A Grand Entry

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Gyah’-wish Atak-ia is published quarterly for Tribal Citizens by the Wyandotte Nation at its headquarters in Wyandotte, Okla.

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Tribe making tremendous strides in this generation

“Let us acknowledge the LORD; let us press on to acknowledge him. As surely as the sun rises, he will appear; he will come to us like the winter rains, like the spring rains that water the earth.” -- Hosea 6:3

From the Chief

Kweh,

I hope this Turtle Talk finds all of our Wyandotte people doing well and enjoying the spring season. While for us here in Oklahoma it is usually ushered in by the threat and many times the reality of tornadoes and severe weather, it is also a time of growth, vibrant colors and vitality. The land around us begins to awaken and everywhere plants and trees are in bloom.

It is also a time of renewal that comes into people’s lives as winter makes its exit and the warm weather invites us to enjoy nature. Spring is an exciting time of year as we open our minds to the many possibilities before us, and to the blessings we have received.

For generations, our people survived at a subsistence level. With removal to this new land, our people were faced with starting new lives with very little. Because of the adverse situations they found themselves in they were constantly forced to adapt, persevere, and overcome. Looking back on that era, it is amazing the conditions they endured. Yet, they survived and eventually prospered. We became a very resilient and persistent people.

In this modern era of the Wyandotte Nation, we are “thriving.” Today our tribe is experiencing the growth, and the benefits it brings. We have achieved economic success, and we have committed those resources for Wyandotte people and programs that will produce benefits far into the future.

Our new Cultural Center is currently in the planning phase and we hope to break ground in early fall. We will be able to celebrate our culture and history with this facility, and we will be able to share our story and traditions with those who seek to know more about us.

We continue to build tribal commercial facilities, and upgrade our existing businesses. We are mindful of the ever changing needs and desires of our customers, and we invest in those items that make our facilities favorite destinations.

While constructing new projects are important, and they are material signs of our tribal growth, it is the Wyandotte people who are the source of our most significant tribal growth.

With the key building blocks of quality education, housing, nutrition and health care, our tribe has made tremendous strides in just one generation.

Housing conditions for Wyandotte families have been improved many-fold over a generation. Nutrition services help keep our elders and children strong and healthy, and our unique and growing Wyandotte Nation Health System helps keep our people on the pathway toward wellness.

When it comes to the “end result,” our greatest investment – and the investment that produces by far the greatest return – is in the Wyandotte people.

Spring is here and we are thankful for the change of seasons and this annual time of growth and refreshment. Let’s also be thankful for our tribe, our families and our friends. Together, we have achieved a great deal and working together in the future our possibilities are endless.

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Moving forward on Culture Center/Museum project

Kweh,

I hope this article finds everyone in good spirits and looking forward to spring weather. Our tribal citizens are scattered all over the United States and I’m sure that not all of them have experienced a harsh winter like we had here in Oklahoma, with the exception of those in the East and Northeast. They got hit really hard this year and in some places are still experiencing blizzard like conditions. My heart goes out to you. We are finally getting milder weather here. The temperature is like a rollercoaster and when that happens the possibility of tornados increases considerably. But with
Second Chief ———

Continued from Page 2

the completion of our Community Center that has a storm shelter and the one at the Wellness Center we can provide storm protection for about 388 people.

The housing staff has moved into the new Community Center and it is now open for business. It is going to be a great addition to Heritage Acres. We are hoping it will be a hub of activity for not only our tribal citizens but the entire Wyandotte community.

We will be interviewing architects for the Culture Center/Museum project soon. I can't wait until we can break ground.

Since I am on that subject I want to make a plea to all our Wyandotte citizens. With a Culture Center/Museum in our future we are going to need artifacts to display. We have a small amount of items but will need more and that is where you come in. With a climate controlled vault we will be able to better preserve artifacts and documents that have been a part of our history for centuries. If you have any old documents pertaining to allotments or old photographs of tribal members we would love to have a copy.

If you know of a tribal member that is a veteran and you have a picture of them in uniform please send us a copy. If you knew they were in the military and don't have a picture of them in uniform, send us any picture of them. If you find or have an old uniform or any item they may have saved from their military service we would be honored to display them and give homage to all of our Wyandotte Veterans.

We recently had another successful town hall meeting in Grapevine, Texas. I want to thank our own Sallie Cotter Andrews for the tour of Grapevine and Mayor William D. Tate for a very gracious welcome to Grapevine, Texas. It is a very beautiful community. The last town hall meeting of 2014 was in the Denver, Colorado area April 26. It is a pleasure doing these town hall meetings and instilling a sense of pride in being a Wyandotte.

Spring has slowly sprung here so you know what that means, pow-wow season is approaching. Dig your regalia out of storage and if you don't have any regalia better get busy and get it made. Speaking of pow-wows the 25th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow will be in September and it is going to be the pow-wow to attend. I want to extend a personal invitation to all Wyandotte Nation members to attend. If you have never been to a pow-wow we want ours to be your first. I guarantee you will not be disappointed.

It is indeed a pleasure and an honor to serve as Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, the greatest Indian Nation in the country.

Tizameh!

“In any moment of decision, the best thing you can do is the right thing, the next best thing is the wrong thing, and the worst thing you can do is nothing.” -- Theodore Roosevelt

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election

On Sept. 13, 2014 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting and Election at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Okla. The Election will begin at 9 a.m.

The purpose of the election is to elect the following positions:

- Second Chief
- (1) Board of Director member
- (2) Grievance Committee members

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

The opening date to file for candidacy is May 16, 2014 with the closing date June 16, 2014 at 4:30 p.m. All qualified members of the Wyandotte Nation who desire his or her name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Elective Office 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, Wyandotte, Okla.

No person shall be a candidate for more than one office at any one time. All such filings of Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no sooner than May 16, 2014 and no later than June 16, 2014.

No later than three days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board Secretary shall cause to be posted at the Tribal Complex a complete list of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy.

A filing fee of $50 shall be assessed for each candidate filing for Second Chief and Board of Directors, and $10 will be assessed for Grievance Committee candidates. Each candidate for Elective Office shall be assessed these fees payable to the Wyandotte Nation by Certified Check, Cashier’s Check, or Money Order. These fees shall be used for election purposes. The filing fee shall be paid on the same date the prospective candidate submits his or her Declaration of Candidacy. Said filing fee is non-refundable.

**POLLING PLACE:** The official polling place for all Tribal Elections shall be the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Classroom, Wyandotte, Okla. The polling place shall be opened 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 shall 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.

-- Rob Nesvold, Chairperson, Wyandotte Nation Election Board

### Gathering of Little Turtles to be held June 20-22

Kids, Teens, Families, and Elders plan now to attend!

This three-day weekend will be full of activities and adventures for our kids from 6-16 years old. Even if you are a kid at heart its open to all ages, including our elders. We encourage this to be a family weekend.

Activities will include crafts such as making your own pair of mocassins, snapping where you will make your own arrow head, cooking some of our “traditional” foods, going on nature hikes, games, maybe even some dancing.

No one is too old to attend, just need to be young at heart. Meals will be provided and over night lock-in facilities available for families and teens. We will have separate facilities for families and teens.

Please watch your mail and the Nation’s website for registration and schedule of activities.

**REGISTRATION ONLINE IS REQUIRED BY ALL** – Deadline to register: Wednesday, June 4.

We encourage this weekend to be a family weekend! We also encourage our youth to attend without parents; however, certain restrictions will be enforced.

