



The Turtle Speaks

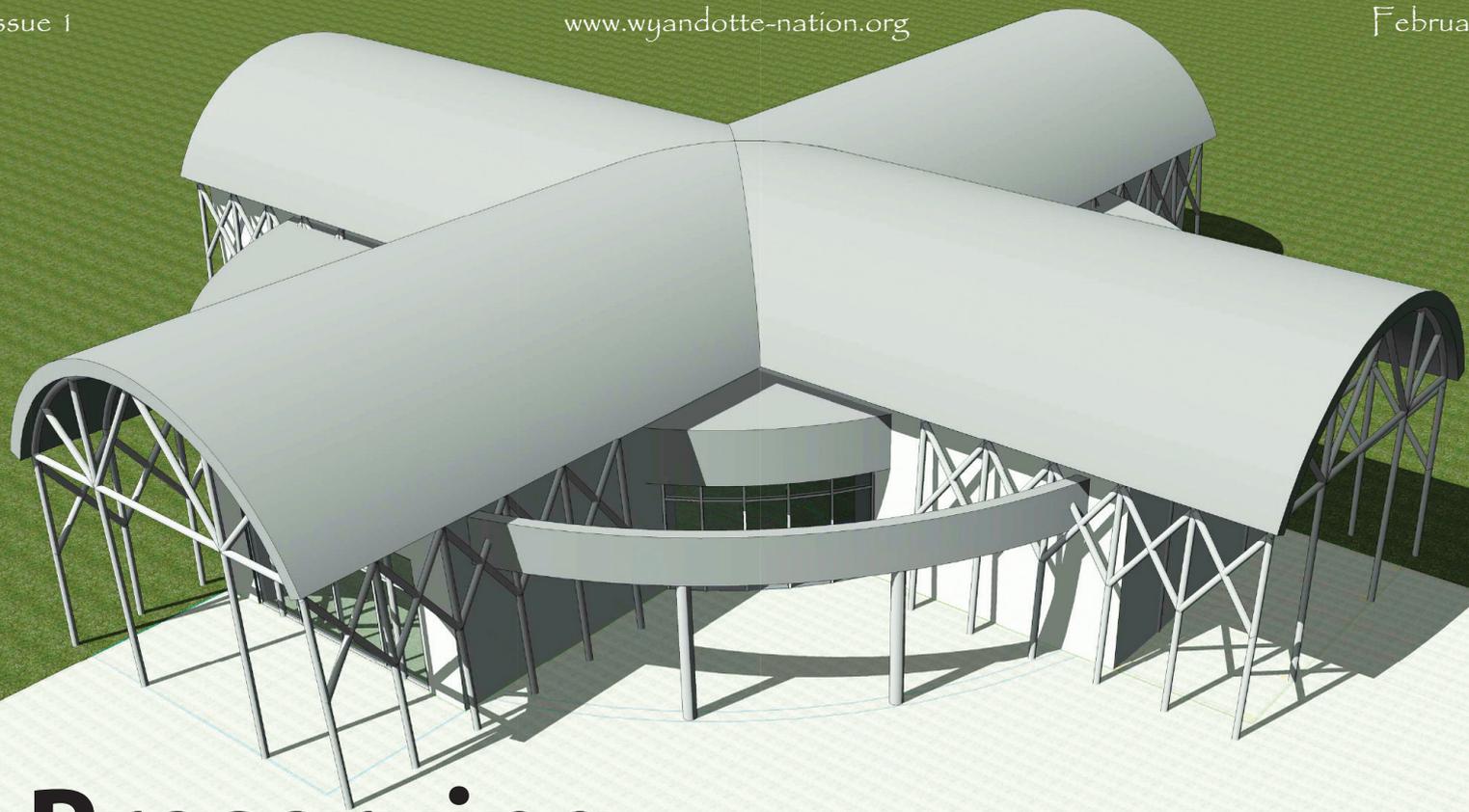
Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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February 2015



Preserving History

Cultural Center a gathering spot
for Wyandottes and community

PAGE 10-11

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The Wyandotte Nation
64700 E Hwy 60
Wyandotte, OK 74370

(918) 678-2297
(800) 256-2539
Fax (918) 678-2944

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- Town Hall Meetings for 2015
- Preschool celebrates 25 years
- Casino Project Update



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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
 Artist Rendering of new Cultural Center

Contact Us

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

Looking for Veterans for Feature Stories

We are looking for tribal members who are veterans to feature in upcoming issues, whether you live in the Oklahoma area or some far off distant land, we want to hear your 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.

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Time to 'Create Opportunity'

"Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert." -- Isaiah 43:19

As the New Year of 2015 begins, now is a good time to take stock of where we are as a tribe, and what lies ahead for the Wyandotte Nation.

It is a pleasure to report that the state of the Wyandotte Nation is strong and we are continuing to grow. The Tribe has instituted a host of new and improved programs and services over the past decade, all designed to support the stated mission of the Wyandotte Nation - to improve the lives of Wyandotte people.

We have accomplished so much together. We also know there is much that lies before us, and more "building blocks" will be put in place as we build up our Tribe and our people.

The New Year is always the perfect time for making resolutions. Many of us make personal resolutions with the arrival of the New Year. We resolve to exercise more, eat less, read more, and spend more time with family. Each of us has his or her own personal set of resolutions, most often created and reviewed as the New Year arrives.

For the Wyandotte Nation, I believe the prime resolution for 2015 is "create opportunity." It has long been the message of the Wyandotte Nation that we are here to "give a hand-up and not a handout." To

provide opportunities that our citizens may not be able to receive elsewhere.

With so many activities ongoing at the Wyandotte Nation, it is important we regularly review our tribal mission. We want to be certain we are traveling the good path as we in your tribal government serve you. One of the simplest yet most important things we do in government is open doors for Wyandottes everywhere. And when a Wyandotte walks through that open door, we want him or her to discover all the wonderful opportunities available.

In 2015 we plan to create opportunity in education, in housing and in healthcare. New opportunities in tribal business will be forthcoming. Our Wyandotte youth, elders and families will benefit from opportunities presented them by the Tribe.

There is so much more to the Wyandotte Nation than our variety of programs and services. These essential elements the Tribe offers are tremendously important to Wyandotte people, but there is so much more available beyond the "front door" of the Wyandotte Nation.

Beyond the grants, scholarships

and other programs we offer students are the successful careers, families and lives those programs help create. The tribal housing initiatives are more than simply roofs over the heads of Wyandotte families, they fulfill dreams and help form the foundation for happy, well-lived lives. The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness facility is more than a building filled with equipment and medical staff, it is a healing center where Wyandottes and other Indian people can regain their most valuable possession.

Our tribal businesses offer so much more than profits - they provide important employment opportunities and lifelong careers. Our preschool, after school programs and cultural camps are more than simply a good time together, they are helping to lay the groundwork and teach important life lessons to our young people as they make their life choices.

For 2015, our tribal resolution - "create opportunity" has great potential to positively impact every Wyandotte across the country. We hope that in 2015 you will go beyond the "front door" and find opportunities at the Wyandotte Nation.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

The importance of preserving our history and culture

Kweh,
 I hope all my fellow Wyandottes are healthy and looking forward to Spring, which will be upon us in a few months. Some of us here wish it would arrive a lot sooner as we have had some very cold weather so far.

As we begin a new year at the

Wyandotte Nation we are excited to have some projects beginning and some ending that will not only benefit our tribal members but also the community. The water expansion will be completed providing safe water not only to our tribal citizens but to other area families as well, the construction of two

more duplexes providing affordable housing for tribal members, and we will be breaking ground on our new Culture Center/Museum in the next couple of months.

I would like to add this tidbit of history compiled by Sallie An-



See **Second Chief**, Page 3

Town Hall meetings to be held in Phoenix, Indianapolis

In 2013 the Wyandotte Nation started a new tradition of hosting off-site Town Hall meetings to be able to make connections with tribal citizens/members who live away from the Tribal headquarters.

At these meetings citizens were able to meet the Chief, Second Chief and key Wyandotte Nation staff, hear the state of the Tribe, and make connections with family members and other citizens who reside in their local areas.

This year there will be two meetings and the first of these will be held in Phoenix, Ariz. The meeting will be at the Palomar Hotel, 2 E Jefferson St, Saturday, March 14 from 10 a.m. to Noon. Lunch will be provided after the meeting and there will be a question and answer session following lunch.

Post card invitations will be mailed mid-February to all tribal citizens who reside in the state of Arizona with a request for an RSVP so the staff will be able to plan for the proper number of attendees.

All Citizens age 18 and over will receive a \$50 gift card to help offset travel expenses. Spouses



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION FILE PHOTOS
(Above) Tribal citizens listen to Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend during the Town Hall meeting held in Grapevine, Texas last year. The Town Hall meetings started in 2013 and are designed to bring the Annual Meeting in Oklahoma on the road to tribal citizens. (Right) Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Princess Emilee Wills and Chief Friend take the time for photos with tribal citizens at the Denver Town Hall meeting in 2014.



2015 Town Hall Meetings

Saturday, March 14
Phoenix, Ariz.
10 a.m. - Noon

Saturday, April 11
Indianapolis, Ind.
TBD

and children are welcome to attend all activities.

The second Town Hall meeting will be held in Indianapolis, Ind., on Saturday, April 11.

Staff are currently in negotiations with properties for this

meeting.

Invitations will be mailed by mid-March for this meeting to everyone who resides within a 250 mile radius of Indianapolis.

If you don't received a post card invitation, but feel you

live within traveling distance to either meeting and would like to attend please feel free to RSVP.

If you have any questions regarding either meeting, please contact Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-6319.

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

draws. The design and function of the Wendat longhouse told the story of the people. Built with a wooden framework, it was strong, tall, arched and bound together with cord.

The framework was covered with bark sheets that protected families and secured possessions from the weather.

