



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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August 2016



## The Creator's Game

Lacrosse Camp,  
Gathering of Little  
Turtles highlight  
summer youth  
activities

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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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- Graduation, Pow-Wow Preschool events
- A tribute to Henry Holderman
- Construction progressing on casino hotel

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:  
 William Swaim  
**Caleb Garcia**  
 with his Wy-  
 andotte Nation  
 themed Lacrosse  
 helmet

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## From the Chief

## Billy Friend

# Intern program a success

Kweh,

I hope this quarter's Turtle Talk finds all doing well and enjoying their summer. Once again it is time to begin looking forward to our Annual Meeting, Pow-Wow and our Gathering. Each of these events has continued to grow in attendance and improvement each year.

The Gathering will be highlighted by the grand opening of our new Tribal Cultural Center. This has been a long anticipated project and we look forward to opening it up for all tribal citizens to enjoy and participate in all the activities that are being planned. We are looking forward to another great week of events here at the Wyandotte Nation.

In the Spring of 2008 the Board of Directors approved for the Nation to begin a summer intern program for all Wyandotte tribal high school and college students. We are wrapping up our 9th year of the program and

it has been one of the most successful programs the Tribe has started.

I believe we have some of the most outstanding Indian youth in the Nation and each summer they prove that while working throughout our tribal programs. Our goal was to introduce them to what we do as a tribal government, teach them about our culture and help them identify with what it is to be Wyandotte.

The long range goal of the program is that our youth will continue and complete their education and return some day to work for the Wyandotte Nation, and since its inception, we now have citizens who completed their internship and education, and are now working for us.

The program was highlighted this year with a trip to Upper Sandusky, Ohio to visit the Old Mission Church, Indian Mill and Chief Tarhe monument and then spent the afternoon at the Battle of Fallen Timbers Battlefield outside of Toledo, Ohio.

The next day we had the opportunity to kayak 9 miles down the Huron River with the assistance of the National Park Service staff from the River Raisin Battlefield in Monroe, Mich., through what once was all Wyandotte territory in the 1700s and early 1800s. All in all it was a great learning experience for all our youth that participated in this year's program.

In closing, I want to once again thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you as your Chief. It is our goal every day to honor you with the level of hard work, dedication and commitment you deserve. Serving Wyandotte people with meaningful opportunities to improve their overall quality of life is at the heart of all we do. This guides our decision-making and priorities. Know that we will continue to do our best for you in the years to come. We will endeavor every day to fulfill our mission of improving the quality of the lives of all Wyandotte people.

## From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

# Cultural Center nearing Grand Opening during the week of 'The Gathering'

Kweh Omateru

I hope everyone is staying cool this summer -- it has been a hot one here in Oklahoma. We have had many days in the 90s and enough rain to keep the humidity high, along with gardens and our lawns, seems like we get through mowing and have to start all over again. But on the bright side everything is staying nice and green.

I am happy to announce that our Cultural Center/Museum is finished except for display cabinets that are being built as I am writing this article and should be done for the Grand Opening Ceremony Sept. 9, 2016 at 11 am, coinciding with The Gathering. The Cultural Center/Museum is going to be a

great addition to our Tribal Complex on the hill south of the Bearskin Fitness Center at Council Fire Road. This will be a place where we can learn about our history, culture, language and also preserve it for future generations.

We need the help of our Wyandotte Nation Citizens to donate anything that might pertain to the Tribe or your family. Copies of allotment papers, old family photos, pictures of our Wyandotte Citizens in uniform so we can honor their service to our country. If you have an old uniform that's packed away in moth balls let us keep and preserve it for you in our climate controlled vault. We have accumulated some artifacts but we need

much more and that is where you our Wyandotte citizens can help by donating whatever might be stored away so future generations and the public can learn about our past.

When this Turtle Talk Issue comes out we would have taken our summer interns on their yearly trip. This year we go back to Ohio and Michigan -- one of the stops will be at Hull's Trace which is on the National Register of Historical Places. This road was built with timbers hand cut about 60 feet in length and laid down side by side to form the road. Here is a little history of Michigan's "First" Road:



## 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Public Notice

### Notice of Annual Meeting

On Sept. 10, 2016 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium near Wyandotte, Okla. The Annual Meeting will start at 10 a.m.

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined that there are no contested posts for elective office within the government of the Wyandotte Nation for 2016.

Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the Tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2016 per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

**Rob Nesvold, Chairman  
Election Committee**

## The Gathering

Mark your calendar for The Gathering (Culture Days) 2016, Wednesday, Sept. 7 through Friday, Sept. 9. Check in will start at 8 am with activities starting at 9 am. Wednesday, 8:30 am Thursday, and 8 am Friday.

Come see history come alive with Matthew Mudeater and other citizens from the past. Dr. Steckley will present "Keys to the Wyandotte Language." Many art projects will be offered this year over the three days. Bring past unfinished projects for help getting restarted, or time to finish. Friday will be the grand opening of the new Cultural Center.

The Gathering is a time for all to come learn, socialize, and bring our culture into the future. Watch for registration and the schedule of events to be posted on the website, [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org).

### THE GATHERING

SEPT.  
7-9



### 27TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

SEPT.  
9-11



### ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT.  
10



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## Second Chief

### Continued from Page 2

First appearing on an 1804 Postal Route map, Michigan's "First" Road was little more than an ancient Native foot trail through the Michigan wilderness, passing through two Native settlements and linking the rapids on the Miami (Maumee) River with the former French settlement of Detroit. In 1808, three years after Michigan was established as a Territory, the Territorial Legislature passed a bill entitled "an act for laying out and opening a road from the City of Detroit to the foot of the Rapids of the Miami which enters into Lake Erie." This bill was signed by Territorial Governor William Hull Dec. 26, 1808, and James McCloskey was appointed surveyor.

With the impending war with Great Britain, Gov. Hull was appointed as a General and charged with leading an army to defend Detroit. Hull travelled to Ohio and leaving from Dayton in June 1812 his army headed toward Detroit. After reaching Urbana on local

roads Hull's troops struck out across uncharted Ohio cutting and building their supply road as they proceeded. Reaching the Miami River the course took them north into Michigan Territory following the road that then Gov. Hull had authorized in 1808.

Anticipating the need for a good road in Michigan, Hull had sent Robert Lucas, a future Ohio Governor, ahead with orders for improvements to be started on the road. Capt. Hubert LaCroix of the 2nd Michigan Militia was given the task to improve the road, build causeways and bridges by utilizing local militia from the River Raisin settlement. The use of Hull's army troops and the Michigan Militia to build their own supply road also made this the first Military Road in the Northwest Territory.

In 1816 the Secretary of War authorized Governor Cass to use troops to improve the Military Road from Detroit to Fort Meigs. Another survey of the route was undertaken by Colonel John Anderson of the Engineering Department United States Topographical Bureau in

1817. This resulted in two maps, one south of the River Raisin and the other north of the River Raisin, each being large maps approximately 5 feet long detailing the route. In 1824 another survey was done by John Farmer along the same route, now called the United States Road. This survey altered the point where the road intersects the River Raisin and is the current course of M-125, South Dixie Highway. A portion of this road, within the city limits of the City of Monroe is designated a Michigan Historic Heritage Route.

Everything that happened during the War of 1812 in Michigan, with the exception of the action on Mackinac Island, happened on this road. The road exists much as it did on the 1804 Postal map. You can still drive from the Rapids of the Miami to Detroit following the same route along the gateway to Michigan.

Through work with the Monroe County Historical Society and the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, we have acquired maps that support Hull's Road as being

Michigan's "First" Road. There cannot be a more important or more historical road in Michigan! We are talking about a native trail that became the first Military Road in the Northwest Territory. It was the only "road" in Michigan far into the 1820s. Hopefully the level of the Huron River will be low enough to see some of these timbers sticking out from under the road.

There is an election coming up so get out and vote especially the local elections, let's make the Native Vote Count.

This is just a reminder that the Annual Meeting, The Gathering and Pow-Wow are coming in September so lots of exciting things are happening that week. I hope to see everyone there.

I want everyone to think about this quote: "Imagine all the people living life in peace. You may say I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one. I hope someday you'll join us, and the world will be as one." -- John Lennon.

Tizameh for letting me serve you as Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation.