**Kid Turtles** – 1st grade through 6th grade and no youth under age 12 will be allowed to attend evening activities or overnight lock-in without a parent or other authorized adult 18 years or older. Those attending day activities without a parent or adult will need to be signed in and out daily by parent. Drop off and pickup times will be provided upon confirmation of registration.

**Teen Turtles** – 7th grade and older – Teens can attend day activities or stay the entire weekend. Parent must drop off, sign teen in, and pick up at designated time daily if they are not staying the entire weekend.

Questions? Please email – culture@wyandotte-nation.org and/or marilyn.s.young57@gmail.com.
A Wyandotte Nation Author's Story

BY WILLIAM SWAIM

Diann Shaddox’s day didn’t start out like a day significantly different than any other as she stood in line waiting at the post office in Louisville, Ky. in the early 80s.

When an employee handed her a form to fill out, she picked up a pen and as she went to write, her hands began shaking uncontrollably, to the point she couldn’t write her own name.

With eyes fixed upon her, she left crying.

“It was devastating,” said Diann, a Wyandotte Nation tribal member and published book author. “It is just devastating when you go to write down your name, your address and you can’t. And everyone behind me was just staring. It was almost like they thought I didn’t know how to write.”

The incident at the post office wasn’t the first time Diann’s hands began shaking, but it was the worst. She began to notice the shake in her early 20s, saw doctors then who said she was just nervous, to go home and relax, that there was a lot of stress involved with taking care of her two small children.

At the time, she felt it was something more than that, but it wasn’t until the incident at the post office, that she finally found the answer to the question, ‘what is wrong?’

See Shaddox, Page 5
Tell us your story: Submit a feature story idea or possible Q&A profile to William Swaim, email him at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 848-0724. We want to hear you or your family’s story.
New Splash Pad should help cure summer doldrums

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

In an effort to enhance the community in Wyandotte, the Wyandotte Nation has moved forward on plans to build a Splash Pad near tribal housing and new Heritage Acres Community Center.

Wyandotte Nation Housing Director Kathy DeWeese said the contract was signed March 12 and the project, weather permitting, is expected to be completed in 90 days.

“The Splash Pad had been discussed for several years,” DeWeese said.

“The community needs things for families to do in the summer months. Building the pad within the housing area will make it available to those living here, the entire community and also the daycare children.”

DeWeese said daycare has been transporting the children to the Splash Pad in Grove, Okla., in the past, but with the new Splash Pad in Wyandotte, it will allow them to stay close to the center.

The cost of the project is $200,000 and features a teepee, turtle sprayers, wolf and bear cannons, dumping buckets and water sprays.

Shaddox

Continued from Page 5

essential tremors. The story is about Quaid, it is a love story dealing with the “strength of mind to fight fate and never accept what life throws at you.”

Diann said while the physical action of handwriting can be difficult, typing on a computer isn’t as bad.

“The typing, when I get into thought, most of the time my hands will flow and be OK on the physical side. The physical side I can handle,” she said. “The mental side, the only problem I have with essential tremors is your brain will switch words around on you and that can be difficult when you try and put your thoughts down. I just have to go back and have people edit what I am doing.”

She said even though her signature is bad, she still does book signings and has another published book, The Whispering Fog, due out soon. She described it as a time travel romance.

She said she is also working on a Native American children’s book Spirit of Sacred Mountain and about 16 other books, including a cookbook.

Raising awareness

Essential tremors have changed the way Diann does things, but it has not stopped her.

Instead of hiding because of ET, she has begun instead, to show others what it is like for people who live with it.

“I hid for years because of essential tremors. But I have decided, since I wrote A Faded Cottage, that I want to be out there and I am going to raise awareness,” she said. “I’m talking to celebrities and anyone who will listen at my book signings, to bring awareness. I have also just started the Diann Shaddox Foundation.”

She said the foundation is new and a portion of the proceeds from book sales will go help to fund it, as well as other charities like Common Threads for children and Wounded Warriors for veterans.

Her main goal is to get people to understand what essential tremors are.

“So many people are living with this and it is just hard for them in their everyday life,” she said. “This is not just an old person’s disease. There are young children, babies born with this too. They are having to learn to write, learn to color, and having to deal with this and their classmates in school.”

Diann doesn’t know how much her essential tremors will progress in the future, but regardless, she plans on continuing to bring new books to life.

Diann and her husband Randy currently live in South Carolina, where they have resided the last four years (and where A Faded Cottage is based). They have two children, Rick and Angie, and five grandchildren.
The Wyandotte Nation held a grand opening ceremony for its new $1.2 million Community Center Monday, April 14.

Chief Billy Friend opened the ceremony by addressing the crowd and followed with a traditional smoking ceremony at the Heritage Acres Community Center, located at 14325 Porcupine Rd. in Wyandotte, Okla.

“The Community Center is a great addition for the community here in the Wyandotte Nation. It is our hope it can become a hub of social activities for not only those who live here within the Wyandotte Nation’s local community but even for those outside the community,” Chief Friend said.

The Community Center features an activity center, senior center, kitchen and a saferoom that will provide a place for the community to go in adverse weather conditions.

“The idea is to bring the community together to have a place for activities, a place where young and old both can come and enjoy -- whether it is working in the computer lab, playing a game of pool or ping-pong or in the case of a storm, to be able to find a place of refuge and shelter in the saferoom,” Chief Friend said.

“It’s a place we hope the young people can sit down with our elders and our elders have an opportunity to pass their wisdom down to our young people and that our young people will learn respect for our elder generation.”

Chief Friend said the Community Center is just another step in the Tribe’s ongoing process of building and improving the community.

“We set a goal several years ago -- a goal of community building.” Chief Friend said. “We sat down and looked at ways to do community building. Of course, having quality housing, quality education, quality healthcare, producing jobs -- these are all vital pieces of building a community. This community center is another piece in the puzzle to bring this to fruition.

“It’s a great day in the Wyandotte Nation and a great day to be Wyandotte. We are very proud of this facility.”

In addition to the Community Center, the Wyandotte Nation is also in the process of building a Splash Pad for the community and a Culture Center. Two new duplex units are set to be constructed as well in the Heritage Acres Housing addition. The new two bedroom, two bath units will allow the Wyandotte Nation Housing Department to service smaller sized families on the Housing waiting list.

The Wyandotte Nation Housing Department has also moved its offices into the new community center.

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department, which also serves as the municipal police department in Wyandotte, moved into the housing department’s previous office space at 64600 E. 145 Road along with the Tribal Court.
Superheroes show speed, flex muscle in Wyandotte

By William Swaim

Athletes from all across the four states area donned their capes and put their super skills to the test Saturday, April 19 at the Wyandotte Nation’s Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI) Superhero 5K and Bearskin Strongman competition at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center.

The Superhero 5K and 1 Mile Fun Walk were aimed at having fun while helping raise awareness for suicide and bullying. In addition, participants and spectators had the opportunity to donate pet food to the Humane Society of Grove and Grand Lake.

“The purpose was to try and get enough information into people’s hands,” said Travis Rhatigan, Assistant Manager at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center,” because if you see something, you know the causes, know what it looks like, you can save someone’s life by knowing how to get them help.”

The event was free and well attended by Flash, Batman, Superman, and Wonder Woman – just to name a few. Participants went home with T-shirts, gift bags and medals for the top finishers. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend awarded the medals.

Rhatigan said nearly 400 participated in the run and strongman competition. He said they had more than 270 take part in the 5K and another 100 in the 1-mile run/walk. Additionally, they had six ladies and 12 men take part in the strongman. He said the numbers doubled from last year’s events.