Wendat longhouses had gently tapered, rounded ends and some had a storage room attached to each end. Inside the longhouse, a shelf which was used as a sleeping platform was constructed off the floor and ran along each side of the structure. High in the top of

"Have a heart that never hardens, a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts."

-- Charles Dickens

the longhouse, items were hung for safe keeping. A row of hearths was usually located along the center aisle of the longhouse, and a hole in the top of the longhouse let smoke escape.

Archeological evidence shows that the average longhouse was 27 feet in width by 100 feet in length and sheltered six families. Some longhouses reached 190 feet in length and had as many as 12 fires accommodating 24 families.

Clusters of as many as 50 to 100 longhouses containing 300 to 400 families formed a village. The longhouses were surrounded with a palisade fence to protect and secure the community.

I have been putting these historical facts in my articles to stress the importance of preserving our history and culture. The addition of the Culture Center/Museum will provide the means of preserving artifacts, stories and our language not only for our generation but most importantly for future generations.

So I am calling on our tribal citizens to help us preserve our history and culture by donating or lending artifacts, pictures, documents and military memorabilia of our Wyandotte citizens so we can

tell about the influence we have made in the growth of this great nation.

Unlike the longhouses that have disappeared from our culture the Wyandotte people remain to be resilient and able to adapt and thrive in any situation or alternative habitat. Even though we no longer live in the longhouse type of environment, it helped shape what the Wyandotte people are today.

It takes a lot of different people to make up the world today, but I am proud to say that the Wyandotte Nation is a united people heading down a true and righteous path. I am very honored and humbled to be able to help lead the Wyandotte Nation down that path.

Tizameh

Debbie Scribner

"My first experience with the Wyandotte Nation Preschool was as a parent. My two youngest children attended two years of preschool at Wyandotte Nation. It got them off to a great start academically for their next 13 years in the public school system."

Cheryl Burleson

"Every day is a new day. We never have 2 days exactly the same. I enjoy working here, you never have a dull moment!"

Shirley Mangum

"From where we were to where we are today! The accomplishment's we have made are amazing. I work with a great team of co-workers and have the pleasure of teaching children watching them grow, learn and then to see who they become. What an experience it has been."

Loretta Combes

"I love coming to work every day because I get to work with such a great staff and get to spend quality time with all the kids. Where else can you get paid to have so much fun?!"

Cristi Hudson

"I love coming to work each morning knowing that I am working with the best children in our area. I love working for the best tribe with the best staff!"

Celebrating 25 years of excellence

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool has seen several significant changes in its years, but one thing has been a constant in its 25 years – it's ongoing tradition and commitment to excellence as one of the best in the nation.

"We have faith in our children and the Wyandotte Nation has faith in the staff," said Wyandotte Nation Education Director Tammy Charles. "We offer Kumon Math to assist with the foundation for our children. This program has been tested over the years and yields high results. The Wyandotte Nation Preschool has consistently had multiple students in the top 10 of the nation."

The Preschool celebrated its 25th year Jan. 9 as faculty wore special commemorative T-shirts.

Charles, who took over as Education Director in 2010 for Carla Culver, said the preschool originated as a daycare with 24 children. When it transformed into a preschool, there were 30 students and currently the program has 80 students enrolled.

"Since I became the director, we have four classrooms for Preschool with capacity for 80 and our full service before and after school program has doubled in numbers attending," Charles said.

Culver was the first director of the preschool and remained in the position until she



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Wyandotte Nation Preschool Staff, pictured from left, (Back) Cristi Hudson, Nick Wills, Sharon Bartley, Shirley Mangum, Ashley Taffner, Cheryl Burleson. (Front) Loretta Combes, Becky Johnson, Tammy Charles, Leesa Hibbard, Debbie Scribner. Not pictured: Jolene Tucker.

retired in 2010.

"Even though there are so many programs now for 4-year olds, the Wyandotte Nation program is still near the top," Culver said. "That speaks well for the program."

"It's a great thing for the community. It serves the needs of those working parents, who know their kids are in a quality program and are being well taken care of."

As for her time as director, Culver said she loved it, even as they dealt with space issues from the beginning.

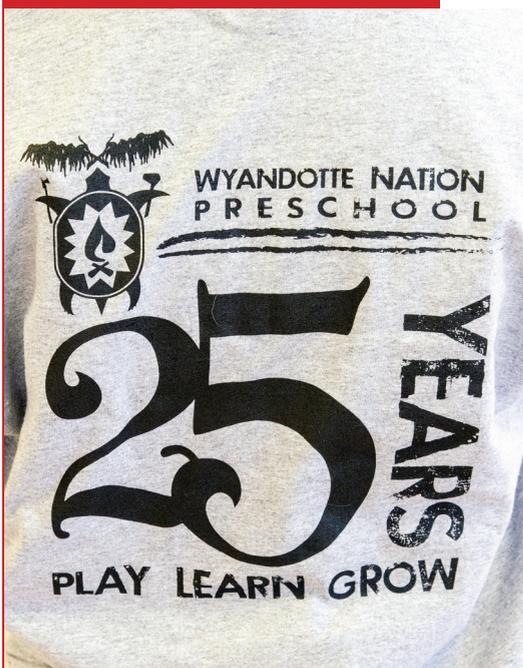
An Indian child welfare grant initially funded the child care. It was DHS licensed and it was in the little brick building on the hill. That building was overhauled by volunteer manpower prior to opening the day care with 24 children.

When the initial grant ended,

then Executive Director, Les Cusher contacted Ron Kaiser to write a grant to propose developing a preschool with Culver. The program was one of four that was funded in the United States and it began with 30 students. Prior to the implementation of all-day Kindergarten, it operated an afternoon program for those children.

"At that time, there were no 4-year old programs. To be one of four funded in the U.S. was very prestigious for such a small tribe," Culver said.

The program moved into its current location with the assistance of a Child Care and Development Block Grant. The Carla Culver Education Center, also constructed with CCDBG funds, was formally



25 Years

Continued from Page 4

dedicated in 2007.

The Wyandotte Nation Pre-school was a national model for preschools in 1993. The program started with a staff of four and now has a staff of 10 full-time and 4 part-time employees. Among those employees is Sharon Bartley, who has been there since the beginning.

"I have enjoyed working for the Wyandotte Nation for 26 years. I started when it was a daycare," Bartley said. "It was an exciting day when the announcement was made that a grant had been awarded to the Tribe and we would become a Preschool.

"I have witnessed growth in buildings and students. From a little red brick building to a new facility. I have had the pleasure watching former students return with their children to attend the preschool. To me that speaks volumes about the legacy of the preschool."

Charles said several of the children currently enrolled are children of former students.

She said thanks to the support of the Wyandotte Administration, the Preschool has been able to provide opportunities for students many public school students don't have.

"We have special events throughout the year and the staff work hard each day to give their very best," Charles said. "Our students are very fortunate to have opportunities that public schools often times can't afford, such as trips to local colleges for theater productions and field trips to local venues for educational programs."

As for the future, Charles said the Carla Culver Education Center will be receiving an addition in 2015 that will be a multi-purpose room constructed to FEMA safe room standards. Plans are also being developed for a new play structure to be erected on the front playground.

"The sky is the limit!" she said.



WNTPD takes part in 'Shop With a Cop' With a Cop'

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department participated in the "Shop With a Cop" program this year for the first time. Officers took local kids shopping for family members, helped them wrap the gifts and treated them to pizza and desserts. Pictured: Police Chief Ken Murphy with one of the children.

WILLIAM SWAIM/
WYANDOTTE NATION

Tribe supports 'Start by Believing' campaign

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation signed a proclamation at its recent board meeting, Monday, Nov. 10, to support the Start by Believing campaign, spearheaded by Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) Police Chief Ken Murphy. The Wyandotte Nation is believed to be the first to support the initiative in Oklahoma.

"We are very proud of Police Chief Ken Murphy and our police department for taking the lead in the 'We Believe Campaign' to help bring awareness to growing societal problem not only in the United States, but across Indian Country as well," Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said.

The Start by Believing campaign is aimed at focusing on the public response to sexual assault and rape by changing the way people respond to it in local communities. According to the Start by Believing website, startbybelieving.org, the initiative was launched during Sexual Assault Awareness Month in April 2011



Start by Believing is a program of End Violence Against Women International

by End Violence Against Women International (EVAWI).

According to the website, of 100 rapes committed, an estimate 5-20 are reported to police. Because rapists attack an average of six times, one failed response can equal five more victims. Start by Believing is designed to stop this cycle by "creating a positive community response, informing the public, uniting allies and supporters, and improving our personal reactions."

"This is a very important message for the public to begin changing the way we all react to victims of sexual assault," Police Chief Murphy said. "In Wyandotte, we'll Start By Believing and encourage victims to report."

He said the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police, District

Attorneys Council, Oklahoma Sheriffs Association, Native Americans Against Violence, and the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, just to name a few, will soon be making a united push to deliver the Start By Believing message across the state to make Oklahoma a Start By Believing State in 2015.

"As the incoming President of the Chiefs Association, I've made it my personal goal to better serve victims and the SBB campaign in an important first step," Chief Murphy said.

The Wyandotte Nation was not alone in supporting the campaign as town officials in Wyandotte also signed a proclamation for their support of the initiative at their board meeting.

Any community or tribe can support the campaign or launch their own campaign -- resources are available on the website. For more information on the Start by Believing campaign, visit the website, contact Chief Murphy, or the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police.



Redefining casino 'entertainment'

ARTIST RENDERING

A rendering of the new Wyandotte Nation Casino entrance, depicted at the conclusion of phase 2 of the project. Phase 1 of the project is nearing completion with the recent opening of Club 60 West and other amenities.

Wyandotte Nation Casino gets innovative in expansion, renovation project

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

In a highly competitive market, when it came to renovating and expanding the Wyandotte Nation Casino, the goal was to 'innovate' and not 'duplicate' what others were doing in the region.