# A 'forgotten' man honored

*Eastern Oklahoma owes much of its prosperity to Henry Holderman's vision*

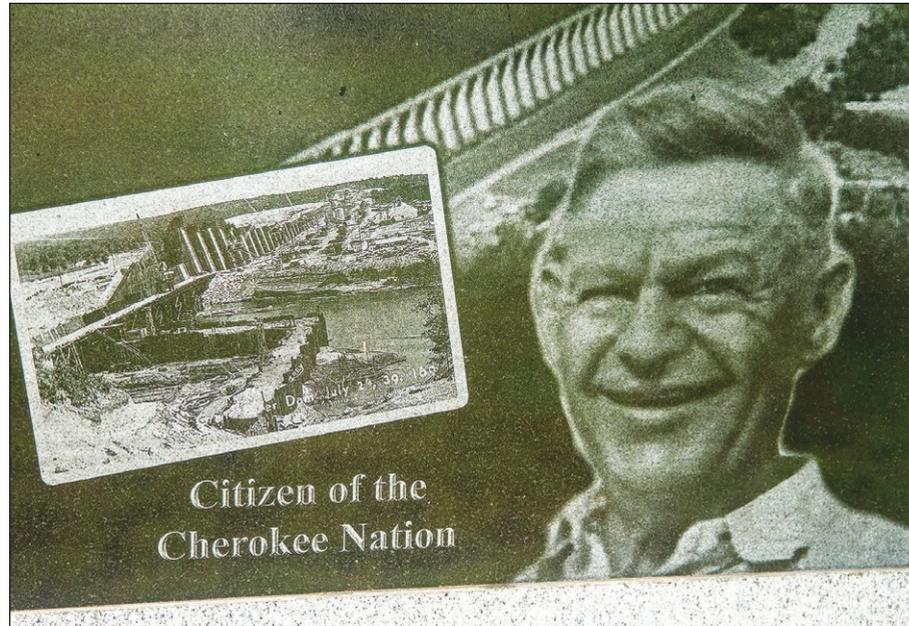
By WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

There were no markers with the name Henry Holderman at the Pensacola Dam site or any of the dam sites on the Grand River. No mention of him is made on the Grand River Dam Authority's large plaque at the dam site. No honoring of the man who spent most of his life working to realize a vision he had for the River and the Cherokee Nation – to construct a dam along the Grand River and bring hydroelectric power to his people.

Henry Holderman was truly a forgotten man. Yet it was his foresight, his life's work that ultimately led to the historic construction of the dams along the Grand River and the prosperity that followed.

Holderman, who lived in Wyandotte and is buried at the Wyandotte Cemetery alongside his wife, Maude, hasn't been forgotten by the Cherokee Nation or the people of this region who know the 'whole' story of the dam construction.

The Cherokee Nation and the Wyandotte Nation hosted an evening honoring Holderman June 24 at the Wyandotte Nation Casino Event Center, 100 Jackpot Place, Wyandotte, Okla. The event featured a program paying tribute to the Cherokee citizen as well as a dinner. Jennifer Loren



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

**The Wyandotte Nation and Cherokee Nation came together to host an evening honoring Cherokee Citizen Henry Holderman at the Wyandotte Nation Casino Event Center.**

emceed the event as Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker discussed the significance of the dam and Grand Lake. Cherokee Nation Secretary of State Chuck Hoskin Jr. and Disney Mayor Judy Barger also spoke at the event. Relatives of Henry Holderman were also honored at the event. The Cherokee Nation Color Guard posted the colors and Axyl Langford sang 'The Star-Spangled Banner.'

A monument honoring Holder-

man is now on display at Twin Bridges State Park – giving long overdue recognition to a man who played an important part in the history of this state.

Holderman lived long enough to see his vision become a reality, but saw none of the money or credit that came along with the realization of his dream. One week after his death, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled he was entitled to over \$1 million dollars for his holdings on the Grand River that made the construc-

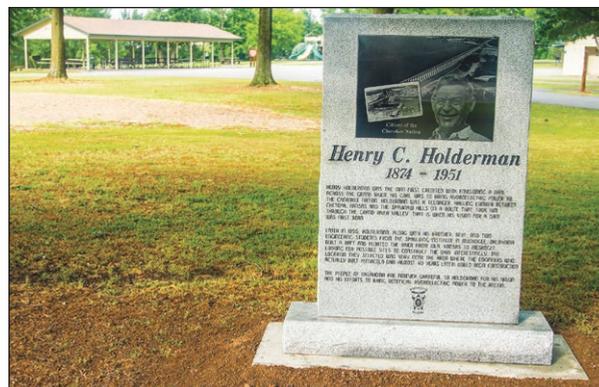
tion possible. A man who spent the final years of his life living off \$45 a month "old age pension."

Born in 1874 in Chetopa, Kansas, Holderman obtained a fifth grade education at the Wyandotte Mission School and worked at the family sawmill. Holderman's vision started when he was a child, inspired by his father, who wanted Henry to build a dam on the Grand River.

As a teenager, he was involved in a 'youthful altercation' that led to him not only leaving the area, but the country. A move that ultimately sent him on his life-long journey. He worked in the diamond mines and served as a hunting guide in Africa before working on the construction of mud and log dams in India.