“We were blessed by what we got to experience,” Rhatigan said. “Next year we’d like to see that trend to continue. Whatever we choose to highlight and get information out about, we have a chance to touch a lot of lives.”

When the runners were through crossing the finish line, athletes got a chance to hulk out and flex their muscles by pulling a firetruck, lifting atlas stones, flipping tires and more.

Sponsors for the Strongman event were the Wyandotte Nation Casino, the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Frank Fletcher Nissan, Crossland Construction and the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. The Wyandotte Nation’s Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative was the sole sponsor of the 5K.

“Without our sponsors, none of this could have gone on,” Rhatigan said. “Being paired with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe also, we are able to reach a lot of people and hopefully we make a tremendous impact on their lives.”

For race results, see p19.

To see video & more photos, visit our Facebook page and ‘Like’ us.

www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation

MORE INFORMATION
- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, resulting in about 4,400 deaths per year.
- Suicide ranked as the eighth leading cause of death for American Indians/Alaska Natives of all ages.
- Bully victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims.
- Nearly 30% of students are either bullies or victims of bullying.
- 160,000 kids stay home from school every day because of fear of bullying.

National Suicide Prevention Lifeline 1-800-273-TALK (8255).

By William Swaim/ Wyandotte Nation

(ABOVE) Magnum Mustain works to lift the atlas stone over the bar Saturday, April 19.

(LEFT) Athletes from across the four states dressed up as their favorite superheroes sprint out during the start of the race.

Recommended Reading

“Dispersed But Not Destroyed, A History of the Seventeenth-Century Wendat People” -- Dr. Kathryn Magee Labelle

By Sallie Cotter Andrews

This is a fantastic new book that I highly recommend for anyone who wants to understand our history in more depth.

Dr. Labelle looks at our leaving the homeland in Canada in 1649 - not in a crazy, run for your life kind of way from the Iroquois, but rather leaving with a strategic plan in mind and in a manner through which we were able to keep our leadership position among the nations, trading abilities, and really keeping our culture alive even though we had to change some. This book will make you feel SO proud to be a Wyandotte. Up until now, all texts have labeled us “utterly decimated”, “wiped out,” etc. This includes even ourselves -- we have mis-languaged what happened to us in 1649. Just think about it -- if we were “utterly decimated” we would not be here today! You can get the book from Amazon or AbeBooks.com. It is a little expensive, but totally worth the price! Tizameh.
The Wyandotte Nation hosted the annual Chief Lea-ford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow Tuesday, April 22 at the Pow-Wow Grounds. It was the second straight year the Pow-Wow was held outside. Wyandotte Nation Education Director Tammy Charles said the Pow-Wow continues to improve in attendance each year.

The evening opened with an Indian Taco Meal and the Pow-Wow followed with the Grand Entry and Introduction of Tribes. The Wyandotte Nation Color Guard presented the colors, Chief Billy Friend did the invocation and Princess Emilee Wills signed the Lord’s Prayer.

“The addition of the Indian Taco Meal by the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow committee was a double blessing this year as it provided meals for the families of the attendees and the proceeds will bless the Wyandotte Public Schools back pack nutrition program,” Charles said.

Debbie Scribner and Shawn King, Eastern Shawnee members, helped prep the preschoolers for the event. The Sequoyah High School Hope Club was the Host Drum. The kids performed Numbers, a Round, Snake and Intertribal Dance, as well as “Kweh, Kweh, Kweh!”

“Debbie Scribner and Shawn King did a phenomenal job of instructing our children this year,” Charles said.

“Mr. King taught pow wow etiquette and dance that was showcased at the event. The addition of the Sequoyah High School Hope Club drummers, singers and dancers added to the evening.”

Charles said this is the first year in several they had visiting royalty. She said a new tradition that began this year was the recognition of high school seniors that were graduates of Wyandotte Nation Preschool. Jordynn Smith, Wyandotte High School, was recognized for her attendance.

Wyandotte Nation Citizen Showcase to display tribal citizens' art

All enrolled tribal citizens of the Wyandotte Nation are invited to submit a culturally relevant piece of art to be on display during the 2014 Wyandotte Nation Citizen Showcase. To recognize the artistic abilities possessed by tribal members of all ages, a display of member created works of art will be exhibited in the Carla Culver Education Building on Saturday of the 2014 annual meeting.

Be watching the Wyandotte Nation website for more information.

World Touch Tour coming to Wyandotte

Tina Allen, a Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen, will be bringing the World Touch Tour to Wyandotte Sept. 4-8 and other locations nationwide throughout 2014. Founded by Allen, a pediatric massage master teacher and philanthropist, the Liddle Kidz™ Foundation offers new, comprehensive, research based training courses and teaches students what they really need to know to become infant and pediatric massage professionals.

The tour will feature comprehensive infant massage and pediatric massage certification programs for professionals, caregivers and those wanting to enhance their career or begin a new one. The Liddle Kidz™ Foundation Certification courses are intense, fun and an effective way to master the core skills of infant and pediatric massage. For more information, visit the website www.liddlekidz.com or Facebook page www.facebook.com/LiddleKidzFoundation.

Chief Lea-ford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow a success

Photos by William Swaim

To see more Pow-Wow photos, visit our Facebook page.
www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation
Stride for Life a success

By Calli Green

With the season change, bringing in the warm weather is something to be excited about, and 7th Street is definitely celebrating that. From baseball themed promotions like “Take Me Out to the Ballgame” and “Sizzlin’ Fridays” to community outreaches like the annual Stride for Life 5K Run/Walk, 7th Street is ready for Kansas City to bring on the sunshine!

During baseball themed promotions, guests are winning tickets and merchandise for the warm weather sport, and could not be any more thrilled. Throughout the Month of April, team members are wearing T-Bones Baseball themed shirts every Friday, to gear up guests for the promotion, and to gear them up for our partner’s, The Kansas City Kansas T-Bones Baseball team, home opener and season!

7th Street was overjoyed about the Stride for Life 5K Run/Walk participation this year! With over 100 people joining together at Pierson Park this year, it was one of the largest turn outs in Stride for Life history! This year the casino chose Due West Therapeutic Riding Center as recipients of the proceeds of the 5K. Due West is an organization that provides therapeutic horseback riding for children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities; including autism spectrum disorder, Down Syndrome, developmental delay, emotional disorders and vision and hearing impairments. 7th Street Casino was able to provide a check for $6,200 to the organization and was excited to do so, for such a great cause.

The team is very eager for Summer, specifically July 25, when Multimedia Games, in conjunction with the casino, will be hosting a preliminary slot tournament to the TournEvent of Champions in Las Vegas this fall. Multimedia representatives will be at the casino on July 25th as well as their mascot, The Money Man, to cheer for up to 400 participants. After the final round, one lucky winner will be crowned the 7th Street Champion, and will be sent to Las Vegas this fall to participate in the TournEvent of Champions against winners from across the nation. In Las Vegas, one TournEvent national champion will receive $200,000!

The warm weather has brought so much excitement to 7th Street Casino and the team is coming up with more fun and exciting ideas than ever before! On the near horizon, the tiered membership program will be launched with three tiers: Emerald, Sapphire and Platinum. The new cards and program is a way for guests to be rewarded with benefits and to grow with the casino. The team cannot wait to put the new membership tiers into action to add on to the slogan “More Winning. More Often.”

