



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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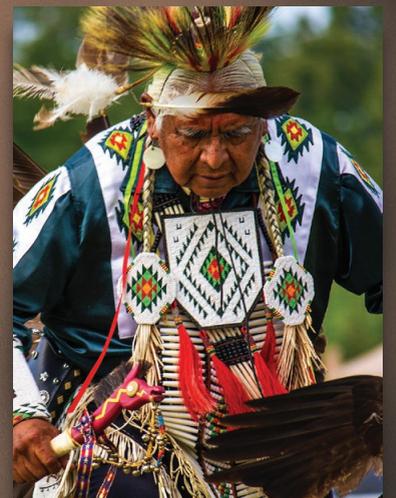
August 2014



Celebrating 25 years

Annual
Pow-Wow
expected
to be
biggest yet

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- Health Clinic celebrates 20 years
- Citizens have chance to showcase art
- Turtle Tots graduation



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

Looking for Stories: Business & People Profiles

We are looking for tribal members to feature in upcoming issues, whether you live in the Oklahoma area or some far off distant land, we want to hear from you for a 'Getting to Know.' (Q&A) or feature story.

We are also looking for tribal member-owned businesses to feature. If you own a business and want it featured in the Turtle Talk in an ad, Q&A or possible story, let us know.

Email: wswaim@wtok.org



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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Serving tribal citizens

"Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord." -- Psalms 150:6

Kweh,
 I hope this issue of our Turtle Talk finds all doing well and enjoying your summer. It is has been a very busy time here in Wyandotte with several projects just completed, some in progress and others in the planning stages. Our Community Center and new Splash Pad are now open and both have been very active.

I believe we would all agree that we live in very challenging times and our national government seems to be going through one crisis after another. Throughout the history of time, states and governments of all kinds have come and gone. A few of those include the Roman Empire, the Ottoman Empire and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics just to name a few.

The element of decline that stands out most is that governments forget why they exist and who it is they serve. That may seem very basic, but it is amazing how consistently the people the government is in place to serve are shoved further to the back of the line. When governments begin to stray away from the mission of serving their citizens they will almost always fail.

At the Wyandotte Nation, we have grown tremendously over the past 15 years. Our tribe has grown in so many different ways – in citizens, in programs and services, in employees, in business. Whatever standard you apply to the Wyandotte Nation, the outcome consistently says "growth".

Growth is a great part of our tribe. It means we are moving forward, creating more opportunities for Wyandottes and serving more people more effectively. Our growth has served us well because we have managed that growth conservatively. We have not "gotten ahead of ourselves." We have worked hard to grow our tribal businesses in a deliberate and structured manner and, as a result, those businesses now contribute most of the resources we need to fulfill our responsibilities to Wyandotte people.

It would be easy to focus strictly on the commercial side of our tribe, but that would be a real mistake. Our focus is, and will always be, on the Wyandotte people our tribal government serves. That is our mission: "To improve the qual-

ity of life for all Wyandotte people." It is a very simple and straightforward mission statement – and one we live by each day. It is that mission that drives our commitment to our tribal citizens.

All of our tribal programs from school supply vouchers, college scholarships, senior energy assistance, housing programs and the wide array of other programs that are available are all focused on making your life better.

The real measure of an effective and sound working government is serving people well. Once a government forgets that principle, the decline has begun. I am blessed as a leader to be surrounded by great employees who are not only very capable at performing their duties, but also who are very passionate and caring for those whom they serve.

As always I would like to say "tizameh" (thank you) for allowing me to serve you as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation.

I am looking forward to a great Gathering, Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting and hopefully see many of you there.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Local communities benefit from having area tribes as neighbors

Kweh
 Hope everyone is surviving the summer weather in your respective areas, it has been somewhat mild here a rain shower now and then to keep everything green and growing. Our maintenance department has really been busy trying to keep up with the grass mowing. They mow hundreds of acres it seems when they finally get it all mowed and trimmed it is time to start all

over again, but they do a tremendous job in keeping our facilities looking great.

As Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation I have the opportunity to engage officials from local, state and federal governments. The local governments are easy to work with because they have experienced firsthand the advantages of having an Indian tribe in their neighborhood. We have supported the

Wyandotte School District, the Town of Wyandotte and basically the whole Wyandotte area to make it a community where our Tribal members want to make it their home. The Ottawa County commissioners are thankful for the area Tribes because we spend a lot of roads money building bridges and



See **Second Chief**, Page 3

A time for Wyandottes to 'Gather'

By **LLOYD DIVINE**

WYANDOTTE NATION

CULTURE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

This year we are celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow. I invite you to come and learn the traditions and history of pow-wow, and how it fits into our Wyandotte culture today. Does pow-wow fit into our culture today? You bet it does!

During the two day activities we will demonstrate the dances of pow-wow, and you can learn to social dance along with essential pow-wow etiquette. Men will make a bandolier and the women will make a shawl; plus, kids will have an age appropriate craft – it's always good to take something home.

As a special treat this year Wyandotte citizen Robert Franklin is firing up his grill and preparing a feast of mega proportions. Come Thursday evening and enjoy grilled, smoked, and BBQ pork as only Robert can prepare. It is a great time to meet old and make new friends, a perfect time to socialize at the Wyandotte Nation Annual Gathering.

The Gathering – Culture Days 11th Annual Wyandotte Nation Gathering Sept. 11-12, 2014

In a more traditional setting, also on Thursday night, we will host a stomp dance. Our great and lasting friends from the Shawnee Tribe are coming to lead and shake. It will be a wonderful time to celebrate being Wyandotte. It will also be a wonderful time to come and show respect and appreciation to our eternal friends – the Shawnee!

Please register online today. We need to know that you are coming so enough food can be prepared and materials purchased for your bandolier and shawl.

Starting this year Culture Days is changing its name to The Gathering. Culture Days has truly become a time to Gather Wyandottes from across this vast country. As our citizens come to Wyandotte for the first time, or return home after

being gone a long time, we hope lifelong memories will be made and friendships claimed.

We invite everyone to come! We would like to see citizens that live in the general Wyandotte, Oklahoma vicinity come in unprecedented numbers! Even if you cannot come, or do not desire to come to the daily activities please come to the dinner and stomp dance on Thursday evening. If you feel uncomfortable dancing - NO PROBLEM! I too am uncomfortable dancing – most Wyandottes are! Bring your lawn chair (and mosquito spray) and watch the stomp dance from afar as the unmistakable sound of the shakers fill the Wyandotte evening.

Until the closing of this year's activities we will continue to refer to The Gathering as Culture Days. The name has become familiar to everyone over the last 10 years, but the time for change has come. The Wyandotte Nation Gathering is calling you to come home.

Please register online at:
<http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/community/tribal-heritage/culture-days/>

See you in September!

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined that there will be no election of Wyandotte Nation officials for 2014 as no positions were contested. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an annual election at the Tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 13, 2014.

-- **Rob Nesvold, Chairman**
Election Committee

Upcoming Events

This year's Annual Meeting will take place at 10 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 13, at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gym.

The Gathering, formerly known as Culture Days, kicks off the week Thursday, Sept. 11 and Friday, Sept. 12. The Gathering will focus activities around the 25th Annual Pow-Wow, which begins that Friday evening and wraps up Sunday, Sept. 14.

For more information on these events or to register, visit our website, www.wyandotte-nation.org or our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation.

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

maintaining roads in our respective Tribal Jurisdictions. The unemployment rate in Ottawa County was over 11% before the Tribes in the area started to build casinos, convenience stores and other business entities, now the unemployment rate is around 5% to 6%.

The State of Oklahoma's Governor Mary Fallin in speech after speech mentions the positive impact that the 38 Tribes in Oklahoma has on the economy in the State, but when it is time to renew our compacts such as tobacco, fuel, one tribe has a motor vehicle compact and gaming (which is due in 2020) they are eager to renew for a much larger piece of the pie.

The revenue from these businesses goes into providing services to tribal members and the expansion of each Tribes economic development which in turn trickles down into the State of Oklahoma's economy. The State of Oklahoma

“The earth is the mother of all people, and all people should have equal rights upon it.” --Chief Joseph, Nez Perce Tribe Leader

gets a share of the revenues from the Tribes that has casinos through a gaming compact for class III machines and table games only, but it seems like they always want more. There are nine tribes in Ottawa County eight of which engage in gaming for a total of twelve casinos in this one county, the largest concentration in the State so our profit margin is very limited. So in 2020 when almost all of the gaming compacts come due for negotiating the smaller tribes here in our little corner of the State will be in for a fight.

The Federal Government established the Office of Indian Affairs in 1824 within the War Department. Similar agencies had existed

in the U.S. government since 1775, when the Second Continental Congress created a trio of Indian-related agencies. In 1849 Indian Affairs was transferred to the U.S. Department of the Interior. The bureau was renamed Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1947. The B.I.A. has been involved in many controversial policies. One of the most controversial was the late 19th to early 20th century decision to educate native children in separate boarding schools, with an emphasis on assimilation that prohibited them from using their indigenous languages, practices, and cultures. Some were beaten for praying to their own creator god.