"By any measure the patrons will have a sense of a totally new casino with very little of anything that resembles the casino prior to the remodel," said Gary Johnson, the Wyandotte Nation Casino General Manager. "It will be a whole new experience. The expansion will allow us to add more games and more variety than ever before."

The Wyandotte Nation Casino is nearing completion of its extensive expansion and redesign. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said it is important to offer entertainment, setting the Wyandotte Nation Casino apart.

"When the team sat down and really got creative and came up with this project, we fell in love with it. We're very excited about it. We are

offering something different in the market we are in," the Chief said. "Most people who aren't from this area don't understand how competitive it is. This sets us apart."

Chief Friend said most expansions in this area have been on the hotel side or the gaming side of things.

He said this project wasn't really focused on a gaming expansion, but more on providing another entertainment option for those who may not necessarily be into gaming, but maybe "want to come hear a band, dance or maybe even bowl a few games."

The \$7 million phase one renovation gives the casino a very modern and contemporary look, and expands it by 25,000 square feet to make room for new features such as Club 60 West, a new event and concert venue, bowling lanes, restaurant remodel and expansion, plus meeting and party rooms.

"I think what we tried to accomplish when we set out on this project was something different from an entertainment perspective

than what any of our competitors had," said Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO Kelly Carpino. WTOK is the Wyandotte Nation's federally chartered corporation and provides economic development support for the Tribe.

"Whether it is a band, a concert, a comedian or whatever we choose – we wanted to create an experience where people can have more of a social gathering spot - a place where they could come for a night of fun."

In addition to the other new features, the Twin Bridges Restaurant was revamped with a contemporary look, nearly doubled in size and includes a martini bar, private dining and a new menu.

"After a year of planning and another year of construction we are about to see phase one of our two phase remodel and expansion come to completion," Johnson said. "The ultimate floor layout and game placement won't be completed until phase two is finished."

Phase two will feature an expanded gaming floor accommodating nearly 300

Casino

Continued from Page 6

additional games, a new and relocated high limit slot area with a VIP lounge. It will also feature a new and enlarged players club, gift shop along with conveniently located casino host and group sales offices.

One of the most striking features will be a light display as patrons enter the building similar to the light features in the ceiling added as part of the phase one remodel. This same feature will be added to the exterior of the building featuring 12 illuminated columns, each depicting one of the 12 Clans that make up the Wyandotte Nation.

In addition to the event center and Club 60 West, phase one included a remodel of the existing casino floor including new carpet, a redesign and decorative treatment of the columns, restroom and cashier counter upgrades, the addition of a floor bar on the west end of the casino, and a complete redesign of the Casino Deli and seating area.

Phase two, when finished will marry the two sections and add additional and ceiling and light-



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
The bowling lanes have the added benefit of a big screen TV projection system, so patrons will never miss a minute of their favorite sporting events while racking up the strikes. These amenities are open 11 a.m. until the club bar closes following last call and are rented by the half hour. Patrons can rent a pool table or bowling alley individually or combine them with a party room for group events.

ing features different from those in phase one.

Upon completion of phase two, which is the Casino's 12,500 sq. foot addition to the north, the floor will be completed along with the pathways that will lead patrons through the Casino and to the various venues.

Not only will phase two offer more gaming space and many new games, but it will move the Casino entrance and the porte cochere to face Hwy 60.

The new high limit slot area will be located right upon entering. The new high limit slot area was designed to offer both luxury

and comfort to the Casino's high limit players.

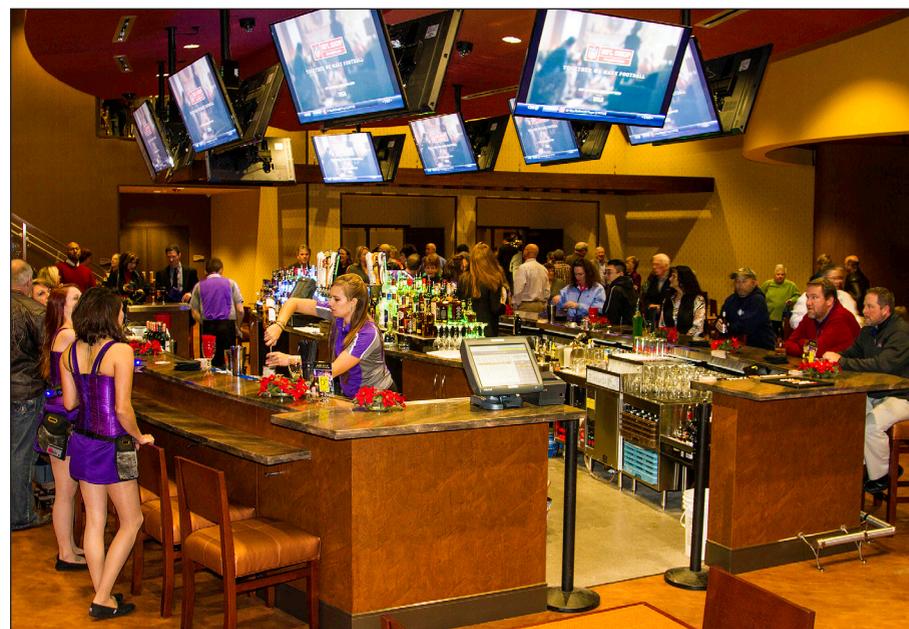
Besides the game area, the Casino has added a very plush and comfortable VIP lounge where these players can take a break, watch TV, read the newspaper or just relax.

No less important is the treatment the building is getting on the outside. Besides the new entrance, the exterior of the building will have a colorful new look and illuminated features.

"We think it will be impossible to drive by without stopping to check us out, and once in you'll be treated to an experience unlike any other," Johnson said.

Johnson said he expects the project to be completely done late February – weather permitting.

"I couldn't be prouder of the time, effort and long hours the staff has put in to make it happen. And judging by positive and enthusiastic comments we've received from the players that stuck with us throughout the project while putting up with the chaos, the dust and the noise -- they can't wait to enjoy everything we're going to be offering," Johnson said.



(LEFT) The Diversity Band performed on the Event Center stage during the Wyandotte Nation's annual Christmas Party for employees. (RIGHT) Club 60 West opened with a VIP event Thursday evening, Dec. 4, featuring a new bar and other amenities.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

7th Street Casino hires new General Manager

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

7th Street Casino, 777 N. 7th Street Trafficway, Kansas City, Kansas, recently hired Kevin Lien to be its new General Manager.



"We are very excited to have Kevin Lien join our Wyandotte Nation Team as GM for 7th Street Casino," said Kelly Carpino, CEO of Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK).

"He brings with him a wealth of experience and knowledge in the gaming industry. In addition, Kevin's values and leadership style fit very well with who we are as an organization. We are very enthusiastic about the continued success



COURTESY PHOTO

Kevin Lien takes over as General Manager for 7th Street Casino.

of our property under his leadership."

WTOK is the federally recognized corporation for the Wyandotte Nation and provides economic development support for the Tribe.

Lien has 16 years of experience in the gaming industry including 11 years as a General Manager, having previously managed casinos in South Dakota, Michigan and most recently Wisconsin, where he oversaw the Legendary Waters Resort & Casino in Red Cliff.

Lien has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from Arizona State University and was an Accounting major at Northern State University.

When he is not working, he enjoys biking, kayaking and skiing.

"I enjoy anything that involves the outdoors," Lien said.

SONIC celebrates 1-year anniversary

Our SONIC Drive-In in Seneca celebrated its one year anniversary Nov. 18. Employees who have worked since the beginning (the full year) were presented jackets and the staff celebrated with cake.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION



Collinsworth earns Master's Certificate in Government Contract Management

It took 32 weeks of classes over three summers, but Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma and Bearskin Services Administrative Assistant Debra Collinsworth received her Master's Certificate in Government Contracting from Villanova University.

"It definitely increased my knowledge of contract workings. I could also do it online so I didn't have to miss work," said Collinsworth, a tribal member.

"It really has helped - I feel



I got a lot more out of it than the previous two and three day classes I had taken before."

Lucky Turtle Casino starts the new year on a winning note

By **WACY HUMBLE**

Lucky Turtle Casino sent 2014 out in style with Lucky's Green Tie Affair! It goes without saying, the Lucky Turtle was the place to be to ring in the New Year with \$115 cash drawings every 20 minutes, and even a \$1,015 cash prize to conclude the celebration! It was truly an excit-

ing night, and a great way to bring in the New Year.

Lucky Turtle Casino started the new year off on a winning note with the introduc-



tion of Power Hour Fridays! Guests have thoroughly enjoyed Power Hour Sundays since the inception of the promotion in 2013, so we decided to create double the fun with Power Hour Fridays. With \$100 cash going every 15 minutes from 7pm to 9pm every Friday, what's not to love!

But that's not where the fun ends, starting Feb. 1, guests can earn

drawing entries at the Lucky Turtle Casino and Wyandotte Nation Casino through VGT, AGS, and Cadillac Jack slot machines for the \$10,000 Bourbon Street Bash! On Feb. 17 at Wyandotte Nation Casino, we will draw nine lucky players to compete

See **Lucky Turtle**, Page 9

7th Street enjoys 2014, sets sights on a successful 2015

By BRAD LAMBERTUS

As we enter into a new year, we can look back into 2014 and feel proud of what we have accomplished as a team here at 7th Street Casino. A year



of philanthropy, new faces and celebration, we hope everyone enjoyed 2014 as much as we did. 7th Street Casino is excited for the future and look forward for another successful year.

Every year, 7th Street Casino team members have the chance to celebrate the holidays, enjoy refreshments, holiday gifts, and shopping at Sam's Club. We pride ourselves in

creating a healthy work environment by giving back to our 7th Street Casino team members. The team enjoys being able to rejoice the holiday season in the same place that they can get their seasonal shopping done. The Casino sponsors the event by working with Sam's Club to allow team members to shop there without having a membership.