Stride for Life benefits charity

By William Swaim

KANSAS CITY -- 7th Street Casino held its 5th annual “Stride for Life 5K” Saturday, April 12 at Pierson Park in support of Due West Therapeutic Riding Center.

It was the first year the event was held at the Park and the event drew its largest number of participants with nearly 100 taking part in the 5K run/walk.

“7th Street is a locals’ casino. Our guests are known to us – they are family, they are friends,” said Jean Yuen, 7th Street Casino General Manager. “So one of the things we really want to do is participate in the community and support their various foundations, non-profits and to be a benefit to the community. We provide entertainment and also provide support for their organizations.”

Each year 7th Street Casino hosts a 5K run/walk in support of a local charity. This year’s event raised $6,200 for Due West TRC. The program is designed to serve children and adults with physical and cognitive disabilities; including autism spectrum disorder, Down Syndrome, developmental delay, emotional disorders and vision and hearing impairments. Due West TRC serves individuals in Wyandotte, Leavenworth, Johnson and Douglas counties.

“We are blessed 7th Street Casino has chosen us to be the beneficiary of their 5K Stride for Life this year,” said Mary Sharp, Executive Director of Due West TRC. “We are a new program. This has been a dream of ours to start a therapeutic riding center in Wyandotte County. This county doesn’t have any facilities of this kind.”

Yuen said therapeutic riding has been successful and she was familiar with therapeutic riding centers in other states.

“Due West I am really excited about. They are a smaller group in this community – as far as non-profits and charities. So they are much more appreciative and able to use the funds that we contribute,” she said. “We don’t get lost in the mix for them. It’s always helpful when you know they appreciate it.

“I think it went very well,” Yuen added. “The hills were tough, but in Kansas City, Kansas, you are going to have that.”

To see video & more photos, visit our Facebook page and ‘Like’ us.

www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation
Bearskin Services secures DoE & DoD contracts

Bearskin Services recently secured a $16.5 million contract to provide information technology and public affairs office support services for the Department of Energy’s Southwest Power Administration (SWPA) in Oklahoma, Missouri, and Arkansas.

“We’ve supported SWPA with IT Services for the past five years and this award further validates the DoE’s confidence in Bearskin’s quality, expertise, and dedication to our customers,” said Katie Thompson, Contracts Manager for Bearskin Services.

In addition, Bearskin Services secured a $13 million contract to provide telecommunications and networking services over the next five years to the Department of Defense’s Dover Air Force Base in Delaware.

Bearskin operates and maintains telecommunications systems and is available 24-7. “The Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma’s ongoing success hinges on our ability to acquire and retain major contracts,” Thompson said. “Bearskin has already provided five years of exemplary Base Telecommunications support for Dover, and this award further validates the DoD’s confidence in Bearskin’s quality, expertise, and dedication to our customers.”

Bearskin Services is a 100-percent tribally-owned, SBA Certified 8(a) company and established supplier of IT and telecom products and services.

Lucky Turtle Casino to celebrate 10-year anniversary May 10

By Wacy Humble

The Lucky Turtle Casino has been full of excitement the last few months with a multitude of jackpots, promotional winners, and even setting some records along the way. On Feb. 28, 2014, the Lucky Turtle Casino recorded the highest coin-in in Turtle history!

The Lucky Turtle celebrates 10 years of business in May, and the casino continues to thrive since its 2004 opening. On Saturday, May 17, we are celebrating the Lucky Turtle Casino’s 10th Anniversary in style! Join us as we kick-off the festivities at 6 p.m. with the real excitement for the cash drawings. The Turtle will have $100 cash drawings every 10 minutes from 6-10 p.m. That’s 25 drawings, with $2,500 cash up for grabs! It is sure to be a thrilling night, and we can’t wait to celebrate a decade of success!

As we move into June, things continue to heat up as drawing entries begin for “Lucky’s Rock the Boat Giveaway!”

On July 18, one lucky player will be hitting the water in a brand-new bass boat! Guests can earn entries June 10-July 18 for this amazing grand prize.

As always, we greatly appreciate all of the valued guests and team members at Lucky Turtle Casino, and we cannot wait to see what the future brings.

Twin Bridges receives makeover, features martini bar; Changes coming to the Deli

By Katy Berryman

Twin Bridges Restaurant & Martini Bar reintroduced itself this March with a new menu and fresh look to accompany its opening.

The new menu features creative dishes ranging from decadent seafood to unique pasta creations as well as old Twin Bridges classics. Customers are welcoming the new variety and flavors, and are happy to once again enjoy their always favorite, chicken fried steak and fish and chips. In celebration of the restaurants reopening, March was a month of promotions dedicated to Twin Bridges Restaurant. Our two Chef’s Table events treated several lucky players and their guests to an exclusive four course dining experience. Additionally, two VIP dinners provided over 160 of our best players with a sampling of featured items off of the new Twin Bridges Restaurant menu.

The new martini bar menu features over 24 different martinis and 36 different cocktails, along with a large variety of wine and domestic and import beers. The new martini bar is arguably the most significant addition to the newly renovated Twin Bridges Restaurant.

The Wyandotte Deli continues to provide guests and employees with a quick and tasty dining option. With renovations soon approaching the Deli area, we are all extremely excited to see the new layout, menu, and décor in the months to come.
2014 Town Hall Meetings wrap up in Colorado

**By William Swaim**

**Wyandotte Nation**

For the second straight year, the Wyandotte Nation held Town Hall Meetings to reach out to Tribal Members scattered throughout the U.S. in an effort to keep them informed.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend started the meetings last year and hosted the Town Halls on the West Coast in Seattle, Irvine and Sacramento. This year, tribal leadership held the meetings in Grapevine, Texas and Denver, Colorado.

“Each year at our Annual Meeting we deliver our annual report, updates on current and future projects and share our goals and vision for the future, but only a small minority of our citizens has the ability to attend this meeting because of various reasons,” the Chief said.

“We now have over 5,500 citizens in the Wyandotte Nation, so I sat down with some members of our staff and basically said if they cannot come to the meeting then let’s take the meeting to them.

“Every citizen of our nation no matter where they reside are important to who we are and how we have arrived to where we are today.”

The Chief, Second Chief, Princess and various department leaders attend the meeting to inform tribal members and answer questions they may have. The Town Hall Meeting presentation format is similar to the Annual Meeting.

“The ultimate goal of each meeting is that every citizen will leave feeling a connection to their tribe that they may have never had before,” Chief Friend said. “To hopefully instill within them the desire to begin to learn what it is to “be Wyandotte” and to pass that knowledge down for the next generation that for generations our people will take pride in our history, culture, and our story will remain alive.”

Chief Friend said the team will sit down again next fall and begin plans for next year’s Town Hall Meetings. He said the goal is to do 2-3 meetings each year and hopefully get back to each area at least every four years.

“Each town hall meeting we have had has exceeded all of our expectations,” he said.

**Community News**

**Napier earns All-American status, fourth at nationals**

COLUMBUS, Kan. – Fort Hays State University wrestler C.J. Napier finished fourth at the NCAA Division II National Wrestling Tournament in Cleveland, Ohio, in March while also garnering All-American status.

The 141-pound Napier (36-8) opened the tournament with a win, an 8-6 decision over Lake Erie College’s Dylan Kager, before locking up a semifinal berth by defeating Dylan D’Urso (Mercyhurst) 3-1.

In the semifinals, Napier faced Daniel Owmbey of UNC-Pembroke but lost in overtime, 5-3. In the consolation semifinals, Napier won a 6-5 decision over Newberry’s BJ Young to advance to the third place match.