Which brings us to the present, The Bureau of Indian Affairs' mission is to enhance the quality of life, to promote economic opportunity, and to carry out the responsibility to protect and improve the trust assets of American Indians, Indian tribes and Alaska Natives. Somewhere through the years it is my opinion their mission

statement got lost in translation, it is a proven fact that we can and have taken better care of our people than the B.I.A. ever attempted too. The Indian Affairs office in the 19th century was full of corrupt agents that starved and stole from the very people they were hired to protect. Our economic opportunity depends on putting land into trust, if it is in trust we can better protect our assets. The fee-to-trust process is a long drawn out ordeal that can take years to accomplish especially for gaming. Case in point our Park City, Kansas property, we recently got word that the B.I.A. denied our trust application even though it is a mandatory acquisition.

Well it is time to jump off my soap box and hope to see everyone that can make it to our annual meeting and 25th Annual Powwow in September. I am very fortunate and honored to be able to serve as your Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation the greatest nation in the Indian World.

Tizameh



25
Years

Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow has continually grown and improved the last 25 years -- with the special Anniversary, this could be the best and biggest one yet.

After a humble beginning, it now attracts visitors from all across the country and some of the most talented dancers.

"It has come a long ways," said Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director who is also the Pow-Wow Chairperson. "When they

started, the announcer was on a flatbed trailer, we had very few dancers, and we hardly had any vendors. Then all of a sudden it turned around. You start getting the right people to come, the kind of people that others like seeing and they just start coming. Once they come, they like it here and want to come back and they tell friends and family."

The Pow-Wow now has permanent grounds after different venues in the past, has an increasing number of vendors, participants and visitors, and has a special dedication to veterans. For the 25th Anniversary, the Wyandotte Nation will pay out double in prize money (\$50,000) than it normally does.

Clemons has been overseeing the Pow-Wow the last 16 years and took over for Quapaw Tribal Member Barbara Collier. When Clemons took over, the prize money was \$7,500.

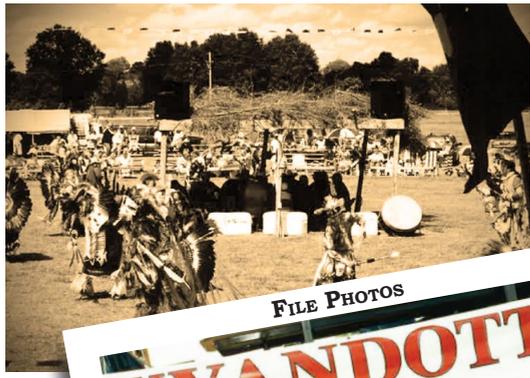
Earlene Roskab, former Second Chief, was the first to get the Pow-Wow off the ground. Collier followed after that and mentored Clemons, who has been the mainstay since.

Collier, who grew up around pow-wows, said she knew what they needed to do to help build the Pow-Wow up -- it was just a matter of implementation.

"Chief (Leaford) Bearskin told me, 'I want to have the best pow-wow in the United States.' We accomplished a lot, but we had some growing pains," she said. "We strove first to get something accessible for people."

Collier said a committee was formed and included people who knew how to organize pow-wows. She said they also had to improve and expand the grounds located near where

See **Pow-Wow**, Page 5



FILE PHOTOS

**WYANDOTTE
TRIBAL POW WOW**



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SWAIM



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SWAIM

Pow-Wow

Continued from Page 4

the Wyandotte Nation Casino stands today.

More importantly, she, like Clemons, knew it was about getting good people to the Pow-Wow.

"We knew we had to get good Head people – people who were popular and from different areas," Collier said. "It was important to get good people from different areas because they bring people with them. If they are noted people, then people will want to come and see them. And that is what we did."

She said it takes a lot of time and dedication to put the Pow-Wow together and believes it has become the kind of Pow-Wow Chief Bearskin had envisioned so many years ago.

"It's one of the best pow-wows in the area," Collier said, adding

that it is on the Pow-Wow Trail – the ones everyone goes to. "It just grew and grew."

Clemons credited Collier's guidance in helping her better prepare the Pow-Wow the last 16 years.

"There is a whole lot of difference from going to a pow-wow and putting on a pow-wow," Clemons said. "She (Barbara) and her family took me under their wing. Took me to pow-wows, introduced me to people, and explained things to me.

"For the first few years I would get fever blisters a few weeks before Pow-Wow just from stress. Now, because everyone on the committee, except for a couple, have been on there since the beginning, everyone just knows what needs to be done."

Clemons said it has gotten easier.

"It takes a lot of patience and a lot of energy. It takes getting to know people, learning the correct ways, learning you can't please everybody," she said. "There are so many tribes involved, you are very conscious not to step on anyone's toes. The main thing is knowing you can't please everyone. I figure if I can please the Chiefs, and the Board, and my dad, I'm good to go."

Clemons said she most looks forward to seeing friends, family and seeing everybody have a good time.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said the Pow-Wow is a great opportunity for gathering.

"The greatest thing that we've seen over the years is that it has brought tribal families together and given them the opportunity for family reunions," he said.

"It's a time for families to come

together from all over the country to not only to participate in pow-wow and culture activities, but it's been a time that families can gather together from all across the nation."

Chief Friend said they are looking forward to the 25th Pow-Wow and credited the Tribe's economic development for being able to double the prize money for the coming year.

"We've seen the pow-wow continually grow each year with not only more participants but also the number of tribal citizens coming in and attending the pow-wow," he said. "We now have more participants scheduling vacations around our Pow-Wow schedule."

– For more information on the Pow-Wow, see page 20.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual Fireworks Display Thursday, July 4 at the Pow-Wow grounds. The event featured the Diversity Band (below left), fireworks (above) and vendors as a crowd gathered (right and below). Earlier in the day, the youth performed for the elders during the annual Patriotic Program (below right).

To see more photos, visit our Facebook page and 'Like' us.



www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation



WNTPD Police Chief elected president of law enforcement association

Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) Police Chief Ken Murphy was recently elected as President of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP).

Murphy has served on the Board for four years and his recent election is a two-year term. He was initially elected as the first Small & Rural Agency Rep-

resentative and later served as Vice President before his election as President.

The OACP represent



Murphy

all law enforcement executive leaders and their administrative command staff personnel in promoting professionalism in law enforcement throughout Oklahoma.

It represents about 500 members across the state and also has an Indian Country Section representing many of the tribal agencies across the state.

The memberships consist of various agencies and state-wide municipal departments. OACP Members are federal, state, DPS, county, municipal, tribal, district attorneys, corporate security, campus, rail, air, transportation and more.

The objective of the OACP is to advance the science and art of law enforcement administration.

Showcasing Talent



"Since it is the 25th pow-wow, we wanted to take time to showcase some of the artistic talents of the tribal citizens."

--Tammy Charles, Education Director



By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation is offering tribal members a chance to put their talents on display during the 2014 Wyandotte Nation Citizen Artisan Showcase.

The showcase was created to recognize the artistic abilities possessed by tribal members of all ages, whether it's a knack for bead work or an eye for photography, there will be several categories open to enrolled tribal citizens.

"Since it is the 25th pow-wow, we wanted to take time to showcase some of the artistic talents of the tribal citizens," said Education Director Tammy Charles, who is organizing the event.

"Any art form that Wyandotte citizens are interested in doing we will showcase in our gym the day of annual meeting, we will have everything set up and they can view it when they come down for lunch."

The showcase is a good opportunity for artists like Kim Garcia, who got into crafting last year or like her son Ca-

leb, who saw a flint knapping demonstration during the 2013 Culture Days and has honed his skill.

A display of member created works of art will be exhibited in the Cara Culver Education Building Saturday, Sept. 13 – the day of the 2014 Annual Meeting.

Charles said depending on the success of the first year, the showcase could end up being an annual event.

There will be three age divisions: Golden Years (age 55 and over), Adult (20-54 years of age), and Youth (age 19 and under).

There will be traditional and contemporary categories featuring bead work, moccasins, baskets, flint knapping, textile, art and photography.

Participants are eligible to enter one item in each category. Age divisions will be determined by citizen's age as of Sept. 13, 2014. Prizes will be awarded for each category.

All entries must be received no later than Sept. 8 and if possible, please submit a photo of the artist.

For further information, please contact Charles at (918) 678-6330.