We are excited to have Kevin Lien join our team as General Manager here at 7th Street Casino. Kevin has 16 years of experience in the gaming industry, including 11 years as a General Manager, having previously managed casinos in South Dakota, Michigan and most recently Wisconsin, where he oversaw the Legendary

Waters Resort & Casino in Red Cliff.

The New Year's Eve event "Confetti of Cash" was a celebration unlike no other and one that definitely rang in 2015. The casino was packed full and ready for a night of good times and giveaways. As the countdown to the New Year struck zero, confetti cannons blasted into the air filling the 3rd floor with color. "Auld Lang Syne" played throughout the casino as the last of the confetti touched the ground and friends toasted glasses of champagne. With over \$11,000 in giveaways, many of our players walked away knowing 7th Street Casino is the place to celebrate a wonderful year of 2014 and the bright future of 2015.

7th Street Casino is turning seven this year! To celebrate this, we will be giving away \$7,700 in cash on Jan. 21. We will be doing hot seats from noon to 7 p.m. and four winners will win every hour. We have also created a "Limited Edition Gold Card" for our patrons to reminisce the years. 7th Street Casino has grown tremendously in these past 7 years and wishes to continue to develop even more with the years to come.

7th Street Casino is grateful for the success this past year has brought us. With a new look, new ideas, and new faces, 7th Street Casino will continue to prevail. Keep an eye on us in 2015, we will be sure to make heads turn.

Wyandotte Casino opens newest addition - Club 60 West

By CASEY ELLETT

Club 60 West has opened, and the reviews have been fantastic. Our soft opening Dec. 4 included a wide range of predominant community members including countless TV, radio, and newspaper media outlets. Just days after the soft opening the Club 60 West Event Center featured its first major concert event as "Members Only," a regional favorite 80s tribute band, took the stage Dec. 6. Needless to say, the concert went over incredibly well,



producing gaming floor numbers we had not seen since construction began in November 2013. The Club 60 West entertainment run did not end there. Since the initial concert, Club 60 West has been visited by "Stonehorse" (a Springfield variety band), "Diversity" (a Pittsburgh cover band), "Funk Syndicate" (a Kansas

City party band), and "Scott Keo" (a Michael Bublé tribute show). Each show has drawn a different type of crowd, but all have been met with an outstanding response.

All of the Wyandotte Nation Casino staff (including myself) are doing our best to patiently wait for the final construction walls to come down, and unveil our brand-new completed Wyandotte Nation Casino. Even though moments of this 14-month construction process have been difficult to endure, we know the final product will be more than worth the wait.

Promotionally we have a great variety of giveaway, drawings, slot tournaments, and incentive based events in the months to come. We are still ironing out some details for our March grand opening plans, but trust me when I say, it is going to be an exciting month with some unbelievable prizes.

As always, I would like to recognize all the parties who make Wyandotte Nation Casino the wonderful place it is. Thank you for all you do. You are the reason this place feels like home.

Wyandotte Nation Casino Food and Beverage off to blazing start this winter

By KATY BERRYMAN

The Wyandotte Nation Casino Food and Beverage department is off to a blazing start this winter! There has been new developments and improvements in Twin Bridges Restaurant, the Casino Deli, and the Club 60 West bar.

Twin Bridges Restaurant debuted a completely new menu Dec. 1. Giving the restaurant guests new

dishes to discover, and twists on old TBR favorites. Also, custom artwork is now adorning the walls of the restaurant. Various bridge images complete with bold frames give the restaurant a polished look that perfectly complements its recent renovation. Overall, unique nightly specials and exceptional customer service keep the restaurant packed each week.

The Casino Deli has continued to

thrive with its new menu. Recently, homemade pastries have been added to the deli case, which have been enjoyed by all. This combined with the Morning Mob Breakfast Special, and a series of holiday treats have kept the Casino Deli extremely busy, and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

Club 60 West is now serving up a daily bar menu for those lunch, dinner, and late night crowds. From

chicken wings with unique sauces, to juicy sliders and custom thin-crust pizzas, it's the perfect spot for a late night snack, or game day meal.

Once again, there is always something new, improved, and exciting when it comes to the Wyandotte Nation Casino Food and Beverage department. The consistent creativity, expertise, and impeccable customer service keep guests and staff happy month after month.

Lucky Turtle

Continued from Page 8

for \$10,000 in prizes, including a \$5,000 CASH grand prize!

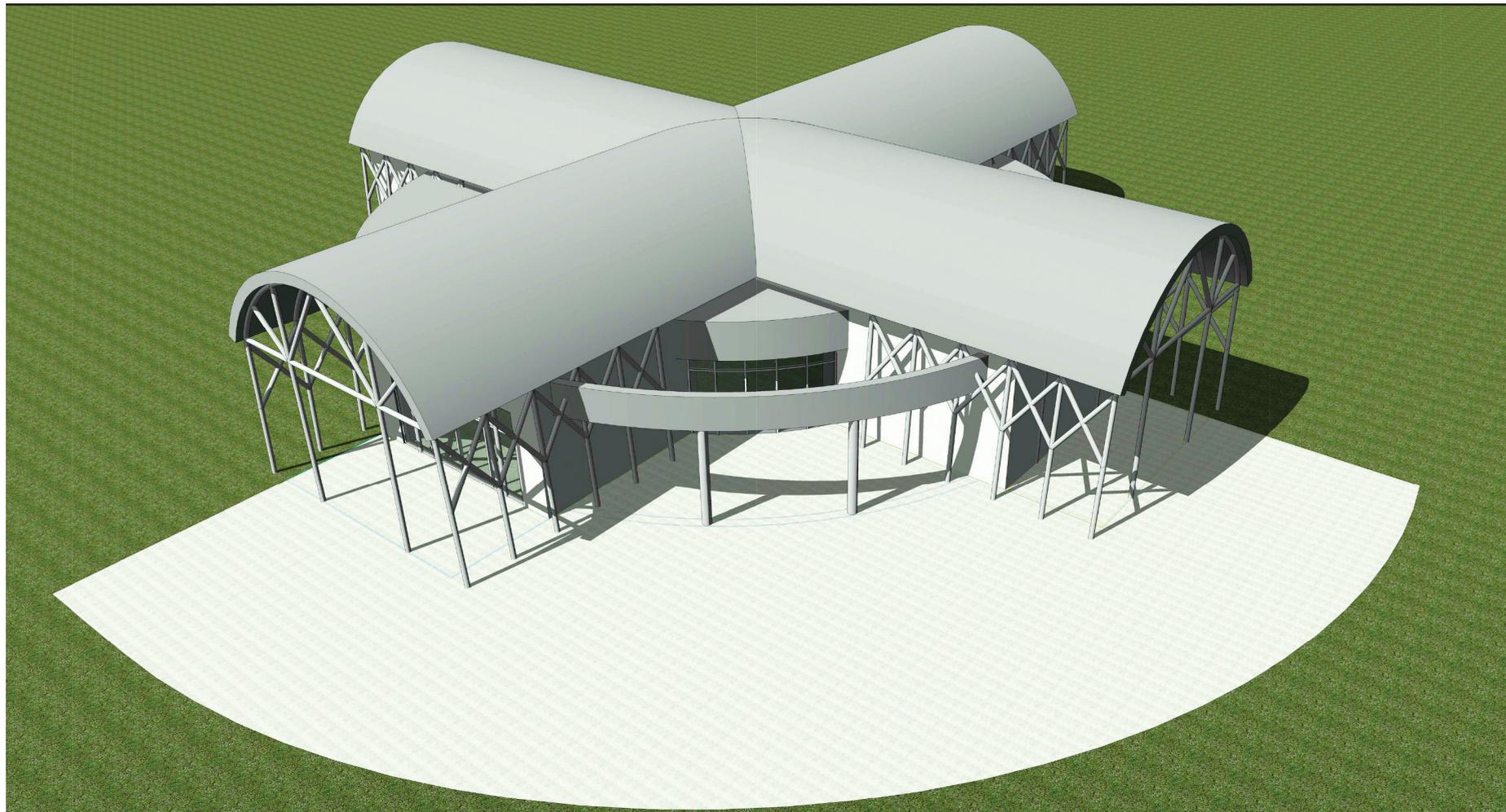
Plus, in celebration of Fat Tuesday, guests can enjoy free beads and

great Zydeco music throughout the evening.

In the month of March, we will celebrate St. Patrick's Day Lucky Turtle-style! Power Pick drawings will take place every 20 minutes

from 2-5 p.m. for \$50 FREE PLAY! And, of course free popcorn and party favors will be distributed to all partygoers throughout the afternoon. This is a celebration you do not want to miss!

As always, we greatly appreciate all of our valued guests and team members at Lucky Turtle Casino, and look forward to the many new and exciting things to happen in the future!



Preserving History

Cultural Center to be gathering spot for tribal members

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

In an effort to preserve Wyandotte Nation heritage and culture, the Tribe has moved forward with plans for an approximate 7,000 square foot Cultural Center to be built near the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center in Wyandotte, Okla.

“It’s important to preserve our heritage and our culture,” said Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand. “And to have a facility that will educate our people and the public about what our culture is, where we come from and where we are going.”

Wyandotte Nation Planning Director Ron Kaiser said they have been looking at a project like this for some time. “One of the things the Tribe had been looking to develop was some kind of museum, some kind of expression of the Tribe’s culture and history. In recent years the Tribe has looked more at educating Wyandottes on their culture, and to then continue that and to express it to other people.”

Designs for the exciting new Cultural Center include classrooms, a multipurpose area, meeting and conference rooms, a small research library, gift shop, and the museum. The multipurpose room can be divided into

three rooms and holds seating for about 140-150 people.

“It’s where people are going to learn, kids are going to learn, and the community will learn what it means to be Wyandotte, what it means to carry on the traditions,” said Tribal Heritage Director Sherri Clemons.

Clemons said the facility will always be in use. She said they are working at having the Tribe’s linguist doing online classes at different times if people want to learn the language. There will be lots of classes, such as beading, moccasin, and dance classes.