When he returned to Oklahoma in 1896, he sought to survey the river and hired two student engineers. Along with his brother, Bert, and the two engineering students, Holderman boated down the river and selected three possible sites. Interestingly enough, the sites were a few feet from where engineers later deemed as the dam sites some 40 years later. Sites that would create hunting, fishing and a boating mecca for the state as well as supplying the electricity for many people in eastern Oklahoma.

See **Tribute**, Page 5



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(LEFT) Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend addresses the crowd and speaks to the importance of the dam to the area at the Wyandotte Nation Casino Event Center. Also pictured is the emcee of the event, Jennifer Loren. (MIDDLE) A monument honoring Holderman is now visible at Twin Bridges State Park. (RIGHT) Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Bill John Baker discusses the significant role Holderman played in the eventual construction of the Pensacola Dam.



(ABOVE and RIGHT) The Wyandotte Nation Preschool held its Graduation Ceremony May 17 for 36 students, including 32 who earned Kumon Honor Roll status. (RIGHT) Previously, the Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow was held May 3 at the pow-wow grounds.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

## Pow-Wow, Graduation highlight end of year preschool events

BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool held its 2016 graduation ceremony for its students Monday evening, May 16, at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gymnasium. A packed house watched as five classes performed songs and then took part in the graduation ceremony.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand handed out the certificates to the graduate students as well as presented a good number of students with awards for their achievements in Kumon.

“Graduation festivities continue to grow each year and we are so thankful for the students we have that get their first exposure

to education at Wyandotte Nation Preschool,” said Tammy Charles, Wyandotte Nation Education Director. “We had 36 students graduate to Kindergarten and 32 children received Kumon Honor Roll Status.”

The Wyandotte Nation preschool also hosted the 2016 Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow Tuesday evening, May

3, at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds. 94 preschoolers sang the ‘Tizameh’ song, did the Wyandotte numbers, and followed it with a Round Dance and Snake & Buffalo Dance led by Shawn King. The event closed with an Intertribal Dance where students, family and friends danced. The Host Drum was Gene Ortnier.

## Tribute

Continued from Page 4

Holderman obtained ownership of the sites and the riverbed from the Cherokee Nation. He spent the majority of his life doing everything possible making his vision a reality, spending nearly every bit of time and money he had trying to enlist

capital and political support for his idea.

Holderman rejected offers from various capitalists that would have made the cost of electricity so high the Cherokee people would not have been able to afford it. He also wanted to be a millionaire so he could reward the friends who had helped him

with the project.

He nearly gave up on the dream at one point. While his dream was finally realized – thanks in part by a presidential visit from President Franklin D. Roosevelt -- the construction work was done by others and a lot of the credit with it.

In 1935, Oklahoma established

the Grand River Dam Authority. The GRDA’s cornerstone project was the Pensacola Dam – it was completed in 1940 and the dam’s power plant began commercial operation in 1941. The Dam became Oklahoma’s first hydroelectric power plant and the world’s longest multiple arch dam.

Holderman died in 1951.

# The Creator's Game

*Lacrosse camp left no participants saying 'Maybe you should have stuck to tee ball'*

By **LLOYD DIVINE**  
 WYANDOTTE NATION  
 CULTURAL COMMITTEE

"Maybe you should have stuck to tee ball," was not the rallying cry or theme for the Wyandotte Nation 2016 Lacrosse Camp. The kids came to play lacrosse and what an exciting time it was for all participants.

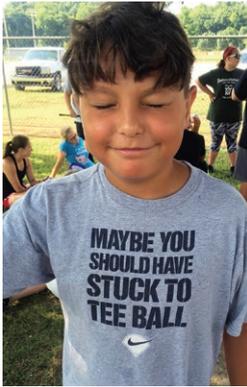


PHOTO: LLOYD DIVINE

Again, like last year, the Wyandotte Nation was privileged to have coaches Tyler Foote, Brian Minor, Scott Mitchell, Travis Tharp, Charles Jackson, and Ben Foley, from the Eastern Michigan University lacrosse team, travel across country for the three-day event. With about 44 kids, the coaches had their hands full.

This year's lacrosse camp was represented by outstanding youth from the Wyandotte, Eastern Shawnee, Quapaw, Seneca-Cayuga, Choctaw, Quapaw, and Modoc tribes. Yes, there were also a handful of kids that did not claim tribal affiliation, and they played just the same. No kids, boy or girl, American Indian or not, was turned away from learning and playing the Creator's game.