Wyandotte Citizen Artisan Showcase

--Age Divisions--

Golden Years - age 55 and over

Adult - 20-54 years of age

Youth - age 19 and under

--Categories--

Traditional

- **Bead work**
- **Moccasins**
- **Baskets**
- **Finger woven items**
- **Flint knapping**
- **Textile:** i.e. Ribbon shirt, traditional dress, shawl, quilt
- **Art:** Pastel, charcoal, watercolor, etc. (must be framed for display purposes and signed by artist)

- **Photography:** Native subject matter (must be framed for display purposes)

Contemporary

- **Bead work**
- **Textile:** Clothing, quilt

Enrolled Tribal citizens are eligible to enter one item in each category. Age divisions will be determined by citizen's age as of Sept. 13, 2014.

Prizes awarded for each category:

1st place- \$15

2nd place- \$10

3rd place- \$5

All entries must be received no later than Sept. 8 and if possible, please submit a photo of the artist. For further information, please contact Tammy Charles at (918) 678-6330.

All decisions of judges will be final!



WNTPD PHOTO

Police Department's DARE car draws statewide attention

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department's DARE car has been turning heads not only in the Wyandotte area, but the state as well.

The car recently took home the first place trophy at the Oklahoma DARE Officers Association (ODOA) annual car show. The car show is a part of the organization's recent annual conference.

It was this sort of attention WNTPD Officer Ken Brodrick was hoping for when they came up with the design concept.

The Chevy Camaro, purchased last June to replace the older DARE vehicle, features a design concept of fire and ice. The car shows ice melting from the front bumper toward the back of the car where fire highlights the vehicle. The fire represents drugs, bad decisions while the ice represents DARE teaming up with the police department and puts out the fire.

"I'm 57 years old and I finally got a muscle car. It's a kid magnet," Brodrick said. "It's a car that is the envy of most DARE officers."

Brodrick said they get great support from the Tribe and have a police chief (Ken Murphy) that allows them to go into schools and teach the DARE program.

He said the hope is when kids see the car they will think twice about making bad decisions. DARE is a program aimed at helping kids say no to drugs.

Health clinic celebrates 20 years

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Bearskin Health Clinic was a game changer for the Wyandotte Nation 20 years ago in providing healthcare for not only Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizens but also for the Eastern Shawnee Tribe. A celebration was held June 4 to commemorate the anniversary.

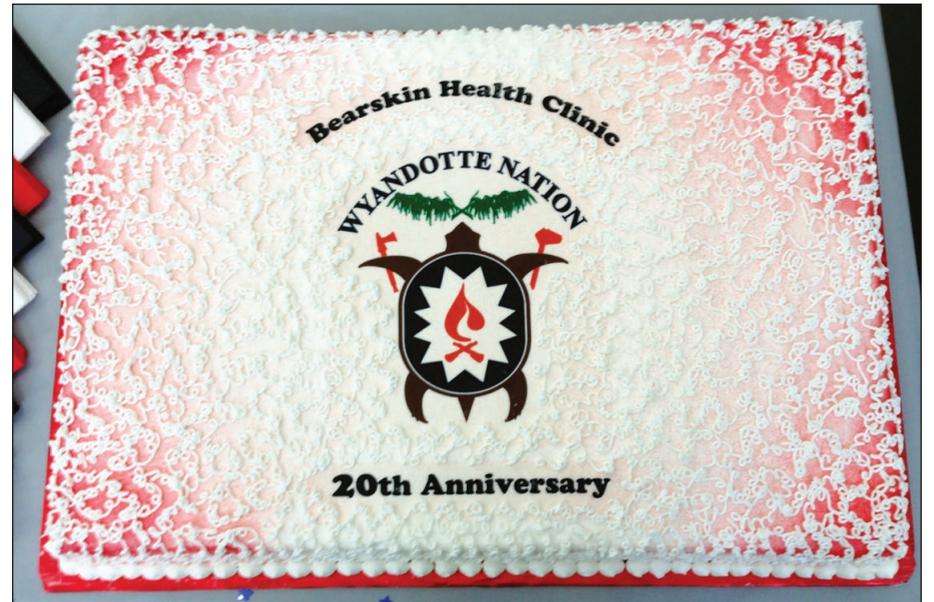
"We went from what was often a 60 to 120 day wait time for appointments with Indian Health Services (IHS) to cutting it down to 48 hours or less," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "Instead of allowing IHS officials in Washington DC to identify our needs, it allows us to identify our own needs and allocate funds accordingly. Overall, we've seen a continual improvement in the health status of both tribal nations."

The clinic realized a dream and vision of former Chief Leaford Bearskin. Over the 20 years, it has moved locations, seen staff size grow, expanded services to include a wellness center and has seen a continual rise in patients.

"Since taking over the operation of our clinic from IHS, we have continually been able to improve and expand health services for both the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribe," Chief Friend said.

When the clinic first opened, it was located in what is now the Education Building at the Tribal Administration offices. The clinic moved in 1998 and added the wellness center component.

"I know just in the last 4-5



years the staff has doubled since it began," said Health Services Director Kelly Walker. "We went from having 15 people to 30. We added the wellness center in 1998 for the overall umbrella of wellness."

Walker said other than the move, the biggest change has been in patient load.

"The biggest changes have been seeing more patients coming in. We are seeing that rise. We are averaging about 17 new patients a month," she said.

Four staff members have seen the clinic from its very beginning to where it is now. Business Services Manager Karen Duderstadt, Contract Health Services Specialist Bridget Burleson, Health Information Management Tech Linda Coatney, and HIM Tech Elaine Fidler have seen their roles change during their time – but the one constant has been their presence.

"We'd be lost without those four," Walker said. "They are the backbone of this clinic, they know it in and out. They have educated not only myself, but everyone who works there... they are the ones we fall back on to ask questions.

"They enjoy working

here, they enjoy the people. Our patients appreciate them because they know them."

Duderstadt recalled the model they went after when opening the clinic.

"When I was hired and Linda was hired, we traveled all over the state of Oklahoma," she said. "We followed the Cherokees when we first opened because they were the only ones who also saw non-Indian patients. Now we are the only Tribe who sees non-Indian patients."

Coatney said the clinic has come a long ways since it was first opened in what is now the Education Building.

"The community, for the longest time, they weren't aware that there was a clinic available," she said. "That it wasn't just the Wyandottes and Eastern Shawnees that could come. It services the community, a lot of people just weren't aware this facility was here for them."

So what has kept the four here so long? The job, the patients and 'family.'

"Chief Bearskin would say family first, and he meant it," Burleson said. "They have always allowed us to be family first. They treat us really well, they treat us like family."



Caps & Gowns

Preschool students graduate from Turtle Tots program

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

Young preschool graduates donned their first caps and gowns Tuesday, May 13, at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium in front of a standing room only crowd. Nearly 300 were in attendance for the graduation ceremony.

Thirty one graduated from the preschool program, including three Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizens (Veyda Marie Marlow, Terryn Sapp and Madilyn Barwick).

In four classes, 78 students were presented certificates or diplomas from Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand and Education Director Tammy



Photos by William Swaim

Charles. Of the 78, 39 of those will be returning to the preschool in the Fall of 2014.

The preschool had 27 students on the Kumon Honor Roll, including the top student in the U.S. Bryson Douglas Walker,

and the No. 2 student Kaylynn Elizabeth Millhollin. All three Wyandotte Tribal Citizens (Marlow, Sapp and Barwick) made the honor roll.

"It gets better every year," Charles said. "We hear all the

time from Wyandotte Public Schools – they can tell which kids have been Turtle Tots. To me, that is good. It says a lot about what we are doing."

Charles said all the preschool slots for the next year are full.



WNTPD PHOTO
WNTPD Officer Jared Robinson and K9 Officer Joker with the new donated ballistic vest.

Tribal police department's K9 officer receives protective vest

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation Tribal / Municipal Police Department (WNTPD) K9 Officer "Joker" was one of several K9s across the country to receive a new ballistic vest.

The vest was part of a nationwide Groupon event that raised more than \$250,000 in just over a week. The Groupon Grassroots campaign was an effort to outfit police K9s with bullet and stab protective vests. Vested Interest in K9s, Inc., is the non-profit organization and charity partner that was selected by Groupon

Grassroots to participate.

Joker has been with the WNTPD for three years and Officer Jared Robinson said it is crucial for Joker to be safe on the job.

"He means a lot to us and now he is protected when we go on traffic stops and building searches. It eases the mind knowing he has something to protect him as we all do," Robinson said.

The vest is in memory of K9 Officer Rocco of the Pittsburgh Police Department who was killed by a gunshot wound in January.

Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. is

a 501c (3) charity located in East Taunton, Mass., whose mission it is to provide bullet and stab protective vests for law enforcement dogs throughout the U.S. Each vest costs \$950 and has a five-year warranty. The nonprofit was established in 2009 to assist law enforcement agencies with this potentially lifesaving body armor for their four legged K9 Officers. Through private and corporate sponsorships, Vested Interest in K9s, Inc. provided 585 law enforcement dogs in 39 states with protective vests since 2009.

