6 EPA Project Officers and Federal Officials in attendance to discuss Tribal Water Quality Issues within Region 6. November 15th Janice Wilson and Kathleen Welch performed the quarterly nutrient sampling on all 6 collection sites for ambient water. On November 16th, Jessica Stoerger gave a presentation to the Miami Area Senior Companions on the services in which our department has available for tribal members and the public.

With Thanksgiving behind us, on November 28th – December 1st, Kathleen Welch and Janice Wilson attended the 2011 EPA Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meetings in Addison, TX. During this time they were able to visit EPA Region 6 Headquarters in Dallas. They met with EPA officers and were trained on a Pilot Project in which our department is involved in with EPA. The Quiklite Project will be used in conjunction with our private well bacteria and heavy metals sampling. It will be used to determine toxicity in drinking water. We are looking for approximately 30 private drinking wells in which we can sample. If you are interested, please contact Janice Wilson to set up an appointment.

December is always busy because of the Christmas Holiday Season but that doesn't stop our normal work schedules. Each month we sample 6 sites within the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdictional waters for temperature, conductivity, pH, ORP, dissolved oxygen, and flow rates. Jessica Stoerger also has a weekly recycling pickup schedule that includes the Tribal Offices, the Tribal Housing Complex, Turtle Stop, Wyandotte Nation Casino, the (continued on next page)

Tribal Department Reports

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Bank of Wyandotte, and the Bear's Den, with the Wyandotte Schools being added to the route this next month.

Our office received a grant to purchase a building for our ever expanding recycling needs. December 13th Jonna Polk from the Regional BIA Office in Muskogee, OK. visited our office to discuss the project and the importance of assisting the Tribe.

December 14th, Kathleen Welch attended the Tar Creek Trustee's Council (TCTC) meeting Tulsa, OK. The meeting was held at the Regional Fish and Wildlife Office. The TCTC consists of Tribal, State and Federal Officials involved with the Tar Creek Superfund Site.

The tribal offices were closed from Dec. 23rd – 26th, and Dec. 30th – Jan. 2nd to observe the Christmas and New Year's holidays. The Environmental Department hopes everyone had a very Merry Christmas, and wishes you a Happy New Year.

Our department continues to offer free private well water sampling for both tribal and non-tribal members, and free Septic System Assessments. For more information you may contact us at 918-678-2297.

Christen L. Lee (Director) (ext. 241)
Kathleen Welch (Env. Assistant) (ext. 235)

Janice Wilson (Water Tech) (ext. 245)
Jessica Stoerger (Recycling and Ed. Tech) (ext. 252)

News From Family Services

If your child was at the Children's Christmas party and got their picture taken with Santa, please come by the office and get your picture!

The New Year is beginning with some very pleasant weather! It is so nice to be able to take a walk with your children or play out on the porch in January! Winter can bring opportunity for great bonding time with your family. Take advantage of the cooler evenings

by doing activities such as playing games, reading or putting together puzzles with your family. And what a blessing to be able to go to the park or ride bicycles in the winter! Special memories are important for good mental health. Take time to make them whenever possible.

We are happy to announce our new employee! Serving as our Wyandotte Tribal Social Worker, Tara Gragg began working in our Department in January. She will be able to assist you with any of our Family Services Programs.

To apply for any of our Tribal Programs, please contact Kate Randall, Dana Butterfield or Tara Gragg.

LIHEAP: The Wyandotte Nation processed 51 applications for the Oklahoma Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program this year. This is a record number for our 4th year receiving this Federal Energy Grant.

Winter Senior Citizens Energy Assistance Program: This program is available until March 1st. Applicants must be at least 62 years of age and reside within a 200 mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation. No income guidelines apply. The application must be completed and accompanied by a copy of your most recent heating utility bill.

Elders Assistance: No income guidelines apply. Recipients must be at least 62 years of age and live within a 200 mile radius. This benefit is \$250.

New Enrollee Benefit: Nationwide Program: If you enroll your new baby before his or her first birthday, you will receive a \$100 Gift Card and a Baby Blanket with the Tribal logo.

Children's Winter Clothing: This program is available until March 1, 2012. No income guidelines apply. Recipients must live within a 200 mile radius and will receive \$100 per school age child.

Children's Extracurricular Activities: No income guidelines apply. Recipients must live within a 200 mile radius and will receive \$100 per school age child.

Junior/Senior High school Assistance Program: No income guidelines apply. Recipients must live within a 200 mile radius and will receive up to \$250 per school year. This benefit can help with cap and gown, announcements, senior pictures, etc.

School Supply Program: This program is available from August 1st to September 30th each year. No income guidelines apply. Recipients must live within a 200 mile radius and will receive \$100 per school age child each school year.