“We have several young tribal members interested in learning to Pow-Wow dance,” she said.

Plans also include an outdoor plaza with an open fire pit and an outdoor classroom.

“The Wyandottes were keepers of the council fire so we are going

to have an eternal flame,” Hildebrand said. “You’ll be able to see Lost Creek, there will be a great view up there and we’ll have plenty of room to hold dances or outdoor classes.”

Hildebrand said the Cultural Center design is a medicine wheel concept. Tom Boxley, of Tulsa, is the architect who created the design. His firm worked on the Quapaw Tribe’s museum.

The project is expected to cost around \$1.3 to \$1.4 million. Most of the funding comes from an Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) the Wyandotte Nation applied for through HUD. The grant was \$800,000 with 20 percent in matching grant funds coming from the Tribe.

History

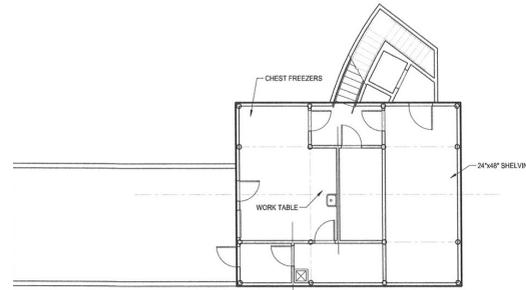
Continued from Page 10

Hildebrand said the rest of the project will be funded through economic development provided by the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), the Tribe's federally-chartered corporation.

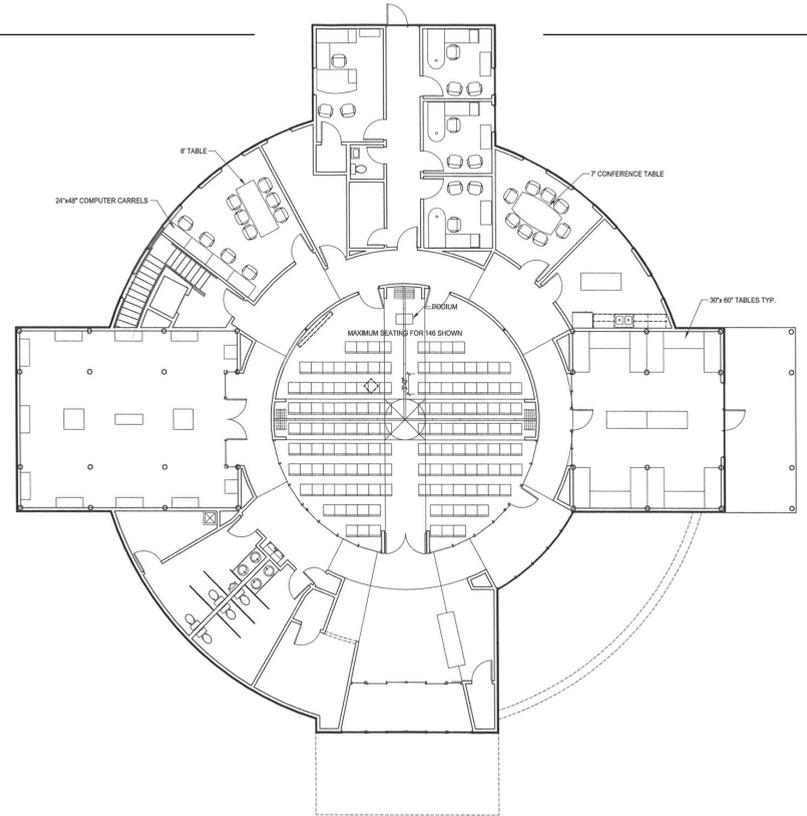
Bids opened January 2015 for the project and the goal is to have most of the project completed before the Annual Meeting and Gathering in September.

"Hopefully, 90 percent will be done by September," Hildebrand said. "Because we have our Annual Meeting in September, we'd like the biggest part done by then so those attending can get a look at it, get a feel for it. Hoping it is done in the Fall or early Winter - weather permitting."

Clemons said the Wyandotte Nation has gathered many items, archives, documents and artifacts for the planned museum and resource library, but are looking for more.



Clemons can be reached at (918) 678-2297 ext. 244 for those interested in donating or loaning items to the Culture Center.



"The goal is to build a Cultural Center that will provide the Tribal community with a place for learning Wyandotte Culture,

teaching Wyandotte Culture and explaining Wyandotte Culture," Kaiser said.



Service Awards



Kathy Deweese (Above left), 20 years, and Don Graham (Above right), 5 years, were recognized for their service to the Wyandotte Nation. The Wyandotte Nation also honored employees that assisted when the Fitness Center was on fire (Steve Walker, Tim Harnar, Nick Baron, Holly Hilliard, and Kortney Nesvold).

COURTESY PHOTO

Saturday April 18, 2015

SUPERHERO 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run

Help Fight Crime by putting a STOP to bullying! Join us in raising awareness!

- 77 percent of students have admitted to being the victim of one type of bullying or another
- A reported 16 percent of all students who don't show up for school report it to being out of fear of being bullied without school
- Among students of all ages, homicide perpetrators were found to be twice as likely as homicide victims to have been bullied previously by their peers

www.bullyingstatistics.org

Start time: 8:00 AM

Registration Pick-Up Time: 6:15 AM–7:30 AM

Costume Contest for children and adults

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

1 Turtle Drive

Wyandotte, Oklahoma 74370

Tel: 918.678.2070

Registration will begin soon at:

www.racesonline.com




MEMBER NEWS

'Native'

--Submitted by Ciara Jordan Cotter

The ground we stand on has footprints
They are hidden beneath concrete and
asphalt, beneath buildings and homes.

We cover them so we don't have to
remember who once stood there
The ones with copper skin, who lived
so long ago.

The children with slanted eyes and
dark hair.

The children with dark and pale skin.
The children who know the legends
stand on the ground every day.
They think "This is stolen land"
The white man will say we are the
enemy.

They flip sides, folding and pressing
words into books to make it seem as if
we were savages who deserved what we
got.

We were simply misunderstood.

Where was the white man's humanity
when we were herded like cattle?

Where was his sympathy when we lay
sick and dying?

Where was the brotherhood when he
forced us to leave the only home we've
ever known?

To our white brothers we say thank
you.

You showed us that we could coexist
The other white men did not agree,
calling us red skinned devils, but you
showed us compassion.

The native children who sit in class are
taught about their own culture.

They are reprimanded for speaking up.
They who grew up with the legends
and stories.

They who know the way of life like they
know the road.

Are they incorrect?

Do they compare to a man who was
taught by a man about a culture he did
not live for?

A culture he did not practice?

Native children, we are strong.
We know the land.
We hear the voices in the wind.
We feel the many lives of the river.
We know what every living creature is
here for, what his movement signals.
We thank the Creator, for he knows
better than we do.
We are all connected through culture.
We are Indian.
We are still here.



Announcements

Hudson Lee Roza

Dec. 15, 2014
8 lbs 1 oz
19 3/4 long

Hudson Lee Roza is the son of Sara and Rodrigo Roza, grandson of Mardi Jarvis Parks and great-grandson of Evalyn Volz Jarvis. Hudson was also welcomed home by his big brother, Jackson.

Member News & Letters

ATEC Scholarship awarded to Seigel

At it's September meeting, the All Tribes Education Consortium (ATEC), located in Miami, Okla., awarded scholarships to 17 Native American students. On Nov. 22, 2014, ATEC hosted a Meet & Greet Reception at the Peoria Ridge Golf Course in Miami.

Wyandotte Nation tribal member Toery Seigel, a freshman at NEO A&M, was one of the 17 awarded the scholarship.

ATEC was organized as a non-profit organization to provide scholarships for Native American students to further their educations.

ATEC was organized in 2001 with a written constitution and by-laws by a small group of educators and those interested in promoting, preserving the native languages and cultural traditions of all local tribes.

ATEC is a non-funded organization relying on fundraising activities and gifts. Through these efforts, ATEC has awarded 249 scholarships totaling \$75,000.

Thank you Turtle Tots!

"Thank you" for all the hard work and patience you had with our two boys. You were very valuable to them and us as parents. You help each child find their individual self. Great work!

Our children were so blessed to have been in your program; and all you do at Turtle Tots makes it a wonderful place for children to grown and learn.

Our family has been blessed by the work you do. Thank you for your commitment to raising children in a learning environment. Turtle Tots was such a blessing to our family.

Thank you for your dedication and your Kumon math program worked wonders for our boys! They both went on to get college degrees and we feel that Turtle Tots was the foundation that helped them achieve their goals. They attended the program in 1992 and 1995; Sharon Bartley was on staff then and still is today. Big thank you to her!

Sincerely,
Becki Burleson

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is very happy to welcome Rachel Butterfield, Laci Brewster and Debra Haynes to the staff.

Rachel will serve as a Substitute Teacher's Assistant. She is currently a senior attending Seneca High School. She enjoys volleyball and is a member of various clubs. Rachel is active

with her youth group at Racine Christian Church and likes spending time with her family.



Butterfield

in her spare time she enjoys hunting and fishing. Teresa also enjoys spending time with her family. She has lived in the Wyandotte area for many years. We are very happy to have Teresa on our Title VI team.



Vazquez

The Accounting Department is very happy to welcome Lori Vazquez. Lori will serve as an Accounting Clerk II and will be responsible for processing payroll and other accounting duties for Wyandotte Nation.

Lori has a strong background in Accounting. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and is very active in her church.

The Wyandotte Nation Planning and Development Department is very happy to welcome tribal member Robby Graham. Robby is our new Land Management Technician. In his spare time



Graham

he enjoys spending time with his family. He also enjoys gardening, fishing and spending time outdoors.

The Bearskin Fitness Center is very excited to welcome Steve Walker to the team. Steve will serve as a Fitness Center Supervisor and will assist the department in its day to day

operations. Steve has more than 18 years of experience in the fitness area and brings a wealth of knowledge with him. In his spare time he enjoys getting together with friends. He also enjoys spending time body building and power lifting.