High Flight: Honoring Leland Bearskin

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

A year after honoring former Chief Leaford Bearskin, the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard paid its respects to Leland Bearskin during this year's Memorial Day ceremony.

"It's very important for us to remember those whose lives were given for us, for our country," Chief Billy Friend said as he opened the ceremony. "Today, we've chosen to honor Leland Bearskin, who was the twin brother of Chief Leaford Bearskin. Not a lot of us knew a lot about him, he was a private person, kept to himself... I know Chief had a lot of great memories with his brother, loved his brother."

"He taught me as much about life as my father did. One of the things I really remember about him is his laughter... He made me laugh, always made me feel good, welcome and I miss him a lot."

--Ron Bearskin, Nephew

Leland's nephew, Ron Bearskin, placed flowers on the grave and shared thoughts about his uncle, including a story about the twin brothers in their Army days.

"He taught me as much about life as my father did," Ron Bearskin said. "One of the things I really remember about him is his laughter. He had a boisterous laugh. He made me laugh, always made me feel good, welcome and I miss him a lot. I hope that wherever he is, that he is happy and that he is making others as happy as



U.S. Air Force Major (Ret.) Leland Bearskin
 (Sept. 11, 1921 - Oct. 5, 1993)



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard chose Leland Bearskin to honor on Memorial Day during a special ceremony. Ron Bearskin, pictured above, talked about his uncle and placed flowers on the grave before the Honor Guard played "Taps." Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend also spoke at the ceremony.

he made me."

He said the brothers were inseparable and also mischievous. He shared this story:

"They were both pilots in the US Army. Leland was ferrying an airplane from one base to the other. It just so happened that it came over Wyandotte and he buzzed the Seneca school. My father was ferrying a plane at the same time to a different place. They communicated on the radio,

Leland told my father what he had done.

"What do you think my father did? He brought in a bomber and brought it into Seneca and buzzed the Seneca school because his brother had done

it. When they got to where they were going, the commanding officers called them in. As always, when they got into mischief or did things they weren't supposed to do, they would tell the commanding officer, well that must have been my brother. They always blamed each other."

The Honor Guard concluded the ceremony with the firing of shots and the playing of "Taps."

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



www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation

Construction progressing for WNC project

WYANDOTTE NATION CASINO

By CASEY ELLETT

Each month we are seeing the construction progress and more of the casino renovation and expansion take shape. The excitement is truly building as each wall comes down and unveils a gorgeous new section of our gaming floor. I know I am not alone when I state, "I cannot wait to see what happens next!"

As with every summer the heat rises along with the gas prices. This July, Wyandotte Nation Casino is trying to battle those rising gas prices with a variety of promotions themed around fuel vouchers to the Turtle Stop Convenience Store. Whether you get lucky in our "Cash & Gas E-Challenge", our "Fuel and FREE PLAY Frenzy", or our "Fix'er Fridays" you are sure to feel better

about the next time your vehicle makes a visit to the gas pumps. August and September will follow up nicely with a wide range of events, including one that I personally am very excited about. Be on the lookout for advertising regarding "The Main Event" in the near future. With over \$15,000 in cash prizes, this event is sure to draw a crowd!

Last, but certainly not least, I would like to thank all parties that make Wyandotte Nation Casino the amazing place it is. I also want to thank all WNC and LTC team members for bearing through the construction and distractions that have taken place over the past few months.

I know having games moved around constantly, dining venues closed, and large portions of the gaming floor removed for significant periods of time has not been easy.

Thank you for everything you have done, and will continue to do in the future.

Twin Bridges Restaurant / The Deli

By KATY BERRYMAN

Twin Bridges Restaurant continues to please guest's months after its re-opening!

Twin Bridges Restaurant has recently started a

variety of specials ranging from delicious desserts to all-you-can-eat ribs. May 1st marked the debut of "Endless Ribs Thursdays" at Twin Bridges Restaurant. For \$15.99 guests can enjoy endless house-smoked ribs and select sides. Chef Cizek and team created six unique sauces, giving a nice variety to each rack of ribs. Whether it be the classic original barbeque sauce or the jalapeno-mustard sauce, guests have been very pleased. Beginning in July, strawberry shortcake is the month's feature dessert and is offered daily for only \$3.99.

Twin Bridges Restaurant made

its presence known in the area this past month with an appearance at the Patricia Island Golf Scramble benefiting the Grove Area Chamber of Commerce, and a featured article in the July issue of the Casino Connection magazine.

The Casino Connection magazine gave a lengthy review of the changes made to Twin Bridges Restaurant with its renovation and the public's reaction to the new menu and interior. It featured a close look at the martini bar, and a recap of the signature item contest that took place amongst the Twin Bridges Restaurant chefs in March.

The Casino Deli closed for renovations in May, with an all-new menu, location, and design revamp in the works. The new menu will feature some old deli favorites, along with some mouth-watering new options.

Overall, we are exceedingly excited to see how our delicious dining venues progress in the months to come.

Summertime promotions highlight busy time at 7th Street Casino

By CALLI GREEN

Summer has never felt better at 7th Street Casino! From summertime promotions like the "Summer Surprise Slot Tournament" and our VIP T-Bones Baseball event, "A Suite Night Out," to getting ready for community outreaches like the annual 7th Street Casino Golf Tournament coming in September, (supporting Heartland Honor Flight) 7th Street is ready for Kansas City fun!

During our summer themed tournament, guests are winning summer themed packages including beach chairs, beach towels, coolers and electronic items for fun in the sun. During the T-Bones home opener, VIP guests

were invited to the stadium for a special night just for them. VIP guests viewed the game from the suites and enjoyed a great meal together.

7th Street is gearing up for our annual golf tournament, being held in September. Each year 7th Street holds a charity golf tournament with proceeds going to Heartland Honor Flight (greater KC area non-profit who transports American Veterans to Washington D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials). Last year, the charity golf tournament raised \$20,000



and sent 30 World War II Veterans to memorial sites. 7th Street is eager to see the turn out at the tournament this year, and is honored to support such a great organization.

The team was also very excited for July 25th, when Multimedia Games, in conjunction with the casino, hosted a preliminary slot tournament to the TournEvent of Champions in Las Vegas this fall. Multimedia representatives were at the casino as well as their mascot, The Money Man, to cheer on the participants. After the final round, one lucky winner was 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 team has also been preparing for another great change coming in September, the tiered membership program. The 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. 7th Street Casino is packed with exciting events and promotions in the months to come, and cannot wait to share them with Kansas City!

Weather heating up and so are promotions at Lucky Turtle Casino

By WACY HUMBLE

The weather is heating up which means there is no better place to be than at the local favorite, Lucky Turtle Casino! Guests and employees alike, continue to enjoy the excitement of monthly promotions offered at the



Turtle. June and July included a wide range of fun events including, Power Picks drawings for various cash and retail prizes, Match Plays, point multipliers, and even a chance to win a 2014 bass boat!

On July 18th, the Lucky Turtle held the much anticipated, "Rock the Boat Giveaway." On July 18th, the hopper opened at 4 p.m. for drawing entries, and at 8 p.m., five lucky players were

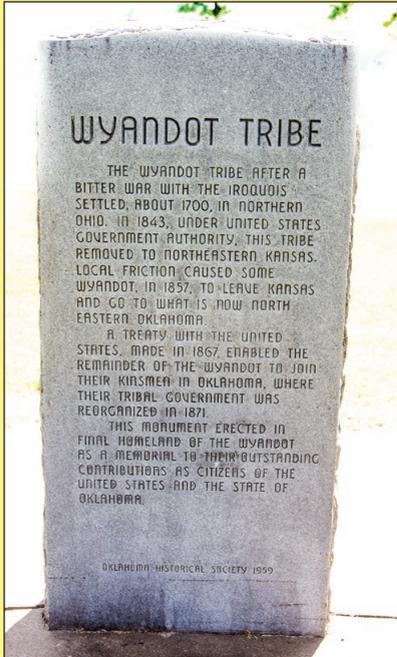
drawn from the hopper to compete for a brand-new 2014 Lowe Skorpion Bass Boat!

Also in July, we were excited to announce the re-introduction of Senior Day Power Pick drawings. Every 30 minutes, one lucky player will receive a progressive cash prize, plus a special Lucky Turtle Casino gift! From July, we move into the month of August which will feature "Lucky's Pond of

Points Giveaway." Every Monday from 2 p.m. - 6 p.m., guests will compete for their share of 204,000 points! Points can be used for FREE PLAY, Overstock.com gift cards, car washes, or even gas at the Lucky Turtle Convenience Store!

As always, we greatly appreciate all of the valued guests and team members at Lucky Turtle Casino. Stay tuned for many new and exciting things to happen in the future!

Do you know...



...where this monument is located?

If so, be one of the first to let us know the exact location and win a prize!

Contact Tribal Heritage Director Sherri Clemons at sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org or (918) 678-6344.