What was the number one complaint? No, it did not have anything to do with the weather. Instead, everyone wanted to know, "Where are the snacks?" Yes, in true Oklahoma fashion even at 9 in the morning the June days were nothing less than hot. With plenty of water and sport



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
 The Wyandotte Nation hosted a Lacrosse Camp for area athletes. (ABOVE) Players huddle up before practice. (RIGHT) Players scrimmage. For more photos, visit our Facebook page.

drinks, the kids and coaches played until noon without complaint. Actually, come noon when the festivities were taken indoors to the Wyandotte Nation gymnasium it was hard to get a few kids and coaches off the field. If it were not for some fantastic brown bag sandwiches waiting in the gym, getting the coaches indoors may have been a problem.

A whole-hearted tizameh to the ladies who prepared all the sandwiches and brought case after case of water and sport drinks to the football field and gymnasium.

The grand finale of the three-day event was, of course, the big game on Friday morning. This year the kids were carefully and thoughtfully divided



into Red and Blue teams by the coaches. As for the coaches, it took a few moments for them to catch up to speed with the kids who were pumped, donning war

paint, and ready to play. At first it appeared to be an imbalanced pick by the coaches as the Blue

# Little Turtles event provides connection for youth

BY MARILYN YOUNG  
WYANDOTTE NATION  
CULTURAL COMMITTEE

It is hard to believe the third annual Gathering of Little Turtles, held June 24-26, has already come and gone. Each year the Gathering gets bigger and bigger. This year 48 kids, ranging in age from 5 to 18 attended. Actually I should mention two more, ages 6 months and 14 months.

Families not only came from the local area, but many traveled from as far away as Shawnee, Kansas; Bethany, Okla.; Amarillo, Texas; and Lineville, Ala. Yes, our family known as "Alabama" was excited to return. Seven families took advantage of the lock-in facility and stayed the night in the gym.

This year most activities were held in the new Cultural Center. What better way to start than with a smoking ceremony by Chief Billy Friend. Chief told about the traditions of the ceremony and helped instruct everyone with the proper guidelines and movements in participating.

Dr. John Steckley again traveled from Canada with his very animated ways of teaching our native language. Those who attended last year were ready as they knew it would be a fun time. Over the three days, Dr. Steckley had them by the hook and they were eating it up.

Friday afternoon the entire staff at the Recycling Center took time out of their day to work with the kids. They not only told about the importance of recy-



Youth created tiles representing what it means to them to be Wyandotte. The tiles will be displayed at the Cultural Center.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

cling but how many products can pollute our water systems in addition to land. To close out the presentation, each youth was given a DIY project which also kept many plastic bottles out of the land fill. The recycling staff had taken water bottles, cut a rectangular hole in the side and each youth then filled with potting soil and planted a beautiful petunia plant to take home.

Outstanding job Recycling Center staff.

It wouldn't be Little Turtles without some grabbing up sticks for Lacrosse. Due to the afternoon heat Lacrosse was moved to the gym at the Wellness Center. You could see the relief in parent's eyes knowing they could enjoy in the comforts of air conditioning.

The coaches from Eastern

Michigan University took control as they did at the Lacrosse Camp (see related story). They demonstrated various ways to move the ball down the field and how to intercept, giving many tips while staying within the collegiate rules. The kids were glued and on the edge of their seats

See **Gathering**, Page 8

## Game

Continued from Page 6

team took a sudden and decisive lead. However, at the beginning of the third quarter it was clear, we had ourselves a game, as the Red team came roaring back with a vengeance. The excitement was contagious as fans in the bleachers heckled, all in fun of course; referee Tyler as he came

close to ejecting coach Scott from the game. Again, everything was a playful sham, except for the game itself that would end the third quarter in a tie.

As the third quarter came to a close the heat index was nearly as high as the adrenaline on the field. The friendly and ever vigilant paramedic, who would be me, decided to bring the game to

a close with the next score winning. There was no need to take any unneeded risks with coaches and kids. Referee Tyler was getting a little too hot and told to take a seat. Referee Ben stepped up and finished the game in style. The Red team was first to score and won the game 10-9; Blue team would leave the field a little red as the sun's heat was a

testament to the need of calling the game.

Start making plans today to come and play the Creator's game at the Third Annual Wyandotte Nation Lacrosse Camp. Keep watching the Wyandotte Nation website and Facebook page for announcements and online registration. It's going to be a great time!

# Gathering

Continued from Page 7

waiting for the invitation to take the floor, especially the younger ones who were not old enough for the Lacrosse Camp. I know of several who cannot wait till next year to attend camp.