We are very fortunate to have these new staff members on our team and wish them success in their new positions.



Haynes

enjoying competition dance with her daughter, and enjoys spending time with her family. Debra will serve as the Librarian. Debra has more than 19 years of experience, 17 of those were spent in Carthage and two in Joplin. She enjoys spending time with her family. She has been married for 43 years and has one daughter. Debra also enjoys gardening.

The Elder Services Department is very excited to welcome tribal member Teresa Wilson as the newest Food Service Team Member. In her



Wilson

Wyandotte Nation Summer Youth Program

The Wyandotte Nation Government is seeking Wyandotte Nation Tribal Members to fill 25 positions for the 2015 Summer Youth Program.

Criteria for this program

- Enrolled in high school or college (as a full time student=12 hours) and must provide proof of enrollment on first day of work
- If previous participant in program was a college student, must show proof college semester was completed
- Must be ages 16-22
- Must be enrolled as a Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizen
- Have dependable transportation to and from work
- Ability to fulfill the requirements of the assigned position
- Previous participants must have completed prior year in good standing
- Pass a background check and drug screen

Eligible participants will work 40 hours per work at \$8.50/hour. Current as-

signments are available in the following areas: Bearskin Fitness Center, Title VI (Elder Services), Wyandotte Nation Administration, Education, Housing, Environmental, Maintenance Department, Law Enforcement, Turtle Stop, WNC Gaming, 7th Street Casino Gaming and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (Economic Development). The Summer Youth Program will begin the Monday following the last day of school.

Applications are available at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 64700 East Highway 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370 and must be submitted by April 15, 2015. Positions are limited and will be filled based on availability so please submit your application as soon as possible. If you have previously been a participant in the summer youth program you still need to contact Human Resources.

For more information and to schedule an interview please contact Deana Howard or Becki Burleson at 918-678-6320 or 6337, email beckib@wyandotte-nation.org or fax 918-678-4801. Thank you.

Family Services

Submitted by Kate Randall

For those of you that attended the 2014 Children's Christmas Party, I hope you enjoyed the morning as much as the staff of the Wyandotte Nation did. This year, a new Christmas background provided for great photo opportunities with both Mr. and Mrs. Santa Claus. As in years past, the Christmas photos are available to you. Please call Dana Butterfield in the family services department to get the photos mailed to you, come by the office, or you can

pick up your pictures at next year's Christmas party. There were 180 children in attendance. Our goal for next year is 200. Help us make that happen!

Our tribal families are our priority. Please keep in mind that the Wyandotte Nation encourages its citizens to send their human interest stories for publication. Whether it is your children, yourself, or your business, the citizens enjoy reading about other Wyandotte families. Although there are a multitude of social media

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 13

options, the Nation's website, and Facebook, the tribal newsletter is another way to reach out, make new friends, and share information. While our children grow up in this ever changing environment let us remember the words of Standing Bear, an Oglala Lakota:

"So if today I had a young mind to direct, to start on the journey of life, and I was faced with the duty of choosing between the natural way of my forefathers and that of the white man's present way of civilization, I would, for its welfare, unhesitatingly set that child's feet in the path of my forefathers. I would raise him to be an Indian."

As the Wyandotte people continue to expand upon their culture, let your children not forget where his/her ancestors came from.

FAMILY SERVICES PROGRAMS:

All Programs require applications: Applications may be requested by phone, by fax or by email. (Many of the family services applications are available on the Nation's website)

OKLAHOMA LIHEAP: The "Low Income Home Energy Assistance" program was funded for the winter of 2014/15. Tribal LIHEAP is for Oklahoma residents and proof of income is required. There is LIHEAP set aside funds which will be allowed in the summer of 2015 for crisis utility assistance. Shut off notices are required for crisis assistance.

SENIOR CITIZEN WINTER ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM:

Winter utility assistance began Oct. 1, 2014, and ends March 1, 2015. Eligibility requirements were revised in 2014: The senior age is now 55+ and residing in the 4-State area (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas). An application and current energy bill is required. \$100 is paid directly to the utility provider. The summer senior utility program will begin on July 1, 2015.

ELDERS ASSISTANCE: The Elders program provides a reimbursement of \$250 to seniors 55+ that reside in the 4-State area (Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas). Most household expenses are reimbursable. A vendor may be paid directly, if you choose. The Elders program began on Oct. 1, 2014 and will end Sept. 30, 2015.

NEW ENROLLEE BENEFIT: This

Annual Christmas Party

The Wyandotte Nation held its annual Children's Christmas Party Saturday, Dec. 13, at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gym. The children were treated to cookies, got to visit and take a picture with Santa Claus, and picked out a Christmas gift.

WILLIAM SWAIM/
WYANDOTTE NATION



Nationwide program provides a \$100 gift card, as well as a baby blanket with the Tribal Logo. The enrollment application must be received in the enrollment office before a child's first birthday. Please note the deadline for enrollment for 2015 will be Aug. 15.

CHILDRENS WINTER CLOTHING: NOTE CHANGE IN EFFECTIVE DATE FOR THIS PROGRAM:

Please note the childrens winter clothing program for 2014 has been moved up to Nov. 1 (formerly effective Dec. 1). The winter clothing program will expire March 1. If you have not sent in your Walmart receipts for gift cards, please do so. The radius

of this program includes the four state area: Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri. Preschool age students through 12th grade are eligible. The program allows for reimbursement of clothing to parent (with proof of receipts), or you may request a Walmart gift card.

CHILDRENS SCHOOL EXPENSE AND EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

This program was revised in the fall of 2014. The program begins Oct. 1 of each year for the fall school semester. School age children living in the 4-State area are eligible to apply. The benefit is \$100 per student. This includes school lunches, pictures, dues for school programs, and

activities your child is enrolled in. However, please note, school supplies are NO LONGER allowed under this program. This program allows for reimbursement to the parent with proof of payment, or a vendor may be paid directly with the appropriate invoices.

JUNIOR/SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL BENEFIT:

The \$250 reimbursement program may be used for expenses such as class rings, graduation announcements, cap and gown, letter jackets (to name a few allowable expenses). The Wyandotte Nation can pay the vendor directly, or reimburse

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 14

your family with proof of receipts. All juniors and seniors living in the 4-State area are encouraged to apply to help offset the expenses associated with graduation.

INFANT/CHILDREN PASSENGER SAFETY SEATS: The family services department has an array of infant and children's safety seats from birth up to 100 pounds. All infant seats must be picked up at the tribal headquarters by a parent or family member.

PROMOTING SAFE & STABLE FAMILIES: This State and Federal Program was designed to assist Tribal Families; to prevent the breakup of Indian Families; and to provide emergency services to at risk families with children. No radius restrictions apply if your children are involved in State Court Proceedings. All intakes are kept confidential. Please call if you have any issues pertaining to the safety and well-being of our tribal children. The 1978 Indian Child Welfare Act, which can be found online, is a valuable source of reference about the Tribe's right to intervene in State Court Proceedings.

FUEL ASSISTANCE: Tribal members utilizing the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center may apply for travel fuel assistance or reimbursement. Oftentimes, the medical appointments are with physicians referred through contract health services. These appointments may require travelling outside the Wyandotte area to see specialists. There are several options for medical fuel depending on the number of appointments an individual has and the location(s) of those appointments. As patient information is confidential, the family services office would need verification of the date and location of your appointment(s). Additionally, if there has been a recent hardship in your family, (such as loss of employment, change of employment, illness in the family, or for personal reasons) you may obtain a hardship fuel voucher in person at the tribal headquarters. Please call if you have any questions.

ENROLLMENT: The Enrollment Department will accept applications year round. However, new members are only added once a year at the Annual Meeting. This meeting is held each year on the second Saturday in September as mandated by the

Wyandotte Nation Constitution. This year's meeting will be held Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gymnasium. To be eligible for enrollment with the Wyandotte Nation an individual must be able to trace to a biological ancestor on a Wyandotte Nation roll dating from 1881 to current and not be an enrolled member/citizen of another federally recognized tribe. Each application MUST be accompanied by an original state certified birth certificate, as well as any other supporting legal documents as requested by Enrollment staff. DNA will only be accepted to prove paternity. To obtain an application please contact a staff member of the Enrollment/ Family Services Department. The deadline for applications to be received and be considered for the current year enrollment is Aug. 15.

TRIBAL TAGS: Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the state of Oklahoma are eligible to title and register their motor vehicles with the Nation. Currently, the Nation is registering passenger vehicles, RV's, travel trailers and motorcycles. Handicapped plates are available for those who meet the requirements and individuals must obtain a form from the Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission to submit to their physician for completion. Citizens may be asked to provide proof of residency to be eligible for this program. Fees for the program include registration ranging from \$9 to \$51 depending on the year of the vehicle, excise tax for new purchases based on the year, make and model of the vehicle and \$10 for titles. Appointments are suggested, but not required.

SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH BENEFIT "BENNY CARD:" The Supplemental Health Benefit has been renewed for 2015. Over the past two years this program has paid out over \$5 million and has been a great benefit for our citizens nationwide. Tribal citizens should receive quarterly statements from CoreSource with account balances or can be checked through the on-line portal. However, citizens can contact CoreSource or Family Services staff to obtain this information.

Wyandotte Nation citizens age 18 and over are eligible for a \$1,000 benefit and citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents under the age of 18 will receive a \$2,000 benefit (the family benefit

does not cover spouses of tribal citizens or other non-enrolled family members). Funds can be used to pay for health care needs not met by insurance or if no insurance is available.

The Benny card can't be used for over the counter medicines such as pain relievers and cold/flu remedies or insurance premiums.

There are two ways to access the funds. The first is by using your Benny card. The card can be swiped at any facility that accepts MasterCard AND has an IRS approved inventory control system in place (most medical facilities and businesses with pharmacies such as Walmart, Walgreens, CVS, etc.). The other option is to pay for medical expenses up front and submit a claim form to CoreSource along with receipts for reimbursement.