Summer youth program is 'Splendiferous'

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Splen·dif·er·ous
Magnificent, wonderful, extraordinary, splendid.

The Wyandotte Nation's Summer Youth Program is close to wrapping up after a splendiferous summer.

Education Director Tammy Charles said 'Splendiferous' was the theme for the program and there were activities planned for each letter, which also representing another word.

The program consistently had around 80 kids attending and they were in store

Charles said she also challenged the 10-12 year olds to put together a carnival.

The youth built all the games, did their own shopping and picked their own prizes for the carnival.

"It was a great learning experience for them and of course it was great for those 3-to-5-year olds," she said.

The program wraps up Aug. 12 as the school year begins shortly after.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Layne Hudson (above) helps blow up balloons in preparation for the carnival (below) the youth set up during the summer program.

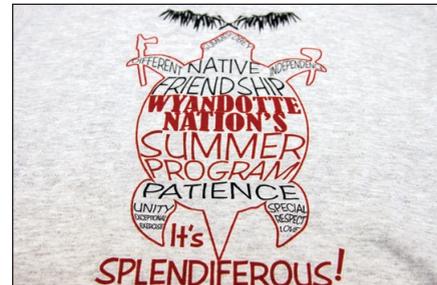


PHOTO COURTESY OF KODE TV IN JOPLIN

Splash Pad now open in Wyandotte

The Wyandotte Nation opened its new Splash Pad across the street from the Heritage Acres Community Center in early July to help build the community and offer a summertime activity.

The Splash Pad features a teepee, turtle sprayers, wolf and bear cannons, dumping buckets and water spraying up from the ground.

KODE TV (ABC) in Joplin was in town and featured it in one of their broadcasts. Check out the video on our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation)

Or visit: www.fourstateshomepage.com.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

New Hires

The Elder Services Department is very happy to welcome **Rebecca Barnard**. Rebecca is the newest Food Service Team Member. Rebecca in her spare time enjoys motorcycle trips and shopping with her daughter. She has grown up in the Wyandotte area. We are very happy to have Rebecca on our Title VI team and wish her much success in her new position.



Barnard

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome **Glenn Johnston**. Glenn has 25 years' experience in Law Enforcement. He is certified as a crime scene investigator. In his spare time he enjoys spending time riding motorcycles and visiting his daughter in Florida. We are very fortunate to have Glenn and wish him much success in his new position.



Johnston

The Facilities Department has a new full time staff member, **Gregory Wills**. Gregory has joined us as a Custodian. He transferred from Security Guard at Wyandotte Nation Casino. Greg has been married for 30 years; he is a Wyandotte Tribal Citizen and is a BIG Cardinals/Chiefs sports fan. We are very fortunate to have Gregory at Wyandotte Nation.



Wills

The Facilities Department has a returning seasonal staff member, **John Gerhard** who has worked 7 summers for the tribe. John is a business management major at Crowder College. John is a member of the Wyandotte Nation. In his spare time John enjoys

Tribal member named Employee of the Year

Don Graham, a member of the Wyandotte Nation, was recently named Employee of the Year by his co-workers.

Don has been employed by the tribe since November 2009 in our Housing Department.

He was chosen for his strong work ethic, dependability, loyalty, and positive attitude. He is very passionate about his job and takes on additional assignments as well as volunteering for projects outside of his normal job responsibilities.

In his spare time, Don enjoys fishing, football, and spending time with his grandkids. He is passionate about history and spends time reading and writing.

playing guitar/keyboard, riding his motorcycle and target shooting. We are very fortunate to have John return again this year.

The Bearskin Fitness Center is very happy to welcome **Kortney Nesvold**. Kortney will serve as the Fitness Front Desk Assistant. Kortney worked for us prior in Education as a Summer Youth.

Kortney has lived in the Seneca area all her life. In her spare time she enjoys spending time riding 4 wheelers and being on the farm. We are very fortunate to have Kortney on our team and wish her much success in this new position.



Nesvold



Gerhard



Don Graham receives his award at the Employee Appreciation event.

Congratulations Don! We appreciate all of the hard work you do to make the Wyandotte Nation a success.

Family Services

Program and Back-to-School Announcements

During the month of June, the Family Services, Environmental, and Wellness Center staff hosted a youth program for children attending the Turtle Tots summer program. Every year a theme is sought that places emphasis on our Native Heritage. The summer theme for 2014 was based on the lives of the Woodland Indians.

As the Wyandotte people were Northeast Woodlands people, the children were given facts about the Wyandotte regarding transportation and survival. The children made birch bark canoes as well as wall hangings. Other woods used by the Woodland Natives were pine, fir and spruce trees, indigenous to the area.

The Environmental staff designed a badge "Traveling the River of Life." The Woodland Natives believed that all natural objects had souls or spirits. Not just humans but animals, plants, trees, rock (as examples), had a soul or a spirit. The Woodlands

survival depended upon their perseverance, their respect for Mother Earth and their will to provide for their families.

We hope the children came away with knowledge that our Mother Earth can provide for us, yet we must act to preserve and respect our natural resources. See photos, page 14.

As the summer passes it is time to think about resuming school, cheering on our favorite sport teams, surviving the Oklahoma August heat, and preparing for this year's biggest and best Wyandotte Nation Pow-wow. Let us embrace our family, friends and loved ones during this gathering as we honor our past and thank our current leaders with their vision of things to come.

The motto for the Wyandotte Nation Employee Appreciation week was: "The Power of One." Every employee here at the Wyandotte Nation work to serve our tribal families and we hope this shows in our attitudes and services to you. Schedule the week-end of Sept. 13 to attend your annual meeting and your Pow-Wow.

School-related Program Announcements

(All school-related programs include families residing in the states of Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas).

SCHOOL SUPPLIES - BEGINS AUG. 1, 2014 / ENDS SEPT. 30, 2014: Wal-Mart gift cards will be available to buy school supplies in the amount of \$100 for each student. Receipts for items purchased with these cards must be returned to Family Services by Sept. 30, 2014. You may also opt to not use a gift card by submitting paid receipts for reimbursement. We will accept receipts dated July 1, 2014 to Sept. 30, 2014. This allows you to shop at the store of your choice. School supply applications are available at the Nation's website, www.Wyandotte-Nation.org. If you choose to email your application, please use the following email address for processing. You may also contact Leeanna at 918-678-6329 if you have any questions or email lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES: - BEGINS OCT. 1, 2014 / ENDS SEPT. 30, 2015: This program allows for \$100 for student expenses. Parents may be reimbursed for expenses such as band instruments, academic fees, sports activities, uniforms, school lunches,

Continued on Page 14

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 13

class pictures, etc. Extracurricular activities outside of school may be considered for payment: (Example: Gymnastics, YMCA, archery, karate). A vendor may be paid directly with proper documentation. All reimbursements require receipts that have the item description, child's name, school letterhead, telephone number or email address for the individual giving you the receipt showing proof of payment.

HIGH SCHOOL JUNIOR/SENIOR PROGRAM - BEGINS OCT. 1, 2014 / ENDS SEPT. 30, 2015: This program allows \$250 to students to help offset the added expenses of Jr./Sr. year, such as: yearbook, class pictures, cap and gown, announcements, letter jacket, class ring, instruments, school lunches, testing fees, college fees, sports activities or other related expenses. Payment can be made directly to the vendor, or reimbursed to you with proof of payment. The same receipt rules apply as stated in the extra-curricular activity program.

WINTER CLOTHING - BEGINS DEC. 1, 2014 / ENDS MARCH 1, 2015: A \$100 clothing allowance is provided to tribal members attending Pre-K through 12th grade. Families may obtain a Wal-Mart gift card for \$100 or present receipts to be reimbursed for an amount not to exceed \$100. Receipts for items purchased with the Wal-Mart cards must be returned in order to be eligible for this program in the future. If applying for reimbursement, winter clothing receipts will be accepted if they are dated Oct. 1, 2014 through March 1, 2015.

NEW RECEIPT REQUIREMENT:

Please Note: Any school-related program that begins Oct. 1, 2014 require receipts that are dated Oct. 1 or later. The Wyandotte Nation 2015 Fiscal Year is Oct. 1, 2014 – Sept. 30, 2015. No exceptions. This does not apply to school supplies at that program is funded with 2014 Fiscal Year Budget.

Senior Citizens Announcements/Programs

(All senior-related programs include residents of Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas).

ENERGY ASSISTANCE FOR SUMMER OF 2014 - EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2014 / ENDS SEPT. 30, 2014: Tribal seniors age 62+ are eligible to apply for \$100 for summer energy assistance. An application and a copy



of your utility bill is required.

WINTER ENERGY ASSISTANCE - EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 2014 / ENDS MARCH 31, 2015: Tribal seniors age 62+ are eligible to apply for \$100 for winter utility assistance. An application and copy of your utility bill is required.