This past year we had requests to tell about our clans. Lloyd Divine comes alive when telling about our history, especially with kids. Seeing them gather around him and listen we know our past will be preserved.

Friday evening after the cook-out and some yummy s'mores, it was story time. What a fantastic evening it was. Dr. Steckley recruited helpers to act out our stories. I wish we had video recorded the stories, the kids enjoyed having a role in making them come alive. Two of the kids were my grandchildren and I was amazed at their theatrics.

The big highlight was having one of our summer interns tell one of our traditional stories. Ciara Cotter has an interest in becoming a storyteller. She told the story of "Why the leaves change their color in autumn." We were all very impressed with her talents and the kids listened to every word. Fantastic job Ciara!

Saturday was a very busy day filled with dancing, singing, and crafting. Shawn King from the Eastern Shawnee came and led us all in many social dances. For many this was the first time dancing with a girl or boy or being paired up. After getting over the "oh I have to hold their hand," all parents and kids were in the spirit, smiling, laughing, and having the best time.

After lunch several of our Little Turtles demonstrated their Pow-Wow dancing skills. Alison Morgan and Sara Wright – Fancy Shawl, Jacey Holcomb – Jingle, Caleb Garcia – Men's Fancy. This was both Alison and Jacey's first time dancing in front of all their peers at Little Turtles. Sara and Caleb took the floor and made it theirs. Their fast moving feet, arms and turns not sure how they keep from not being dizzy. Of course these two enjoy playing off each other. Caleb



and his brother, Gabriel, also surprised by ending the presentation with a song and a little drumming. Is there not anything these boys don't try?

Additional time was given this year to the Arts. Various classes were held at the same time with a rotating schedule. Kim Garcia again brought her beading talents. The younger turtles strung beads making bracelets and necklaces. Several of the teens were challenged to learn the peyote stitch – and did exceptionally well.

Loretta Combes taught a class on fingerweaving. Teaching little hands and minds takes a lot of patience and time. Loretta was assisted by summer intern, Hailey Streeter. Ciara Cotter and Tara Gragg teamed up with Ciara telling a story and then Tara teaching everyone an original song written by John and Angie Steckley, Tizameh. Even though the weather was hot, many still had the chance to shoot arrows with the help of Deryl Wright and David Culver.

All attending were given the opportunity to share what it means to be Wyandotte by painting a picture on a tile. The kids painted turtles, bows and arrows, and sun rise, just to name a few. The tiles will be on display at the Cultural Center during the Gathering and Annual Meeting.

Be sure to check them out in September.

It takes many to make the Gathering of Little Turtles happen. It takes more than the Culture Committee. It takes teachers, someone to purchase supplies, someone to shop for food, cook the food, set out snacks, clean up, coordinating with other departments, and I know I am missing many tasks. Without parents, employees, and many volunteers, this weekend wouldn't happen. There are so many that can't be listed but a big TIZAMEH to a few of those behind the scene people, Debbie Dry, Sherri Clemons, Dana Butterfield, Tammy Charles, Kelly Friend, Kathy Hildebrand, Cathy Wright, Larry Young.

Each year it is a joy to see many returning faces and new faces. Friendships rekindled and new friendships started. To see our kids ask questions about the language and history fills the soul with happiness. Each year there are many memories made.

I will close with one of my favorite memories, other than my grandchildren with Dr. Steckley. This year one Little Turtle, age 6, with this wee little voice came up to me in the gym, asking about a ladies picture on the mural wall,

## Gathering of Little Turtles

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
(LEFT) Youth gather with Chief Billy Friend during a smoking ceremony across from the new Cultural Center.

(BELOW) Arts and crafts were just a few activities youth and parents alike enjoyed during the Gathering of Little Turtles. Other events included dancing, beading, finger weaving, storytelling, language and archery.



"Is that Pocahontas?" I looked down trying not to laugh and said, "No sweetheart that is not Pocahontas." You could see it in her eyes, her mind was racing when she asked, "Who is she?" Lloyd Divine was close and I asked him to tell her about the lady.

The lady was Mary McKee. Lloyd got down to her level and told a little about Mary and she continued to ask questions. I was pulled away but out of the corner of my eye I could see her continuing to ask questions about different pictures on the wall. Her eyes and focus on every word she heard.

Yes, Little Turtle there was a Pocahontas, yes there was a strong Wyandotte woman named Mary McKee, yes Little Turtle you are Wyandotte.