Citizens have until Feb. 28, 2015 to file claims for 2014 funds. If you have questions about this benefit you can contact any of the Family Services staff or CoreSource directly at (800) 990-9058 x42086.

BURIAL ASSISTANCE: This program is available to all enrolled citizens nationwide and will pay \$1,500 toward the expense of funerals, burials, cremations, etc. A burial application must be submitted to the Family Services Department along with a copy of the state certified death certificate and an itemized statement from the service provider i.e. funeral home.

Payment will be made directly to the provider unless there is verification that the services have been paid in full.

pipe, well, well-house, pump house, and extensive water distribution system. The results of water quality tests for new well illustrate no heavy metals present and of good quality. The standpipe has been painted. New water distribution mains have been installed. Paving of roadways and service line installation still remains.

- Have completed with the design programming process with EWC1, architects, for the Culture Center. Currently the project implementation team completed the design work and has reviewed construction documents. The environmental review has been completed. The project has been advertised for construction bids, with bid opening at the end of January.
- The third ICDBG project is also underway. This project provides expansion to the Ardie Nesvold Community Center Title 6 Building to include an activity room that will function as 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. EWC1 has been selected to be project Architect. The implementation team will be meeting to develop final project plans. The environmental review is awaiting final publication.

Planning staff have been working with BIA to have Wyandotte Nation owned lands placed in Trust. Back in October we reported that Notification had 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 that appeal, Kansas is now appealing to the Department of Interior's Board of Indian Appeals. The Tribe is still awaiting a decision.

Robby Graham has joined the Planning Department as the Tribe's Land Management Technician.

If you have any questions for the Planning/Development Dept. you can contact: Ron Kaiser, Planning Director, (918) 678-6325.

Planning / Development

Submitted by Ron Kaiser

There are currently three Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) projects that are being worked on. These projects are funded by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- The new water system expansion project, which will include; 70,000 gallon stand-

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Education

Submitted by Tammy Charles

The fall and winter season was the setting for many events in the Child Care Department. We held our annual Preschool Thanksgiving Dinner Nov. 18, 2014. All in attendance enjoyed a wonderful program of songs and poems by our students as well as a bountiful harvest feast.

As we approached the Christmas holidays, the classroom parties and program for families were well attended and the children enjoyed a special visit from Santa. The Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow is scheduled for April 9, 2015. Preschool Graduation is planned for May 12, 2015 at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium. We will begin our Summer Program on May 18.

The annual report for our Child Care and Development Fund was submitted and we are delighted to share that we serviced 157 children from 105 families and their average cost for child care per child was \$23.07 per month during fiscal year 2014. More importantly, it is very nice to see more Wyandotte Nation tribal families requesting child care assistance. If you have any questions about this program, do not hesitate to contact us. The income criteria is based off of net income and our monthly copayments are very affordable.

The beginning of a new year always brings much activity. We begin a new semester for Preschool and our college students return to their studies after a much deserved holiday break. Transcripts are being submitted and scholarship checks are being processed. The spring semester is also the time to request scholarship applications for graduating seniors. Please remember that we are also providing assistance for high school students who are pursuing college courses concurrently when funds are available. It was announced at annual meeting that the Master's level scholarships will be lengthened by one semester making a total of four semesters of eligibility.

A group of Wyandotte Nation tribal youth attended the Oklahoma State University Native American High School Day Nov. 22. The students had the opportunity to participate in a walking tour of the campus hosted by the Native American Student Association and they played some traditional games conducted by members of the same organization. Those in attendance were (pictured right): Lynnea Cox, Skyler Duley, Trace



A Halloween treat for the preschool

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool held Halloween festivities Friday morning, Oct. 31, at the school. The kids dressed up and enjoyed a treats as well as a carnival hosted by several Wyandotte Nation and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma department staff.

WILLIAM SWAIM/
WYANDOTTE NATION

Friend, Joshua Garcia, Bekah Shaffer, Brittany Simpson, and Rachel Wright. After the conclusion of the visit, the group visited Eskimo Joes and shopped for souvenirs and ate cheese fries. It is the desire of the Education Department to facilitate visits to more local colleges and universities to broaden the knowledge base of our students as they make decisions for future opportunities.

The Workforce Investment Act is currently accepting new clients. This program can provide up to \$1,750 per semester for tribal citizens to attend educational programs. We have a small service area in Southwest Missouri and Southeast Kansas. If you are or know of a person in those areas, please contact our offices if we can assist.

In December, the Education



COURTESY PHOTO

department staff grew by one more smiling face. Debra Haynes is our new librarian that is funded by the IMLS Enhancement grant. She has been busy surveying our collection and preparing a survey for the community as she starts planning the many workshops that will be conducted in the coming months. She has an extensive knowledge base

of library materials and operations and is eager to meet her new clients. As always, we continue to add new materials and if you have special requests, ask the staff for assistance.

The staff of the Education Department is here to assist and serve you any way we can!

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House

Our Sr. Turtles Gift Shop just continues to get bigger and better. The Elders are really enjoying working in the shop, which is open daily, Monday – Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are working on another quilt and have made several shawls to sell in the gift shop. We have numerous Wyandotte made items, i.e. jewelry and handmade knives with the turtle logo. We have etched glasses and matching pitchers with the turtle

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

A Thanksgiving celebration



The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner was held at Title VI Thursday, Nov. 20 as the elders and community gathered for a Thanksgiving feast. It was a good time for a few laughs too as Wyandotte Nation Elder Services Director Brenda House (pictured right) had a few with some attending.

WILLIAM SWAIM/
WYANDOTTE
NATION

Tribal Heritage

Submitted by Sherri Clemons

Happy New Year Wyandotte Nation! Hope everyone had wonderful Holidays with family and friends.

The Tribal Heritage Department is looking forward to a busy year. With the bids for construction going out on the new Cultural Center, I am truly on cloud nine. It really is going to happen. The plans are to break ground in late February or early March. The Cultural Committee has so many fun plans you will not want to miss out on anything. This is a project that will bring all the wants and desires members have wanted and dreamed about for many years. It will tie everything together for us. Language, History, and classes for culture.

Have you checked out the Wyandotte Nation website? There is a new site that has the language. Each month Katie Chinn Klass (Committee member) will be working with Dr. Craig Kopriss (Wyandotte Nation Linguist) on posting new and user friendly words. Thank you Katie for the hard work.

The 2015 Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow is set for Sept. 11-13. Plans are being made and hope to see everyone there.

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logo. We have new long sleeved shirts, hoodies, jackets and caps all with the turtle logo. We have Candy House Chocolates, Pendleton blankets, purses, billfolds, and towels. Please go to our website to see many of these items and more available for purchase online.

We are busy trying to get all of our events for the Spring and Fall scheduled, i.e. trip to the Horse Races, Ice Capades at the Tulsa State Fair, Branson trip, Caregiver Banquet, and Picnic in the Park and more to come.

Our Valentine party will be held Friday, Feb. 13 at the noon hour and we will have our usual contests, Eldest Valentine, Couple married the longest, Newlyweds and the person married the most times and is willing to admit it.

The 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.

We also have representatives from Angels Care Home Health and

Legacy Hospice holding educational presentations and taking blood pressures each month.

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

Caregiver Support Group

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

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

Department Contact Information:

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

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

Seth Higginbotham, Rebecca Barnard, Teresa Wilson, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328

Menu, (918) 678-6326

Gathering of the Little Turtle

The Gathering of the Little Turtle will be held June 26, 27 and 28 this year for tribal citizens from age 5 on up. Activities are geared toward our youth with age appropriate activities split into two groups, ages 5 to 12 and 13 and up. The event starts at 1:30 p.m. Friday, June 26 and ends Sunday, June 28 noon to 1 p.m.

Events include crafts, dancing and language – just to name a few. Meals during the event will be provided. Overnight lock-in lodging will be available in the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gym. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult to stay overnight.

Families, teens in high school

and elders are encouraged to save the date and attend this fun-filled weekend. The youth are our future and elders, come meet our youth, our future, as you too can participate.

Registration will start the beginning of May. Look for more on the event on Facebook, the Wyandotte Nation website and the next Turtle Talk.

Questions, suggestions or comments, please email the Culture Committee at Culture@wyandotte-nation.org or Marilyn Young at marilyn.s.young57@gmail.com.

If you do not have access to a computer to submit questions or register please contact the Tribal Office at (918) 678-2297 or (800) 256-2539.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Important Numbers

Police Department

Ken Murphy (918) 678-3100x12
kmmurphy@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

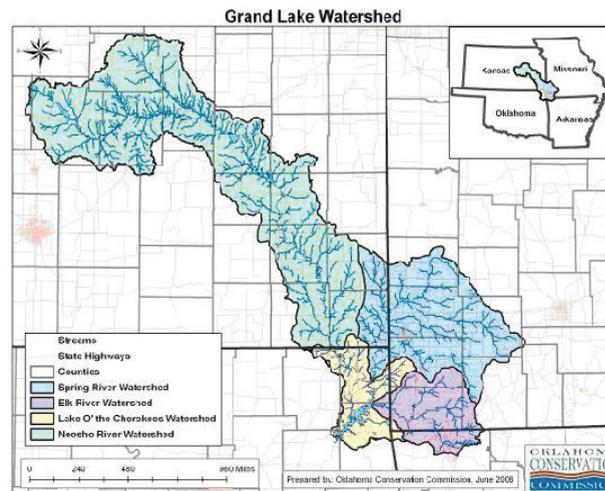
Environment

Submitted by Christen Lee

Happy New Year!

Wow, the past couple of months have went by in a whirlwind. In October we had a booth at two local health fairs. We had several people sign up for private water well testing, and septic assessments. Needless to say, from October thru December we have been kept very busy in this area. If you are interested in either of these services you may contact us by using the contact information provided below.