ELDERS ASSISTANCE - EFFECTIVE OCT. 1, 2014 / ENDS SEPT. 30, 2015: A

\$250 per year Elders Assistance Program is provided to Tribal members age 62 and older to help enhance life quality. This program may be used for household expenses, repairs, rent, utilities, propane, food, or personal items. Payment can be made directly to the vendor or you may be reimbursed with receipts or any type of proof of payment for your purchases. An application and receipts are required.

Additional Programs

SUMMER LIHEAP: OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS ONLY. Summer low income home energy assistance began on July 1. Applications will be processed until funding is expired. Each year, the Wyandotte Nation applies for this federally funded program. Notice of award will be announced in the 4th quarter newsletter. Please note, individuals may not apply for both tribal and state LIHEAP assistance.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE: This is a nationwide benefit in the amount of \$1,500 to be used for funeral/burial expenses. A copy of the death certificate, proof of tribal enrollment of the Wyandotte Citizen, a funeral home statement, and the burial application. The funds can be paid to the next of kin if all of the funeral home expenses have been paid in full. Please allow 14 days to process.

CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY



SUBMITTED PHOTOS



SEATS: The child passenger safety seats are available only at the tribal headquarters. Parent may receive three age appropriate safety seats as their child grows-from newborn-booster. Styles and brands vary depending on availability and pricing. If you cannot come to the tribal headquarters due to your work schedule or due to distance, a person authorized by you may pick up a car seat and sign for it.

INDIAN CHILD WELFARE: If your family has been involved in a State Court Proceeding regarding the removal of your children, please contact the Wyandotte Nation. It is mandatory that States contact the Tribe if this occurs due to the 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act. If the family does not provide the State with proof of Indian status (membership card), often times the Tribe is unaware of the State Court involvement.

Our goal is to help aid in the reunification of parents and children. Through the Promoting Safe and Stable Family Grant, the Tribe may be able to aid your family or other at risk families by providing court intervention and emergency services.

Family Services staff are able to intervene in court proceedings, aid in the reunification process, advocate for placement of children, and coordinate with state case workers to ensure the best possible outcome for the family.

The Wyandotte Nation receives two grants for the purpose of aiding

families to help prevent removal, or to help expedite the children going back home to their parent(s). The grants are titled "Promoting Safe & Stable Families."

It is important to our Nation to have tribal adoptive homes as there are extenuating circumstances that children are unable to return home to their parents. If you have an adoption home study, or are interested in information about becoming a tribal adoptive home, please contact us. In the event reunification fails, and the child does not have appropriate family placement, the Wyandotte Nation would need to offer an adoptive home within the Tribe.

Also you may want to consider fostering children. No matter where you live in the United States, Native American foster homes are in serious demand. The process can be done through your local Division of Children and Family Services. Family Services staff can help you through the process.

HEALTH BENEFIT CARDS (BENNY CARDS): Although the Wyandotte Nation does not administer the Benny cards, if you need assistance in acquiring claim forms or need an explanation of what your card can be used for, please call us. FMH Core-Source does have a website, however, we are aware that not all families have computer access. FMH telephone number is 800-990-9058.

NEW ENROLLEE BENEFIT: By enrolling your child before their first birthday, the family receives a \$100 gift card and a baby blanket with the Wyandotte Nation tribal logo. Original State Certified Birth Certificates are mandatory but will be returned within 10 working days. Membership applications may be obtained by fax, email or the postal service.

TRIBAL ENROLLMENT: The time for procrastination is drawing close for the enrollment deadline Aug. 15, 2014. Many tribal programs are based on membership status. Such as the tribal Benny card. The enrolled adult is eligible for \$1,000. Regardless of the number of children in the household the family maximum is \$2,000. If a claim is turned in on a non-member it may not be processed.

There are numerous reasons to become members of a federally recognized Indian Nation. Nationwide programs include higher education, new enrollee benefit, burial assistance and the latest program as described, the medical Benny card. Your tribal leaders and board of directors are work-

Continued on Page 15

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 14

Annual Senior Picnic

ing diligently to improve the quality of life for all Wyandotte Citizens.

Photo citizenship cards are now available. If you live in the area stop in and get your new I.D. card. For our citizens residing at a distance, you may apply for a new tribal I.D. card with or without a photo. If you prefer a photo citizenship card, passport pictures are available at postal offices as well as retail drug store chains. PHOTO I.D. CARDS ARE NOT MANDATORY BUT CAN BE USED AS A FORM OF IDENTIFICATION. Sorry, photo I.D. are not currently available for minors.

The new citizenship cards include your blood quantum, roll number and date of birth. Cards with photo include a signature. If you are already enrolled and want to request a replacement card you must complete a new application. Applications are available by mail, email, or downloaded from the Family Services section of the Tribe's website.

TRIBAL TAG PROGRAM: All of Oklahoma: Passenger vehicles, RVs/Travel Trailers and motorcycles. Handicap plates are offered with approved physician documentation. All tag procedures can be processed through the mail. Please allow extra time for mailing and processing of your new/renewal business. Insurance verifications are ALWAYS required. Renewals or new tags cannot be issued without proof of insurance.

Until we see you in September, remember our children are the future of this Tribe and this Country. Attached is the "Kids Bill of Rights."

I hope you read them with your child and I hope you enjoy the photos of our happy days at the summer youth program.

Contact information for family services staff in listed in the directory.

Department Staff: Kate Randall, Tara Gragg, Dana Butterfield and Leeanna Radabaugh.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Annual Senior Picnic had a luau theme this year as the elders enjoyed lunch and entertainment. (Below) Second Chief Norman Hildebrand and Councilperson Ramona Reid enjoy their time on the "beach" during the senior picnic festivities.



Elder Services

We are very excited to have the new Heritage Acres Community Center open. The Elders have been working on a quilt and shawls. They are planning to learn how to bead, make moccasins, ribbon shirts and numerous other items in the future. The items will be for sale in the Sr. Turtles Gift Shop located in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI). They are also working in the gift shop updating and making much needed changes. It is really looking nice.

Numerous items in the gift shop are now online and we are able to accept credit cards in the gift shop now. I am so happy to see the Elders working on these crafts like the Elders before them. It will be something that they can teach to future generations.

We would like to thank Julie West

for the many long hours that she has spent working with the Elders on revamping the gift shop and getting it online. We would also like to thank Kathy DeWeese and Sherri Clemons for helping with the quilt and shawl projects. If you live in the area and want to be a part of this please feel free to join us. The more the merrier.

It is hard to believe that is almost time again for the Cultural Days and Pow Wow. It will be great to see everyone again.

The Elders will be holding a community garage sale Sept. 20 beginning at 8 a.m.

We have tentatively set Sept. 25 for our Annual Picnic n' The Park. Duke Mason (Little Elvis) will be performing again this year. We will partner with the Quapaw, Eastern Shawnee and Ottawa Tribes, Good Shepherd Hospice and Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging. We will have a cookout, games, dancing and lots of prizes.

This year we will be combining our Annual Medicare Part D and Diabetic Screening Event with the Bearskin Health Center's Health Fair. The event will be held in the gymnasium at the Bearskin Fitness Center Oct. 7 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

Our Halloween Party will be held Oct. 31 during the lunch hour.

Our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner will be held Nov. 20.

Oklahoma Healthcare Solutions are here the first Wednesday of each month at lunch to play bingo with the Elders. They provide a lot of neat prizes and make it a really fun event.

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

Caregiver

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Education/ Environmental conference room at 10:30 a.m. It is open to all Caregivers. Please contact Brenda for information.

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

Department Staff:

--Brenda House, Elder Services Director, (918) 678-6327.

--Stephanie Eads, Food Service Team Supervisor, (918) 678-6328

--Seth Higginbotham, Berle Blevins, Corey Sims, Rebecca Barnard, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328

--Menu, (918) 678-6326

KIDS BILL OF RIGHTS

1. Kids have the right to be who they are.
2. Kids have the right to be Loved.
3. Kids have the right to be Safe and protected.
4. Kids have the right to Protect themselves when someone hurts them, and to have grown-ups help them.
5. Kids have the right to Want

and Receive attention, affection and nurturing.

6. Kids have the right to be Respected.

7. Kids have the right to Receive guidance from others.

8. Kids have the right to Have feelings.

9. Kids have the right to Say yes and no.

10. Kids have the right to Agree and Disagree with other kids and

grown-ups.

11. Kids have the right to be Special and Unique.

12. No one has the right to physically or emotionally hurt you, not grown-ups, not other kids.

13. No one has the right to touch you in a way that makes you uncomfortable, not grown-ups, not other kids.

TO BE YOUR SPECIAL YOU!

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Heritage

Kweh Kweh! Things are really zipping around the Nation in the Heritage Department these days.

We held our first but not last Youth Camp. The Gathering of Little Turtles was a wonderful success and it is something that we see growing beyond anything we dreamed of.