You are our future. All the Little Turtles are our future. May they know their heritage, their native language, know the blood in their veins is Wyandotte and they are part of a great nation – Wyandotte Nation.



www.wtok.org

# Wyandotte Services honored with 'Contractor of the Year' award

**BY WILLIAM SWAIM**  
*WYANDOTTE NATION*

The Small Business Administration (SBA) recently named Wyandotte Services as its Prime Contractor of the Year for Region 6.

The award honors small businesses that have provided the government with outstanding goods and services as prime contractors. Only federal agencies can nominate businesses for the award.

Oklahoma Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb presented Wyandotte Services President and Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Dalana Rutledge with the certificate of honor in Oklahoma City.

Wyandotte Services is a SBA Certified 8(a) company and an established supplier of technical support services. Wyandotte's highly qualified personnel provides Technical, Administrative



COURTESY PHOTO

From left, WOTK Director of Human Resources Scott Horner, Controller Jan Woody, Lt. Gov. Todd Lamb, Wyandotte Services President Dalana Rutledge, and WOTK CEO Kelly Carpino.



COURTESY PHOTO

Wyandotte Services President and Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Dalana Rutledge with the SBA award.

and IT Support Services for the Department of Energy (DoE) and Department of Defense (DoD)

facilities across the nation. Visit [www.wyandotteservices.com](http://www.wyandotteservices.com) for more information.

## Construction progressing on Wyandotte casino's hotel



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Construction is progressing on the Wyandotte Nation Casino hotel expansion project, which will feature 94 rooms and meeting space that can accommodate banquets for 300 guests. Weather permitting, the project is expected to be complete late January 2017.

The hotel will create an additional 25-30 jobs in the area.

Guests will enjoy comfortable guest rooms, and suites will also be available offering separate living space, wet bar, and sleep number beds.

Hotel Amenities include free WiFi, an onsite fitness center

and access to the state of the art Bearskin Fitness center and pool.

Hotel guests will be able to enjoy other features of the property, including the newly renovated casino floor with over 800 machines and table games, the award-winning Twin Bridges Restaurant, the gift shop, the all new Club 60 West featuring live entertainment, bowling, pool tables and shuffle board, and a variety of entertainment in the Event Center.

The project will also create additional office space.

Check out the next issue of the Turtle Talk for more on this project.

27th Annual  
**WYANDOTTE POW-WOW**

September 9-11, 2016

**\$35,000**



**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.



**15th Annual Veterans Honor Program**  
All Veterans Welcomed



**HEAD STAFF**

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

Sovo Family  
Michael Roberts  
Donnie Pewo  
Walter Dye  
Wyandotte Honor Guard  
Dude Blalock  
Jay Blalock  
Steve Kinder  
John Arkeketa  
Emilee Wills

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

Host Motel: TBA

# POW-WOW CONTEST SCHEDULE

Friday, September 9  
Evening

Jr. Boys Fancy  
Womens Fancy Shawl  
Mens Straight  
Jr. Girls Jingle  
Womens Golden Age

49 Contest - Jay Blalock

Saturday, September 10  
Afternoon

Jr. Boys Grass  
Womens Buckskin  
Mens Traditional  
Jr. Girls Cloth

Saturday, September 10  
Evening

Tiny Tots  
Mens Fancy  
Jr. Girls Fancy Shawl  
Womens Jingle  
Jr. Boys Straight

Stomp Dance - Invited Grounds

Sunday, September 11  
Afternoon

Mens Golden Age  
Womens Cloth  
Jr. Boys Traditional  
Jr. Girls Buckskin  
Mens Grass

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

Gourd Dancing  
1 hour prior to all sessions.

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

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!  
(NO PETS ALLOWED NEAR ARENA)

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## HUMAN RESOURCES

*Submitted by Deana Howard,  
HR Director*

The Human Resources Department has a new full time staff member, Caleb Friend. Caleb transferred to us from Wyandotte Precision Products and will serve as the Receptionist in the 3rd Building. Caleb is a Wyandotte Tribal Citizen and very passionate about his Tribe. Caleb enjoys spending time outdoors and camping. He also enjoys music, playing guitar, and piano and drums. He is active in youth ministry. We are very fortunate to have Caleb at the Wyandotte Nation.



**Friend**



**Thomas**

The Bearskin Fitness Center is very happy to welcome tribal citizen, Stephanie Thomas. Stephanie will serve as the Fitness Center Youth Program Assistant in a seasonal position. Stephanie has worked with Grove Public Schools for a total of 15 years. She loves spending time with her two daughters, family and friends. Teaching is exciting and being a positive role model is important to Stephanie. We are very fortunate to have Stephanie on our team and wish her much success in this position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is very happy to welcome Twylia Stone as an Early Childhood Food Service Team Member and Edwina Robinson as a Substitute.