He faced D’Urso again, but fell just short in his second overtime match of the day. Both wrestlers had two escapes in the 11-minute overtime match. In the second tiebreaker, the match was tied 3-3, but D’Urso had two seconds riding time so he was awarded the win and third place.

Napier is a 2009 graduate of Columbus Unified High School. He is the son of Todd and Shari Napier and the grandson of Charles and Linda Napier of Columbus and Diana Knight of Weir.

**Family celebrates 50th, 70th anniversaries on same day**

Leon and Juanita McQuistion, of Miami, Okla., celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on Jan. 11, 2014. They have four children, 10 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and 10 great-great grandchildren. Their daughter Oresa, and Joe King, of Miami, also celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on Jan. 11, 2014. They have two children and five grandchildren.

**Harris Family Reunion**

Another year! Again we will be gathering at the back of the Pow-Wow grounds, the Saturday of the Pow-Wow, after the annual meeting and lunch. See you there!

**Submit your News:** Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 848-0724. Or mail to: The Wyandotte Nation, 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370, ATTN: TurtleTalk
**Human Resources**

**New Hires**

*Submitted by Deana Howard*

The Environmental Department has a new temporary staff member, **Aaron Young**. Aaron has joined us as a Recycle Center Technician for the next few weeks. Aaron is a business major at Ottawa University and is taking online classes at this time.

Aaron grew up in this area and is familiar with the area and the Wyandotte Tribe. We are very fortunate to have Aaron and wish him luck in his new position.

The Accounting Department is very happy to welcome **Jordan Harrison**. Jordan will serve as the Accounts Receivable Specialist and will be responsible for accounts receivable and other accounting duties for Wyandotte Nation. Jordan has a finance degree and prior experience with accounts receivable.

In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She also enjoys camping and the lake. She is very excited about her new opportunity.

Welcome to the team Kayla! The Bearskin Fitness Center is happy to welcome **Amber VanWagner** as a Front Desk Assistant. She enjoys playing basketball and listening to music. Amber likes hanging out with family and friends.

We are very fortunate to have Amber on our fitness team.

**Family Services**

*Submitted by Kate Randall*

Let’s get ready for the spring and summer!!! Finally the extended, and I do mean extended winter, has come to an end. With the changing of the seasons, in this edition of the Turtle Speaks, family services staff is covering program news, foster and adoptive recruitment, low cost family summer activities, fun parenting tips, tag and enrollment. Below is a recap of the current school and senior citizens programs.

**JUNIOR/SENIOR AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** As the end of the school season is approaching, please be reminded of the following available programs: Junior/Senior High School Assistance Program: This program is for tribal children in their Junior or Senior year of high school that reside in the four States of Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas. A $250 benefit is available for items such as cap and gown, announcements, senior pictures, etc. Please get the request for payment to vendors in/and or reimbursements at your earliest convenience.

Extracurricular benefit for the school year is $100 per school age student in the four States as well. Reimbursement is available with proof of payment for such items as school lunches, school sports, or activities your children pay dues to attend.

The last day of school varies by district and states so please submit your vendor payments/and or reimbursements as soon as possible. Please call if you have any questions.

**SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM:** Elders Assistance: A $250 benefit is payable to seniors (62+ residing in the 4 States of Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas). The Tribe may reimburse the elder for certain expenses, or the Tribe can pay a vendor directly. Receipts and an application are required. This program runs from Oct. 1, 2013-Sept. 30, 2014. If you have not used the program during this period, please contact us and we will assist you.

**SENIOR CITIZEN PROGRAM:** SUMMER UTILITY: July 1, 2014-Sept. 30, 2014. A $100 summer utility benefit is available to seniors (62+ residing in the 4-States of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas and Arkansas). An application and a copy of your utility bill are required for payment.

Announcements of fall programs will be available in the next Turtle Speaks.

In the interim, year around services offered by this department include tag and enrollment, child passenger safety seats, promoting safe and stable families, Indian child welfare, adoptions, nationwide burial, and need based social services. Please contact us if you have any questions.

Supplemental Health Benefit Contact Number: FMH Coresource (800) 990-0958 X42086 is the administrator of the Benefit Card. If you have questions about the benefit or how to file a claim please contact them directly. It is important that you keep the tribal enrollment department current with your address changes so the enrollment department will be able to notify FMH of the change.

**TRIBAL ENROLLMENT AND TAG NEW ENROLLEE BENEFIT:** Please remember the New Enrollee Benefit that is available Nationwide to infants. In order to receive your child’s $100 gift card and baby blanket, the enrollment office must receive a child’s ORIGINAL STATE CERTIFIED BIRTH CERTIFICATE with a completed enrollment application prior to the child’s first birthday!!! Parents, we encourage you to enroll those new Wyandotte!

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**PARENTING**

Recently I read “101 Ways to Be a Great Parent.” As I was sorting through the tips, I thought of our traditional ways of Native American Parenting from our past. I thought of how our parents, grandparents and great grandparents did strive to instill honorable values down to each new generation.

I found these tips to still be true in today’s society.

Below are the six I found to have no expiration date!

**Keep your promises.** If you are unable to fulfill a promise you’ve made to your children, apologize and make it up to them. Better yet, do not make promises you know you may not be able to keep. Everything you say then becomes suspect when you go back on your word.

**Treat your children with respect**, even when they think differently than you. This will help them learn to respect and tolerate others and gain confidence in themselves.

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**Have patience.** Let your children finish explanations. Don’t interrupt or jump to conclusions.

Remind your children that using mean words can hurt others. Remind your children that physical aggression is not a way to resolve conflict either. It’s best to walk away or ask a peacemaker-a third party- to help find a solution.

**Hold family meetings.** Meetings help bring the family together. Even kindergarten-age children are capable of being part of a short and simple meeting. Instances of family meetings may be deciding on family rules, discussions on school or upcoming family events. The children need to feel as if their input is important and they are valued.

And the last one is to establish family traditions that will bring your family closer together. Celebrate cultural and national holidays as a family with events that can be shared and remembered for a lifetime.

It gives children a sense of pride and belonging.
TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 13

ENROLLMENT: The deadline for enrollment in 2014 is Aug. 15. New members are voted on during the Nation’s annual meeting. If you need an enrollment application, please contact us.

TRIBAL TAG PROGRAM: Tribal tags are available to all Oklahoma residents. If you have not registered a vehicle with the Wyandotte Nation and would like information of the process, please contact Dana Butterfield or Leanna Radabaugh.

New and renewal tags may be done through the mail. As there are 4 family services staff members, there is always a member of the crew here to do your new tags and tag renewals.

Feel free to come in at your convenience or call ahead for an appointment if you are on a time schedule.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE: The Wyandotte Nation Indian Child Welfare program is always looking for loving families to become Foster or Adoptive Homes. The National Indian Child Welfare Act requires all state Child Welfare agencies to contact the child’s Tribe when a Native American child is being investigated for abuse or neglect. If the child needs a foster home, the first preference for placement is family and second is a Native American foster home.

If you would like to know more about becoming a Foster or Adoptive Parent in your area, please contact Tara Gragg at 918-678-6355.

EVENTS: The Family Services Department once again participated in the National Week of the Young Child. During this week, several events for children are sponsored by the local nine Tribes. The dates for the 2014 WOYC were from April 21 – 24.

Events this year included speaker and entertainer Dave Davlin, a Fun Fest Day for area Child Care Centers and a Petting Zoo Day. Local Public Schools and Child Care Centers brought children to attend these free events. The children were all smiles and had a lot of fun!