Child Passenger Safety Seats: No income guidelines apply. Infant seats must be picked up at Tribal Headquarters. Sizes include newborn through booster.

Promoting Safe & Stable Families: the "PSSF" program is a State and Federally funded program that provides family preservation and support services designed to prevent the breakup of Indian families. This program may be able to assist at risk families with need based social services, referrals and emergency assistance.

Indian Child Welfare: The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act mandates the Tribe be notified in the event a Wyandotte child is involved in State Court Proceedings to ensure placement preferences are met as well as reunification efforts to keep families together.

Tribal Tags: Available in the entire State of Oklahoma.

Tribal Enrollment: Applicants are accepted all during the year; however, new members are not eligible for enrollment until approval of the Tribal Council during the Nation's Annual Meeting held the 2nd Saturday of September. Replacement membership cards are available upon request. If you do not have a CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) card and would like to apply, please contact Family Services as a separate application is required.

In closing, it is the goal of the Wyandotte Nation Family Services (continued on next page)

Tribal Department Reports

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Department to serve you, our tribal members. Please remember we have an open door policy and trust that you will contact us with any concerns or questions you may have regarding tribal programs.

Kate Randall (918-678-2297 X224)
krandall@wyandotte-nation.org

Dana Butterfield (918-678-2297 X219)
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Tara Gragg (918-678-2297 X255)
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing Department

We currently have another senior duplex unit out for bid. We are looking forward to awarding the contract in February, and construction should begin shortly after. We are planning for the duplex unit to be completed and occupied around the end of summer.

At the end of 2011, we received tribal funding to put storm shelters on our tribally-owned modular housing units. We will be installing thirty-three storm shelters this year. Installation of "Safe-Porch" storm shelters has already begun, and will be completed by the end of spring.

If you would like to fill out an application for housing or have any other questions about our housing programs please contact our office. Federal Income Guidelines are followed.

Also, if you live in the Indian Health Service Area and are in need of water or sanitation services, please contact our office.

Kathy DeWeese- Housing Director
Valari Richards- Housing Specialist
Paul Paquin- Project Coordinator
Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator
Don Graham- Res. Maint. Tech.

Tribal Heritage Department

Happy New Year! Tribal Heritage and Cultural Committee is ready to see several things accomplished this year. We are excited for the Barbeau exhibit to come back home to Oklahoma, if only for a few days.

It has been 100 years since these things have seen home or been seen by families of the Wyandotte. This is a large undertaking by the Tribe and Cultural Committee, but one we will cherish for many years. I pray anyone who has a chance to visit Sam Noble Museum of Natural History in Norman, OK will take that opportunity. Some of the articles may have belonged to your family. The Nation will be offering rides to the Tribal members during the opening and several times, while the exhibit is in Oklahoma.

The Cultural Committee has requested the permission of the Board of Directors to utilize Craig Kopriss as the Wyandotte Linguist for the Wyandotte Language Program. Craig will be working with the Committee to further the language in the attempt to make it a working language.

Doug Spangler, Director of Government Affairs, has the passion to learn the history of the Wyandotte and, with this knowledge, has visited several auctions in Ohio and purchased a lot of artifacts for the Tribe. Now when we do get our own museum, we will have many nice pieces to display. Thank you Doug.

Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director, recently made a trip to Wyandotte County Historical Museum to discuss the opportunity of setting up an exhibit alongside their traveling "Code Talkers" exhibit to be on loan from the Smithsonian in 2013. This will be a great honor to do this. More will be included on this in the future as details become available.

One last thing, remember the Cultural Days and our 23 Annual Pow-Wow, which will be held September 7,8, and 9, 2012. Make plans to be here. Both are a learning experience plus lots of fun.

Education Department

Preschool:

The holidays are always full of excitement for the children and staff of the

Wyandotte Nation Preschool. Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner and Program for our families were well attended and all present enjoyed a wonderful traditional Thanksgiving meal. The Preschool staff would like to thank all of the volunteers and the Title VI staff who made this a most memorable event. The month of December brought a trip to Missouri Southern State University to watch a holiday play. The Christmas parties and programs were full of festivities for the students and a special visit from Santa was the highlight of the morning. A huge thank you to the Wyandotte Tribal Corporation for the wonderful background decorations for our visit from Santa area. The spring semester has begun with Wyandotte language classes, upcoming parties, Preschool Pow-Wow and finishing with graduation!

Before and After School Program:

The before school program has an average of 12 participants and the after school program has around 30 children each afternoon, the kids are busy with games, homework and snack time

Library:

The library office has a new look thanks to Ms. LeeAnna and Ms. Elnora. The new wall color and décor in the office area is welcoming and we hope that you take time to visit soon. If there is a title we can assist you with, please let the staff know and we will be happy to locate it for you.