On Oct. 16, 2014 we hosted the Grand Lake Watershed Meeting at the Wyandotte Nation Community Center. We had very good attendance from local, state and tribal citizens. Thank you to 2nd Chief Norman Hildebrand for graciously speaking to those in attendance about the History of the Wyandotte Nation, and about the current and future goals of the Tribe. The Grand Lake Watershed meets on a quarterly basis and provides networking between the various entities to help protect the Grand Lake Watershed which encompasses 4 states, Kansas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Arkansas.



Our department continues to monitor 7 sites within the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdiction area on a monthly basis, along with testing for nutrients quarterly and heavy metals annually.

We are very excited to have an EXO-2 Continuous monitor on one of our sites, located on Sycamore Creek behind the Pow-Wow Grounds. This monitor records real time data continuously 24/7. The information

EPA Excellence Award



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation's Environmental Department was recognized once again by the Environmental Protection Agency -- this time for our Solid Waste Program. Recently, the EPA recognized the Wyandotte Nation for our efforts involving the Tar Creek. Pictured: Environmental Director Christen Lee receiving the award from EPA Regional Administrator Ron Curry.

is automatically uploaded to the Storm Central Water Log.

Lost Creek Recycling Center

The Lost Creek Recycle Center continues to be utilized, and is increasing usage on a daily basis.

Below are the totals collected for the 2013

– 14 Fiscal Year.

CARDBOARD	62012	lbs
PLASTICS #1	3846	lbs
PLASTICS #2	2809	lbs
ALUMINUM	1165	lbs
METAL	2997	lbs
NEWSPAPER	12552	lbs
MAGAZINES	8785	lbs
OFFICE PAPER	500	lbs
TOTAL WEIGHT	94675	lbs
	(OR) 47.34 TONS	

The Center is located at 4 Lost Creek Drive, Wyandotte, OK, just west of the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center.

Operation hours are Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., and Friday 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. We also have outside bins available for after hours and weekends.

Items accepted are #1 and #2 plastics, newspapers, office paper, cardboard, aluminum and tin cans.

By utilizing this free service, it greatly minimizes the amount of recyclables that would otherwise end up in landfills.

Services provided:

- Private Water Well Tests
- Septic Assessments
- Recycling Center

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health

Submitted by Kelly Walker

With the cold weather also comes flu season. The flu, more scientifically known as influenza, is a highly contagious respiratory infection caused by influenza viruses. The influenza virus usually enters the body through mucous membranes in the mouth, nose or eyes. When a person with the flu coughs or sneezes, the virus then becomes airborne and can be inhaled by anyone nearby.

Some people, such as older adults, young children, and people with specific health conditions, are at high risk for serious flu complications. On average, in the United States each year, 5% to 20% of the population acquires the flu, and more than 200,000 individuals are hospitalized with the flu.

The common symptoms of the flu include:

- Fever or feeling feverish/chills
- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny or stuffy nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Headaches
- Fatigue (tiredness)
- Stomach problems - Some people may have vomiting and diarrhea, though this is more common in children than adults

Recent flu data reported by the Oklahoma State Department of Health from Sept. 28, 2014 - Jan. 6, 2015 for the Bearskin Healthcare Service Delivery Area was:

Influenza

County	Hospitalizations	Deaths
Craig	7	0
Creek	10	0
Delaware	1	0
Mayer	6	0
Nowata	0	0
Okfuskee	2	1
Okmulgee	4	0

Tips to Help Prevent Colds and Flu

- Exercise – It’s a proven immune booster
- Exercising for 45 minutes a day, for five days a week can reduce risk of a cold by 33%.
- Eat and sleep for health –
- Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables that offer antioxidants
- Get 8 hours of sleep a night
- Wash your hands often for at least 20 seconds
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth
- Avoid contact with sick people, if at all possible
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze
- Get a flu vaccine

-- Webmd.com
-- Cdc.gov

Ottawa	5	0
Rogers	16	2
Tulsa	144	2
Wagoner	7	0
Washington	11	1
Statewide	805	22

As of late December, the CDC reports that all national key flu indicators are elevated and about half of the country is experiencing high flu activity. Bearskin Healthcare is no different.

As shown in the data above, Bearskin influenza diagnoses are affecting about 8% of our total patient visits.

The United States experiences epidemics of seasonal flu each year, and right now all of CDC’s influenza surveillance systems are showing elevated activity.

Influenza-like-illness reporting shows a lot of flu is circulating, and the hospitalization surveillance system shows increasing hospitalization rates, especially in people 65 years and older.

The CDC continues to recommend that unvaccinated people get vaccinated. While some of the viruses spreading this season are different from those in the vaccine, vaccination can still provide protection and might reduce severe outcomes such as hospitalization and death.

Dental Services

As of March 1, 2014, it became policy that all dental procedures were to be provided through Bearskin Healthcare contracted providers. By using a contracted provider of Bearskin Healthcare, this allows the patient to receive greater services for the amount of funding approved. Two funds are available through the clinic for these services.

The Wyandotte Nation government offers citizens, 18 & older, up to \$750 per year, per availability of funds, for dental expenses in addition to the Benny card received, regardless of where you live within the United States. This money can be used without seeing the physician every three years, as funding allows. Requirements for eligibility are:

1. Patient must have a current chart on file at Bearskin Healthcare for such services. This record includes tribal membership card, insurance card (if available), social security card, driver’s license and medical history form.
2. Procedures and services must be completed by a Bearskin Contracted Provider. Failure to do so is subject to declination of payment for services rendered.
3. All treatments must be pre-authorized by Bearskin Healthcare.

It is the patient’s responsibility to verify that treatment plans have been authorized, before treatment is rendered.

4. In the event an appointment must be cancelled or rescheduled, Bearskin Healthcare should be notified. Habitual failure to show for a scheduled appointment may result in revocation of dental services for one fiscal year. Habitual is defined as failure to call or attend three consecutive appointments.

Services provided by Bearskin Healthcare run from the Fiscal Year cycle of Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

**Services excluded are orthodontics, whitening’s, bridges and IV sedation.

The second fund available is for children and adult emergency dental for both Eastern Shawnee and Wyandotte Nation citizens. All Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee tribal members, regardless of residence in the United States are eligible for emergency dental (if over the age of 18) and children’s dental (under the age of 18). Requirements to utilize this benefit are:

1. Tribal members must be seen by a physician at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center once every three years to maintain an updated medical record. If patient has not been seen in the clinic within the last three years, they will not be eligible for these benefits until appointment is completed. Information needed at visit includes: tribal membership card, insurance card (if available), social security card, driver’s license and medical history form.
2. All appointments must have prior authorization with the providing facility. Failure to do so is subject to declination of payment for services rendered.

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ONLINE GIFT STORE

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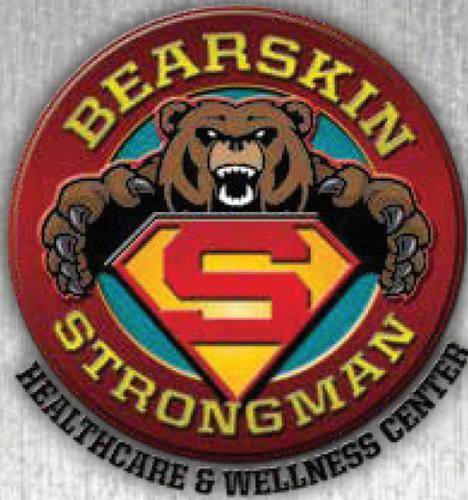
- Speed through checkout whenever you shop online.
- Pay with your credit card, debit card, or bank account. Your choice.
- No need to have or establish a PayPal account to purchase any of our products.
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Secure:

- When shopping online you will never have to give your credit card number to us.
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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**OPEN TO
MEN &
WOMEN**



APRIL 18, 2015
**WEIGH-INS START
AT 7:30AM**
**EVENTS START
AT 10:00AM**

**OPEN TO ANY INDEPENDENT
OR SPONSORED ATHLETE**

**REGISTRATION DETAILS TO BE
ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE**

**EVENTS WILL BE HELD AT
BEARSKIN HEALTHCARE
& WELLNESS CENTER**

1 Turtle Drive
Wyandotte, OK 74370

PRIZE MONEY
DETAILS COMING SOON!

Super Hero Run-5K and 1-mile fun walk
starts at 8:00AM. 5K starts at 8:15AM

**SUPER HERO RUN
IS A FREE EVENT!**

**DRESS UP AS YOUR
FAVORITE SUPER HERO!**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:
Sharon L. Bartley
E-mail: sbartley@wyandotte-nation.org



Continued from Page 19

3. All treatments must be pre-authorized by Bearskin Healthcare. It is the patient's responsibility to verify that treatment plans have been authorized, before treatment is rendered.

4. In the event an appointment must be cancelled or rescheduled, Bearskin Healthcare should be notified. Habitual failure to show for a scheduled appointment may result in revocation of dental services for one fiscal year. Habitual is defined as failure to call or attend three consecutive appointments.

This source, in addition to the previous, is only available as funding allows.

Emergency adult dental consists of a limited exam, limited x-ray and extractions only.

Again, it is the patient's responsibility to contact the Health Services Technician or Contract Health Coordinator and receive approval on each and every appointment or change in appointment initiated by the patient or provider for any contracted service.

The guidelines are policies set at Bearskin Clinic to be able to continue to serve those outside our contract health services delivery area (CHSDA) as long as possible with selected services. The mission of the government of the Wyandotte Nation is to improve the quality of life for all tribal citizens. This goal is continuously the focus of services provided by Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center and is reflected upon as decisions, policies and procedures are created and updated.

Legally, Bearskin Healthcare is only required to serve those within our CHSDA.

Historically and currently, serving outside the CHSDA has been based on the discretion and availability of funds by Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. The services funded outside the CHSDA, but not funded federally or required include: Adult Dental, Optometry, Audiology, diabetic clinic and preventative services.

WYANDOTTE
NATION
CASINO

Always a good time!

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