Another fun event coming up in June is the Summer Youth Program provided for the Summer Turtle Tot kids by different departments of the Wyandotte Nation. This hour and a half each day, for three weeks, is full of activities that include physical fitness, learning about the environment and arts and crafts all with a cultural theme. This year’s theme is “The Woodlands.” To close the program, the children are treated to a pizza and swimming party at the Miami Public Swimming Pool. This program is always enjoyed by all.

The employees of the Wyandotte Nation feel it is a great privilege to be able to put on such an event for our children.

If you have a child that does not attend Turtle Tots, but would like to take part in this Summer Youth Program, please contact the Family Services Department.

LOW COST FAMILY SUMMER ACTIVITIES IN THE 4-STATES: The summer months are almost here, which means it’s time for some fun family time. With so many options, we have picked a few favorites close to our home headquarters. So get your flip flops ready and make lots of memories!

For those of you who enjoy the great outdoors, and want a chance to do some camping, fishing, hiking or just simply explore and enjoy the scenery: Wildcat Glades Conservation & Audubon Center in Joplin, MO, Roaring River State Park in Cassville, MO, Neosho National Fish Hatchery in Neosho, MO, Bernice State Park in Bernice, OK and Table Rock State Park in Branson, MO.


Have Fun!

Department Contacts
- Kate Randall, Director Family Services (918-678-6324)
- Tara Gragg, Tribal Social Worker (918-678-6355)
- Dana Butterfield, Tag and Enrollment, Family Services (918-678-6319)
- Leanna Radabaugh, Tag, Enrollment, Family Services (918-678-6329)

Kelly Reynolds, with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, and Wyandotte Nation Elder Services Director Brenda House, pictured right, fill bags with oranges as cars line up waiting for the mobile pantry to begin Wednesday morning, Feb. 26, at the High Winds Casino parking lot in Miami.

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House

Recently we partnered with the Quapaw, Eastern Shawnee and Ottawa Tribes and the Tulsa Food Bank and held a food distribution day for needy families in the community at the High Winds Casino parking lot.

It just happened to fall on the coldest day of the month so we all bundled up and went to work. We had volunteers from the surrounding communities and tribal entities, Wyandotte Family Services, and the Wyandotte Lions Club helping bag and distribute the food.

Each tribe received 31 tickets to the contests and the one that finds the most eggs and the prize egg. We appreciate the preschool children hiding the eggs for Elders.

We will be attending the Dixie Stampede in Branson, MO. May 1. We will once again get to go on the new coach. Everyone is so excited!

Oklahoma Healthcare Solutions is here the 1st Wednesday of each month with their bingo quiz games. They begin as soon as everyone has finished their lunch. They have prizes for everyone and really have a great time interacting and joking with the Elders. Please join us if you are in the area.

Our Food Service Team Supervisor, Kandi Smith turned in her resignation due to health reasons. She was a very dedicated employee and felt so blessed to be a part of our Wyandotte Family. We will really miss her and she will always be a part of us.

Congratulations to Stephanie Eads! She is our new Food Service Team Supervisor. She was currently on our Food Service Team. We believe Stephanie will do a great job!

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

Continued on Page 15
Caregiver

Recently we partnered with the Quapaw, Eastern Shawnee and Ottawa Tribes, Good Shepherd Hospice and Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging and held a Caregiver’s Pamper Day at the Quapaw Tribe. We provided pedicures, manicures, and massages. They received goodie bags and had a nice lunch.

We were finally able to reschedule our Caregiver Banquet. We had a Spring Banquet at the First Christian Church in Miami, OK. We had several vendors giving out nice goodies and the Speakers were awesome! We had 151 in attendance. We gave out bags at registration and then another nicer bag at the end when they turned in their evaluations. The Caregivers have requested to have it in the spring again next year.

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. Please contact Brenda for information.

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

Department Contacts

- Brenda House, Elder Services Director, (918) 678-6327.
- Stephanie Eads, Food Service Team Supervisor, (918) 678-6328

Education

Submitted by Tammy R. Charles

Preschool

Our school year is quickly coming to an end and the children have blossomed before our eyes. The children have grown in pounds, inches and knowledge!

Graduation and end of year festivities will conclude the academic year. The Preschool Pow-Wow was a success and the addition of the Sequoyah Hope Club as our host drum brought a new sense of culture to the event.

Afterschool Program

Spring Break Trip for afterschool homework program included a morning of bowling in Miami and lunch at Pizza Hut.

The plans are in the works for a banana split social to end the school year.

The “afterschool program” covers both before and after care of school age children and includes transportation to and from Wyandotte Public Schools, an afternoon snack, homework assistance and other opportunities for children of that age.

Library

New materials resulted in new patrons and increased visits for the Wyandotte Nation Library. Mrs. Graham and Mrs. Wyrick are ready to assist patrons with locating items, making copies or sending a fax. The cost for printing from our computers is $.10 for black and white and $1 for color.

We applied for an enhancement grant in March and we hope that it is awarded and we will have a variety of activities going on in our library beginning in the month of November.

Continued on Page 16
Child Care & Development Fund Program

The child care program is busy this time of year as the staff work to get recertification completed and new children ready to attend summer care in their areas. We have been working with other local tribes to offer quality training for the child care providers in our area. If you or any of your families need our help locating a program in your area, please contact our offices.

Tribal Scholarships

The additional funds that we added to the scholarship have resulted in phone calls and email expressing appreciation. New applications for funding beginning with fall semester 2014 have been arriving. When the application is received, it is audited and if there is a need for additional information, the applicant will receive a request for documentation.

Current students are reminded to submit spring grades and fall schedule as soon as possible so the funds will be ready to disburse in August. If you will wait until grades have been posted, you may submit an unofficial transcript that will include both grades and next semester schedule. If you have a change of school, please include correspondence that includes the new receiving agent for your scholarship.

The vocational and master’s programs receives applications throughout the year as those programs have varying start dates.

All Wyandotte Nation education funds are made payable to the institution.

If you have any questions about any of the scholarship or adult training programs, please call our offices or send an email and we will do our very best to help you with answers and services.

As you try to contact our offices for assistance, we want to distribute our new telephone numbers:

Department Staff
• Tammy Charles 918-678-6330
• Loretta Combes 918-678-6334
• Annita Jolene Tucker 918-678-6331.

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

The Workforce Investment Act will begin a new funding year in July. Currently our program is awaiting a letter of approval as a Tribal Workforce Grantee. This program offers tuition assistance at colleges or universities or vocational programs for members of any federally recognized tribe that lives in Southeast Kansas or Southwest Missouri.

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.

As you try to contact our offices for assistance, we want to distribute our new telephone numbers:

Department Staff
• Tammy Charles 918-678-6330
• Loretta Combes 918-678-6334
• Annita Jolene Tucker 918-678-6331.

Housing

The Housing Department offices have officially moved to the Heritage Acres Community Center located at 14325 Porcupine Rd, Wyandotte, OK 74370.

Construction on the Community Center was completed around April 1. The Grand Opening for the center was April 14 and the center is currently open to all community members for their use and enjoyment.

The center is also available to rent for parties, reunions, and other events. If you would like more information about the rental of the facility, please contact the Housing Department.

The contract has been awarded for the construction of the Splash pad which will be located directly beside the current park in Heritage Acres Housing Addition. The splash pad will contain a variety of water features including water cannons, drop buckets, and more.