Child Care & Development Fund Program:

The Child Care annual report has been submitted and our client families comment regularly on the fact that the program is a huge asset as they work or attend school. This grant source assists tribal members within 100 miles of our tribal offices with the expenses of child care. To ask questions about the program or to speak with staff about any child care related issue, just call the office and speak to Loretta or Tammy.

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WYANDOTTE NATION

2012 Summer Youth Program

The Wyandotte Nation Government is seeking Wyandotte Nation Tribal Members to fill 20 positions for the 2012 Summer Youth Program.

Criteria for this program

- ✓ Enrolled in high school or college and able to provide proof of enrollment upon request
- ✓ Must be ages 16–22
- ✓ Able to provide a Wyandotte Nation membership card upon request
- ✓ Have dependable transportation to and from work
- ✓ Ability to fulfill the requirements of the assigned position
- ✓ Pass a physical, background check and drug screen

Eligible participants will work 40 hours per week at \$8.50/hour. Current assignments are available in the following areas: Turtle Trax Print Shop, Bearskin Fitness Center, Title VI (Elder Services), Wyandotte Nation Administration, Education, Housing, Environmental, Maintenance Department, and Law Enforcement. The Summer Youth Program will begin the Monday following the last day of school.

Applications are available at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 64700 East Highway 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370 and must be submitted by April 15, 2012. Positions are limited and will be filled based on availability so please submit your application as soon as possible.

For more information and to schedule an interview please contact Deana Howard, HR Specialist, Wyandotte Nation Government - toll free 800-256-2539 ext 220, email dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org or fax 918-678-2944.

Tribal Department Reports

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Tribal Scholarships:

Fall grades are arriving daily and many tribal members are earning outstanding academic marks and are enrolling for the spring semester. Please have class schedule changes and or school changes to the Education Department submitted no later than February 15. Applications for high school seniors in spring of 2012 are now available for fall 2012 funding.

If you have questions about any of the education programs at the Wyandotte Nation, please contact Tammy Charles at Ext. 230 or Loretta Combes at Ext. 243.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA):

The WIA program has been busy working with students and their needs for the spring semester. Feel free to contact the WIA program at ext. 234.

Submitted by:
Tammy R. Charles



Left Picture: Toby Snell, Isaac Cook, Audra Harrison, Bryleigh Moore, Lachlan Penner, Tayden Carolus. (Afternoon Class)

Right Picture: Hunter White, Dawson White, Bryson Walker (back), Talon Wyrick, Mya Pellegrino(front). (Mrs. Bartley's Class)



Left Picture: Traylen Robitaille, Braxton Brodrick, Drew Sherwood, Tierany Sloan, Greyson Newman (Mrs. Schribner's Class)

Right Picture: Korynn Boone, Benjamin Hobbs, Cameron McDade, Jacob Still, Rilynn Stewart, Jayce Kihenia. (Mrs. Moore's Class)

Children's Christmas Party



Bryleigh & Kaci Moore



Evieanna Hamilton



Jake & Jordan Turley

Services Provided to Tribal Members

Services	Program Contacts	Phone Numbers	Extensions
Clinic	Kelly Walker	(918)-678-3259	4459
Dental - Vision	Amanda Johnston	(918)-678-3221	4457
Clinic (for appointments)	Linda Coatney	(918)-678-3228	4428
Clinic (for appointments)	Elaine Fidler	(918)-678-3230	4430
Pharmacy (Call in only)	Carolyn Nesvold	(918)-678-2282	4424
Fitness Center	Sharon Bartley	(918)-678-2070	
Contract Health	Bridget Burleson	(918)-678-3227	4427
Diabetes Clinic	Donna Spaulding	(918)-678-3258	4458
Nutrition	Brenda House	(918)-678-2297	227
Caregiver Services	Brenda House	(918)-678-2297	227
Enrollment	Dana Butterfield	(918)-678-2297	219
Tags	Dana Butterfield	(918)-678-2297	219
Housing Programs	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239
Student Housing Assistance	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239
Housing Improvements	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239
Well Septic Construction	Kathy DeWeese	(918)-678-2297	239
School Supplies	Kate Randall	(918)-678-2297	224
Car Seats	Kate Randall	(918)-678-2297	224
Emergency Assistance	Kate Randall	(918)-678-2297	224
Scholarships	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230
Job Training	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230
Preschool	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230
Library	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230
Adult Education	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230
Childcare	Tammy Charles	(918)-678-2297	230
Environmental	Christen Lee	(918)-678-2297	241
Human Resources	Deana Howard	(918)-678-2297	220
Turtle Trax Printing	Pat Wilson	(918)-678-2297	238
Historical	Sherri Clemons	(918)-678-2297	244