With it just the first year we were able to see what works and what doesn't (at this time). The group was small, which allowed the committee to interact more with the youth and parents.

We played Lacrosse, practiced archery, made moccasins and learned history, some for the first time.

A family of members traveled from Alabama, another from Edmond, Okla.

Talon Silverhorn from the Shawnee tribe came and demonstrated bow making and let several of the group shoot his bow and arrows. Tribal Princess Emilee Wills came and spoke on the responsibilities her title carries.

Ted Nesvold, Tribal Elder, spent the day teaching how to make moccasins Woodland Style. Even had a few finish before they traveled home.

Now on to one of the tribes hidden treasures, Caleb Garcia. Caleb is 12. He is the son of member Kim and Arturo Garcia. The family lives in Seneca, Mo. Caleb also has two brothers Josh and Gabriel.

Caleb was at Cultural Days last year and participated in the flint knapping. He learned so well he has given several demonstrations. Children really seem to be drawn to him and Caleb relates to the kids as an inspiration to learn and challenge the youth of today. I would really like to thank all the workers and demonstrators who joined us. This is going to be an annual event so be looking for next year's plans.

This being the 25th annual Pow-Wow, The Gathering (formally Cultural Days) will focus on the many things involved with it. Classes will include a more friendly language class, several arts and craft classes and learning to dance at the pow-wow. We will also have Barbara Collier, past pow-wow coordinator explaining the history of the pow-wow and many etiquette points that need to be observed while at pow-wows. This is just a few things going on. You can get a full schedule



PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
The Gathering of Little Turtles was a hit as tribal members learned about flint knapping from Caleb Garcia (above), making moccasins from Ted Nesvold (below) and practiced their archery skills (bottom).



on the website. Please be sure to register so we have a count as many things are ordered in advance and may not be available for those who do not register.

It promises to be a busy time and I hope to see new faces along with ones to attend each year.

See you in September.

Sherri Clemons
Tribal Heritage Director



We are very pleased to have tribal interns in our program this summer. Jason Baldwin, Allison Gann, Joshua Garcia, Haylee Griffin, Courtney Hamilton, Mikalya Keller, Torey Seigel, Rebekah Shaffar, Olivia Wills, and Emilee Wills have played key roles in developing programs for the participants and assisted with daily program operations.

Library

Many new materials have arrived in the past days that are being added to inventory in the library. Brit-tany Watkins is a tribal intern that has been assisting with the library project.

If you have been searching for a particular title and have not been able to locate it, please ask the staff so we may assist you in securing that title.

Child Care & Development Fund Program

The Child Care and Development Fund is a program that assists families of federally recognized tribe with child care expenses while the adults are working or attending school. If you have any questions about this program, please contact our office.

Tribal Scholarships

Letters have been sent to all new scholarship applicants for fall 2014. The scholarship funds will be mailed starting the first of August.

For returning students, please submit your previous term grades and next term schedule in an official format as soon as possible.

With improving electronic systems, students can log into their accounts and capture screen shots of unofficial transcripts to submit. Many times both pieces of needed information are located on one document.

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

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

If you have any questions about any of the scholarship or adult training programs, please contact the office by phone or email. It is my pleasure to assist you in any way possible!

Education

Preschool

Our 2013-2014 preschool session ended in a wonderful way and very soon we will begin another school term. Letters of acceptance have gone out and we will be assigning classrooms and preparing for a new group of faces! Our program is currently full, however, we still accept applications and place those names on our waiting list.

The Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow was held on a beautiful night at our grounds and many families enjoyed the event. Again our students achieved very high marks in the Kumon Math Honor Roll and we are excited to see what their future holds.

If you are or know of someone that might be interested in the Wyandotte Nation Preschool program, please feel free to contact our office.

Summer Program

Many changes were enacted in our summer program this year and the outcomes have proved successful.

Our summer theme is SPLEN-DIFEROUS with each letter being the focus of a moral topic to share with our children. S- summer. P- patience. L- love, E- exercise, N- native, D- different, I- independence, F- friendship, E- exceptional, R- respect, O- obey, U- unity, and S- special.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Environmental

Congratulations to Faron and Christen Lee on the recent birth of their son Benjamin Tristan Lee.



With the warmer temps comes the increased activities in our department. On May 23 we co-hosted with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma to provide a Macro-invertebrate Training, held at Jolly Mill near Pierce City, Mo.

During the first week of June, each afternoon Monday thru Thursday, we held Environmental Education Classes for ages 7 - 12 years, in conjunction with the Turtle Tot Summer Program. Each child in this age group that participated during though out the week



SUBMITTED PHOTOS
Janice Wilson at Jolly Mill Macro invertebrate training.

received a certificate and patch. We finished up the week by presenting a recycling program to the 3 - 6 year old kids. "RENIE" the Recycle Robot was on hand to visit and teach the

kids about the importance of recycling. We had an approximate total of 97 kids during this week of activities.

Along with our monthly monitoring of our Water 106 Sites, the third week of June we also collected our quarterly samples for nutrients and e-coli, and annually for heavy metals. Services provided includes: Private Well Drinking Water Sampling for tribal and non-tribal citizens 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 citizens living within the Grand Lake Watershed.



29-30.

Water Education Event at Audubon/Wildcat Glades, Joplin, MO - Aug. 9, (10 - 3 p.m.)

Ottawa County Free Fair - Aug. 17 -23. Look for our Environmental Booth in the Exhibits Building!

Please note our new direct lines to our offices listed 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

Upcoming Events

ITEC Conference, Tulsa, OK - July

Continued from Page 16

Workforce Investment Act (WIA)

The Workforce Investment Act is accepting new clients. 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 distrib-



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Youth had the opportunity to entertain Summer Youth Program kids with a patriotic performance rehearsal before taking their entertainment to the Quapaw elders.

ute our new telephone numbers: Tammy Charles 918-678-6330; Loretta Combes 918-678-6334; Annita Jolene Tucker 918-678-6331

Tammy R. Charles
Education Director

Planning / Development

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

1) We have awarded to Goins Construction the new water system expansion project, which will include, standpipe, well house and miscellaneous. The project was advertised for Native American owned contractors first, with no qualified bids acceptable.

2) We selected and have begun the programing process with EWC1 architects, for the Culture Center.

A new ICDBG application is currently being prepared. This proposed project will include additional roadways and extension of water, and sewer lines to facilitate future housing construction. Also, there will be expansion to the Artie Nesvold Community Building (Title 6), to include an activity room that will function as a safe room. The Carla Culver Education Center will have a new activity room functioning as a "Gross Motor Skills" classroom, and will be FEMA compliant.

The Community Center in Heritage Acres, was funded in part by an ICDBG and has been completed.

We have been working with the BIA to have tribally owned lands placed in Trust. Notification has been sent From the BIA that The Tribe's property in Kansas City, Kansas: known as the "Arrowhead Building," was to be placed in Trust. However the State of Kansas has appealed the Regional BIA Director's decision. The Regional Director denied the appeal, Kansas is now appealing to the Department of Interiors Board of Indian Appeals.

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.

If you have any questions for the Planning/Development Dept. you can contact:

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Important Numbers

Police Department

Ken Murphy (918) 678-3100x12
kmurphy@wntpd.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
kdeweese@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

Elaine Fidler (918) 678-3230
efidler@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
sbartley@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

Healthcare

Greetings from Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center! Summer is in full swing and the start of school is just around the corner! Here at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, the summer season is always eagerly anticipated because with it comes lots of children and laughter from the Turtle Tots summer program to the Wyandotte Nation Youth Program. There is always a jovial noise to hear each and every day.

The "Turtle Tots" program of the Education Department has greeted staff and patrons many of those fondly reflected on days this summer, from swimming with each age group once a week to fitness classes once a week for the older ages.

In addition, the Bearskin Fitness Center (BFC) crew was able to interact with the 7 - 12 year olds during the Wyandotte Nation Summer Camp, joining forces with the Environmental and Family Services Programs. During the summer camp, the BFC staff taught circuit training, cross fit, cardio techniques and played many games, including the Walk and Talk Game, Rock Paper Scissors Run and Bucket Fitness all to ensure that the children had a greater understanding of health and wellness.

The Wyandotte Nation Youth Summer Program is always on the go. Whether performing community service, riding bikes, running, working out or taking field trips, they are always moving. Recently four program members were chosen based on their leadership, sportsmanship and decision making skills to at-



COURTESY PHOTO

Youth in the Wyandotte Nation Summer Camp joined the Bearskin Fitness Center staff with various activities to get a greater understanding of health and wellness.

tend the National Youth Leadership Academy in Portland, Ore. Those participants were: Kaden Lofland, Devon Rutledge, Tristan Cox and Abbey Friend. The Academy provided an opportunity for these youth to further develop their leadership, athletic/fitness skills and learn ways to get and stay on a wellness path in order to be positive contributing members to their families, schools and communities. They had the opportunity to participate in clan games and meet new people from other tribes and areas.