The splash pad will be a great way for community members of all ages to cool off during the heat of summer.

Two new duplex units are set to be constructed in the Heritage Acres Housing Addition. The contract should be awarded by the end of April, with construction beginning shortly after that.

Department Staff
• Kathy DeWeese- Housing Director
• Valari Richards- Housing Specialist
• Don Graham- Residential Maintenance Technician
• Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator
• Paul Parker- Project Coordinator

Valentine's Day Program

The preschool held their Valentine’s Program at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gym.
Planning / Development

Submitted by Ron Kaiser

There are currently three, Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) projects we are working on. These projects are funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- We currently have an Advertisement for Bid, for the new water system expansion, which will include, standpipe, well house and miscellaneous. The project was advertised for Native American owned contractors first, with no qualified bids acceptable. It is now open to all contractors.
- We are currently interviewing architects, for the Culture Center. The Culture Center will be located SW of the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center on the South side of Turtle Drive. The Request for Qualifications (RFO) for architects went out to native owned first.
- The Community Center is nearing completion with several delays in the project. The Community Center is located in the Housing complex behind the Wyandotte Nation Administration and Services buildings.

The Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS) has been submitted for the Police Dept. and Youth Program. The funding would be used for Police equipment, supplies and training, while the Youth portion would help with curriculum, hiring, training, and computer stations.

The Library Enhancement Grant has been submitted. It is a grant through the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS). We hope to staff the library with a Librarian and provide classes, equipment and extended hours, to make our library, more user friendly.

We are putting together the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) grant application for submission. This funding would help ensure all eligible Native Americans within the geographic service area, have equitable access to employment and training services.

The selected geographic service area includes the counties of Barton, Jasper, Newton, McDonald, Dade, Barry, and Lawrence counties in Missouri, and Cherokee and Crawford counties in Kansas. This is the area that the Tribe was designated to be a grantees under the Workforce Investment Act in 2013.

The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO), grant application is also being prepared to submit. This grant funds a portion of the salary of the Wyandotte Nation THPO. The THPO assumes responsibility for Tribal and State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) duties.

The duties include, developing a systematic process for information gathering, identifying and evaluating the quality and quantity of the historic resources and gathering or defining historic context, which describes significant aspects of the area’s history and development.

The FEMA storm shelter applications that were mailed out to Oklahoma Tribal Members have been sent to the various county Flood Plain Administrators for verification, and are returning back to our office. They were sent out to each county in Oklahoma, and to all cities that have their own Flood Plain Administrator. Once all are returned, they will be submitted with the application to the state. This is a very long process, thank you for your patience.

Department Contacts
- Ron Kaiser, Planning Director, (918) 678-6325 or Debbie Dry, Planning Specialist, (918) 678-6315

Environmental

Submitted by Christen Lee

January started out in true winter form. Cold temperatures and adverse weather caused us to have several days of rescheduling of department activities.

Water sampling on our seven monthly sites was a bit challenging at times, but we survived and stayed on schedule.

The Lost Creek Recycle Center continues to be utilized by tribal members and the surrounding community on a daily basis. With our regular pickup routes, our two trailers and the outside bins, the totals for recyclables are constantly increasing. With the warm weather just around the corner we expect it to increase even more.

We would like to thank everyone who utilizes the recycling services that are provided. By doing this, you are reducing the amount of cardboard, paper, aluminum, tin and plastics that normally go to a landfill, considerably.

7th Annual Environmental Festival

We hosted our 7th Annual Environmental Festival at the Tribal Pow-Wow Grounds. The theme this year was “Every Drop Counts.” We had 14 Tribal, County and State Agencies that hosted booths at the Festival. We had students from Wyandotte Public Schools and the Wyandotte Nation Preschool that attended. For more on the Environmental Festival, see the next issue or visit our website or Facebook page.

Services provided

Private Well Drinking Water

Sampling for tribal and non-tribal citizens that live within a 50-mile radius of Wyandotte Nation Tribal Offices. This consists of sampling for bacteria and heavy metals.

Septic System Assessments for tribal and non-tribal members living with in the Grand Lake Watershed.

Please note we have a new phone system in place and our numbers have changed. We now have direct lines to our offices.

Please see the contact information below.

Department Contacts
- Christen Lee – 918-678-6341
- Janice Wilson – 918-678-6345
- Kathleen Welch – 918-678-6335
- Jon Quick – 918-678-6352
- Lost Creek Recycle Center – 918-678-4001

Culture

Submitted By Sherri Clemons

Kweh Kweh.

In hopes of being the most excellent Cultural Center, Chief Hildebrand, Debbie Dry (Cultural Committee) and I visited the Tulalip Tribal Museum in Seattle, Washington. They are on a much larger scale then we are, but some of their layouts were amazing and can be a great benefit for Wyandotte’s museum. We are hoping to break ground soon.

This is an exciting time for the Wyandotte Citizens. On April 12 we had a young man, Trenton Stand from the Shawnee, come and explain the Stomp Dance to the committee. It was very educational as Stomp Dancing is traditional to the Wyandotte.

It is the anticipation of the Cultural Committee to begin bringing back the traditions of our people. I would like to encourage members to come and learn the true ways. It takes dedication to bring these back, but as things are coming out of hibernation, because they are not gone, they are awaiting a revival to renew.

So please if you are interested, come and if you don’t want to dance, come and watch. Every age is welcome.

In March Ted Nesvold and I traveled to Denver for the big Pow-Wow. We handed out around 2,000 flyers for the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow. A host of dancers and vendors showed great interest in coming. We made several contacts with different Honor Guards inviting them to be a part of our Pow-Wow.

We have a block of rooms at Indigo Sky hotel located next to the Pow-Wow Grounds for the week of all the events. The telephone number is 1-888-sky1, password is NATION. If you are planning on attending and need a room, don’t wait to call in.

On April 22 the Pow-Wow Committee hosted an Indian Taco sale before the Turtle Tots Pow-Wow. We raised over $1,000. All proceeds will go to the local Back Pack program.

We are truly seeing an awakening of Wyandotte Nation Members. I am in hopes of seeing many return this year for the September events. Watch the website for all announcements of upcoming events. Next is the Youth camp scheduled for June 20-22.

July 3 will be the fireworks show at the Pow-Wow grounds. This is open to the public and is fun for the entire family. Music begins at 7 p.m. with fireworks at dark. There will be food vendors, blow ups for the kids and just a great time for all.

It is a busy and great year, I hope to see many Tribal Citizens there.

As Chief Friend always tells everyone “It’s a great time to be Wyandotte!”
**Tribal Department Reports**

**Important Numbers**

**Police Department**
Ken Murphy (918) 678-3100x12
kmurphy@wnptd.com

**Tribal Social Worker**
Tara Gragg (918) 678-6355
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

**Enrollment / Tags**
Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

**School Supplies / Emergency Assistance / Car Seats**
Kate Randall (918) 678-6324
krandall@wyandotte-nation.org

**Nutrition & Caregiver Services**
Brenda House (918) 678-6327
bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

**Human Resources**
Deana Howard (918) 678-6320
dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org

**Education / Library / Child Care**
Tammy Charles (918) 678-6330
tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org

**Environmental**
Christen Lee (918) 678-6341
clee@wyandotte-nation.org

**Historical**
Sherri Clemons (918) 678-6344
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

**Planning / Development**
Ron Kaiser (918) 678-6325
rkaiser@wyandotte-nation.org

**Housing**
Kathy DeWeese (918) 678-6339
kdweweese@wyandotte-nation.org

**Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center**
Kelly Walker (918) 678-3259
kwalker@wyandotte-nation.org

**Clinic Appointments**
Linda Coatney (918) 678-3228
lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org

**Dental / Vision**
Amanda Johnston (918) 678-3221
ajohnston@wyandotte-nation.org

**Pharmacy (call-in only)**
(918) 678-3244

**Fitness Center**
Sharon Bartley (918) 678-3231
sbarley@wyandotte-nation.org

**Contract Health**
Bridget Burleson (918) 678-3227
bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org

**Diabetes Clinic**
Donna Spaulding (918) 678-3258
dspaulding@wyandotte-nation.org

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**Health**

*Submitted by Kelly Walker*

The Superhero 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run scheduled for April 19, 2014 was the largest competition that Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center has hosted, with well over 300 registrants. The event is funded through the Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative.

The Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative (MSPI) is a congressionally appropriated, nationally coordinated, demonstration/pilot project, which focuses on providing targeted resources for methamphetamine and suicide prevention and intervention services to Tribal communities in Indian Country with the greatest need for these projects.

The approximately $16.3 million annual appropriation supports 130 MSPI pilot projects that promote innovative practice- and evidence-based interventions developed and administered by the communities themselves.

Each MSPI pilot project is community developed and delivered. These projects represent the growing support from the IHS to help communities address the dual crises of methamphetamine abuse and suicide in Indian Country. The Wyandotte Nation is in its fifth year of conducting the Methamphetamine Suicide Prevention Initiative funded through Indian Health Service.

Three years after implementation, MSPI accomplishments include nearly 5,000 individuals entering treatment for methamphetamine abuse and the provision of 7,000 substance abuse and mental health encounters via tele-health. More than 7,400 professionals and community members were trained in suicide crisis response. Over 200,000 encounters with youth were provided as part of evidence-based and practice-based prevention activities (IHS.gov).

The idea behind the Superhero 5K anti-bullying theme was to raise awareness in the local community that bullying can lead to suicidal thoughts, inclinations and actions.

According to the CDC:

-- Suicide is the third leading cause of death among young people, resulting in 4,400 deaths per year, according to the CDC.

-- Bullying victims are between 2 to 9 times more likely to consider suicide than non-victims.

-- Nearly 30% of students are either bullies or victims of bullying.

-- 160,000 kids stay home from school every day because of bullying.

The average Superhero fights crime and bad guys. Bullying must be stopped and this activity encourages community cooperation by making it a fun theme for the whole family to relate to. There was a costume contest and villains to chase during the 1 mile fun walk.

If that weren’t a full day in itself, inflatables for the children were available and the Bearskin Strongman Competition was held with a wide range of athletes participating. This was the 5th Strongman Competition that has been held for the facility, dating back to 1999. There were several years that went without a competition and with much interest stirring around the idea, the staff revitalized the event last year with 16 competitors and 2 divisions – Heavyweight and Featherweight. This year a third category has been included to include a women’s division.

This year’s events included the fire truck pull, farmers walk, car dead lift, tire flip, atlas stone stack, trap bar dead lift, trip flip and brush truck pull. The event was entertaining. Sponsors included: Crossland Construction, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Frank Fletcher Nissan, Mars Pet Care and the Wyandotte Nation Casino.

The Wyandotte Nation Youth Program has been busy promoting Autism Awareness Month, including hosting a dancing event called “Shake it for Autism.” With 35 participants, donations were made to be donated to the local Autism center, Bill & Virginia Leffen Center for Autism, in the amount of $300.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:

-- Autism is known as a complex developmental disability. The condition is a result of a neurological disorder that has an effect on normal brain function, affecting development of the person’s communication and social interaction skills.

-- The number of US children with autism spectrum disorder has soared approximately 30% in the past 2 years.

-- Researchers estimate that 1 in 68 children (14.7 per 1,000) now have autism spectrum disorder (ASD), compared with 1 in 88 children in 2012.

-- The data reveals that ASD is almost 5 times more common among boys than girls, with 1 in 42 boys estimated to have the disorder, compared with 1 in 189 girls. It is also more common among white children than black or Hispanic.

-- The majority of children with ASD are diagnosed after the age of 4, although condition can be diagnosed as early as 2 years old.

-- The level of intellectual ability among children with ASD has significantly increased over the past decade. Nearly half of the children diagnosed with ASD have an average or above average intellectual ability (defined as an IQ above 85), compared with a third of children 10 years ago.

The Wyandotte Nation Youth Program wrapped an eventful spring break up with trips to the roller skating rink, ice skating rink, bowling alley, Movie Theater and aquarium. The participants and sponsors, Holly Hilliard and Jerry Pettus, had a great time and are working on planning the activities for the summer program.

The Wyandotte Nation Summer Program was able to expand to 25 children for the summer. Even with this increase, the program is full and a waiting list has been started. Plans include participation in Mud University to be held in Stillwater. This is a fun adventure/obstacle course for kids to participate in – all in the mud!

Additional plans include, picnics, swimming, field trips, community services, health lessons, peer concepts and sports camps. Don’t wait until the last minute to sign up for fall. The program is available for children ages 12-17.

Participants got together to "Shake it for Autism" April 10. The event raised money for the Bill & Virginia Leffen Center for Autism.
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25th Annual

**Wyandotte Pow-Wow**
September 12-14, 2014

$50,000

In Prize Money

Contests in all Categories

**Grand Entries**
Friday 8:00 p.m.
Saturday 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:30 p.m.

13th Annual Veterans Honor Program
All Veterans Welcomed

**HEAD STAFF**

Head Singer
Head Man Dancer
Head Lady Dancer
Head Gourd Dancer
Honor Guard
Arena Director
Head Judge
Master of Ceremonies
Northern Drum
Wyandotte Nation Princess

Yellow Hammer
Thorpe Sine
J.C. Lonetree
Jim Greenfeather
Wyandotte Honor Guard
Dude Blalock
Jay Blalock
Steve Kinde
John Arkeleta
Emilee Wills

**POW-WOW CONTEST SCHEDULE**

Friday, September 12
Evening

- Jr. Boys Grass
- Womens Cloth
- Mens Straight
- Jr. Girls Fancy
- Golden Age Women

Saturday, September 13
Evening

- Boys Traditional
- Womens Fancy
- Mens Grass
- Jr. Girls Jingle

- Gourd Dancing
- 1 hour prior to all sessions.

Sunday, September 14
Afternoon

- Golden Age Men
- Womens Jingle
- Jr. Boys Fancy
- Jr. Girls Buckskin
- Mens Traditional

- ALL SPECIALS HELD SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONTACT THE ARENA DIRECTOR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**ACTIVITIES**

**FRIDAY NIGHT**

- 49 Contest Coordinator
- Stomp Dance Coordinator

**SATURDAY NIGHT**

- 49 Contest Coordinator
- Stomp Dance Coordinator

**SUNDAY MORNING**

- Special Grandparent Day Honor Dance
- Prizes for the Oldest Grandmother and Grandfather present

Must Be Registered and Participate In Two Grand Entries and Two Exhibitions To Qualify For Contests.

Must Be Registered In Only One Category.

Must Be In Full Dress To Receive Contest Monies.

All Decisions by the Committee are Final!

The above schedule is intended as a guide only, and is subject to change at the discretion of the Pow-Wow committee!

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

SHERRI CLEMONS
Wyandotte Nation
64700 E Hwy 60
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370
918-678-6344

Everyone welcome! Bring your cameras and lawn chairs!

---

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