Plans are underway for the 13th Annual Health Fest, scheduled for Oct. 7, 2014. This year Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center will team up with other agencies in this wondrous event, including; Grand Gateway, Oklahoma Lions Service Foundation, Senior Companions, Northeastern Tribal Health System,

Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative, Oklahoma Blood Institute, NTC, ship (State health insurance assistance programs), Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Wyandotte Nation. Services provided will include: Visual Acuity, glaucoma, blood pressure, blood sugar, cholesterol, basic pulmonary functioning, and bone density, hearing tests, Medicare Part D enrollment and St John's Maude Norton Mobil Mammography bus will be on site. (There is a charge for mammography and insurance is accepted.)

The Wyandotte Nation Methamphetamine and Suicide Prevention Initiative has been awarded funding for Fiscal Year 2015. The program will continue to need assistance with the completed depression screenings at Bearskin Healthcare. This is a tool developed to screen for depression and to bring awareness to the fact that Clinical Depression is a common, real and treatable illness.

Basic Facts about Clinical Depression:

- Clinical depression is one of the most common mental illnesses, affecting more than 19 million Americans each year. [1] This includes major depressive disorder, manic depression and dysthymia, a milder, longer-lasting form of depression.

- Depression causes people to lose pleasure from daily life, can complicate other medical conditions, and can even be serious enough to lead to suicide.

- Depression can occur to anyone, at any age, and to people of any race or ethnic group. Depression is never a "normal" part of life, no matter what your age, gender or health



COURTESY PHOTO

Kaden Lofland, Devon Rutledge, Tristan Cox and Abbey Friend participated in the National Youth Leadership Academy in Portland, Ore.

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 18

situation.

• Unfortunately, although about 70% of individuals with depression have a full remission of the disorder with effective treatment, fewer than half of those suffering from this illness seek treatment. [2] Too many people resist treatment because they believe depression isn't serious, that they can treat it themselves or that it is a personal weakness rather than a serious medical illness.

In addition to this screening, focus will remain in the Wyandotte School System, providing a speaker for Red Ribbon Week, Fabian Ramirez. Fabian will speak on topics including: bullying prevention, drug prevention, drop-out prevention and leadership. This event will occur Oct. 21 with presentations for both middle school and high school age students.

Fabian Ramirez

Fabian is a Youth Motivational Speaker based out of Dallas, TX. He was the first in his family to graduate and go to college. Growing up in inner-city Houston brought obstacles in his educational journey, yet he was able to earn a Masters Degree.

Fabian has earned a reputation for his commitment to work with young people in schools that lack resources. He knows that we can reach a generation one student at a time. To fulfill his calling, Fabian speaks in schools and conferences across the country about how to be "THE" student on campus and not just a student.

Another program coming to Wyandotte Schools will be the Challenge Day Program.

"Our programs go beyond traditional anti-bullying efforts, building empathy and igniting a movement of compassion and positive change.

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

Our 6 1/2-hour Challenge Day program is designed for 100 stu-

dents. Our program is created to build connection and empathy, and to fulfill our vision that every child lives in a world where they feel safe, loved, and celebrated. Challenge Day is more than a one-day program. Our programs go beyond traditional anti-bullying efforts, building empathy and igniting a movement of compassion and positive change, known as the 'Be the Change' movement. www.challengeday.org

This program was highly successful two years ago in the school system and the program is excited to host this event once again. This event will most likely be hosted in the Spring semester and volunteers will be needed to serve as role models to students participating. What does it mean to be a volunteer at Challenge Day?"

"Challenge Days are usually held at schools, and serve up to 100 students and 25-30 adults (at least 1 adult for every 4 students). Adults are school staff, administrators, teachers, parents and even interested community members and outside volunteers. We call these adults "Adult Participants" and they participate fully in the program along with the students. This means the volunteer will be willing to play, to listen and be willing to share about themselves. While we understand this can sometimes be scary even for adults we only ask that you share what you are comfortable with. We would never ask anyone to share anything they did not want to. We also ask volunteers to arrive 30 minutes early for a morning meeting before the Challenge Day starts, commit to participate in the entire day, and stay 30 minutes after the day ends for a wrap-up meeting." www.challengeday.org

The last event in the planning horizon is the Red Ribbon Run 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run. This event will be held on Oct. 11 @ 8 a.m., Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. This event will be a community event focused on raising drug awareness and prevention methods. The registration cost is \$10 per person with proceeds benefitting the "Partnership for Drug-Free Kids." Look for the registration notice soon to be on the tribal website and the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Facebook page.

The Affordable Care Act has had quite an impact on Bearskin Healthcare with an average volume of 17 new patients per month. Designs are in the making for a position to manage the coordination of benefits

Housing

The Community Center/Housing offices have been open since April 1. Several family reunions, birthday parties, and other events have been held here, with bookings already extending into next year. The facility has an activity room with pool tables, ping pong tables, and air hockey, and is open to the public Monday thru Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

The splash pad opened July 2, and is located across from the Community Center. Children of all ages, including adults, have enjoyed being able to cool off during the heat of the day. The hours of operation are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Two Duplex units are in the process of being built. These units are two bedroom and will allow the Housing Department to service

smaller sized families on the housing list.

If you would like information on any of the housing programs, please contact our office. Federal Income guidelines apply.

If you live in the Indian Service Area, which include nine counties in Oklahoma, and are in need of water or sanitation services, please contact our office for an application. Income guidelines do not apply to this program.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Department Staff

Kathy DeWeese- Housing Director

Valari Richards- Housing Specialist

Don Graham- Residential Maintenance Technician

Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator

Paul Parker- Project Coordinator

for patients without insurance. This role will allow patients to see what programs they qualify for and include navigation of the Healthcare exchange to see if patients are eligible for free or cost sharing premiums. It will include Veteran Benefits eligibility, Medicaid and Medicare eligibility assistance. However, assistance is needed from our patients. In training for this role patients are needed to volunteer to help troubleshoot through the glitches so that when the process is fully initiated, there will be a smooth transition.

If you are a Wyandotte or Eastern Shawnee Tribal Member without

insurance, please contact Kelly Walker @ 918-678-2282 to assist in this effort.

References

[1] *National Institute of Mental Health: "The Numbers Count: Mental Illness in America, "Science on Our Minds Fact Sheet Series. Accessed August 1999. Netscape: <http://www.nimh.nih.gov/publicat/numbers.cfm>*

[2] *Rupp A, Gause E, Regier D: "Research Policy Implications of Cost-of-Illness Studies for Mental Disorders," British Journal of Psychiatry Suppl 1998; 36:19-25.*

Coming Next Issue: Summer Intern Trip 2014



The Wyandotte Nation took its interns on a summer excursion to learn more about their history and culture. The interns visited various sites in Ohio. For more, see the next issue.

PHOTO BY
WILLIAM SWAIM

25th Annual
WYANDOTTE POW-WOW
 September 12-14, 2014

\$50,000



In Prize Money

Contests in all Categories

Friday 8:00 p.m.	Grand Entries Saturday 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Sunday 1:30 p.m.
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13th Annual Veterans Honor Program

All Veterans Welcomed



HEAD STAFF

Head Singer	Yellow Hammer
Head Man Dancer	Thorpe Sine
Head Lady Dancer	J.C. Lonetree
Head Gourd Dancer	Jim Greenfeather
Honor Guard	Wyandotte Honor Guard
Arena Director	Dude Blalock
Head Judge	Jay Blalock
Master of Ceremonies	Steve Kinder
Northern Drum	John Arkeketa
Wyandotte Nation Princess	Emilee Wills

Location: Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds
 5.2 miles East of Wyandotte, OK on Highway 60

Host Motel: Indigo Sky
 1-888-992-SKY1(7591)

POW-WOW CONTEST SCHEDULE

Friday, September 12 Evening	Saturday, September 13 Afternoon	Sunday, September 14 Afternoon
Jr. Boys Grass Womens Cloth Mens Straight Jr. Girls Fancy Golden Age Women	Boys Traditional Womens Fancy Mens Grass Jr. Girls Jingle	Golden Age Men Womens Jingle Jr. Boys Fancy Jr. Girls Buckskin Mens Traditional



Gourd Dancing
 1 hour prior to
 all sessions.

Saturday, September 13
 Evening

Tiny Tots
 Mens Fancy
 Jr. Girls Cloth
 Womens Buckskin
 Jr. Boys Straight

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

ACTIVITIES

FRIDAY NIGHT

49 Contest
 Jennifer Lunsford
 Coordinator

SATURDAY NIGHT

Stomp Dance
 Ben Barnes
 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

*NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFTS
 OR ACCIDENTS. ABSOLUTELY
 NO FIREARMS, DRUGS, OR
 ALCOHOL ALLOWED!*

Everyone welcome! Bring your cameras and lawn chairs!

**Check
 it out!**

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