Twylia comes to us with previous food service experience and loves working with children. She graduated from Commerce High school. Twylia enjoys spending time with her grandkids, shopping with her daughters, and having family gatherings. She also enjoys attending church, gardening, painting and walking with friends in her spare time. We are



**Stone**

very fortunate to have Twylia on our team and wish her the best of luck in her position.

Edwina has experience working in the classroom and she loves to work with children. Edwina enjoys spending time with her family and likes fishing, camping and gardening. We are pleased to have Edwina and wish her much success in her new position.



**Robinson**



**Dickert**

The Wyandotte Nation Gaming Department is very happy to welcome Amy Dickert. Amy will serve as the Internal Audit Officer. Amy has over 20 years accounting experience and over four years of casino experience transferring to us from the Wyandotte Nation Casino. Amy is originally from the New Mexico area. She enjoys spending time her family in her spare time. Amy also enjoys flea markets, yard sales, traveling, horse races and camping. We are very fortunate to have Amy on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Facilities Department is very excited to welcome Quenston Cox into a custodian position, new full time custodian Herb McQueen, and a returning seasonal staff member, John Gerhard, who has worked nine summers for the Tribe.

Quenston graduated from Seneca High School and went on to become a first responder and firefighter with the Seneca Volunteer Fire Department. In his spare time he enjoys fishing, riding motorcycles and enjoying time with God's Creations. Quenston also enjoys spending time with his family and has been married to his wife Carolyn for 18 years. He also enjoys spending time with close friends. We are very happy to have Quenston on our Facilities team and wish him much success in his new position.



**Cox**

Herb has several years of experience in his field, transferring to us from Wyandotte Nation Casino. In his spare time he enjoys fishing and his grandkids. We are very fortunate to have Herb on our team and wish him much success in his new position.



**McQueen**



**Gerhard**

return again this year.

The Housing Department has a new seasonal staff member, Drew Lankford. Drew attended Seneca High School. In his spare time Drew enjoys going to the lake and camping. He also enjoys spending time with family and friends and being outside. We are very fortunate to have Drew join us this year.



**Lankford**

and history. This was the third year for this event and it continues to grow and get better with each year. Wyandotte families are building friendships that grow stronger with each yearly event. It's always exciting to see everyone learning and participating. Family Services staff would like to thank the Cultural Committee and Tribal Heritage Department for hosting this event and allowing us to join in on the fun!

There are several programs that began July 1. Those programs and the details for each are listed below. Please note that all of the Family Service programs (with the exception of the Supplemental Health Program/Benny card) end Sept. 30. No applications for this fiscal year can be accepted after that date. Winter and year-round programs will begin Oct. 1, 2016. Most applications can be found on the Tribe's website ([www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)) under the Community tab on the homepage, then Family Services.

If you have questions or concerns please feel free to contact us: Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, 918-678-6355; Leeanna Radabaugh, Family Services Assistant, 918-678-6329; and Tiffany Webb, ICW Social Worker/DV Advocate, 918-678-6324.

### **Summer Programs:**

**LIHEAP** – Summer LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) is available for tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma and is income based.

**School Supplies** – Begins July 1 and ends Sept. 30 for pre-K through grade 12. OK, MO, AR, KS residents. Reimbursement program or Walmart gift card for \$100 per student. Application is available on the homepage of the website or one can be mailed/faxed/emailed. If receipts for last year's school supply purchases were not submitted then you will be required to use the reimbursement program.

**Senior Energy** - \$100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Eligibility requirements; 55 or older, OK, MO, AR, KS resident.

**Programs that run throughout the year for residents in OK, MO, AR, KS. Applications must be received or post marked by Sept. 30:**

**Elders Assistance** – One-time expense for \$250 for tribal elders aged

## FAMILY SERVICES

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,  
Family Services Director*

Summer months bring lots of activity for the Family Services staff. During the month of June, staff co-sponsored a "Kids Culture Program" along with the Environmental, Wellness center and Child Care staff. This program ran for three weeks and included culturally relevant activities such as environmental awareness projects, physical fitness, and craft projects.

Also in June, The Gathering of Little Turtles was held. This weekend long event was a fun time for families to learn about Wyandotte language

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 12

55 and over. Can be paid directly to the vendor or reimbursement.

**Extra-Expense/Extracurricular Activities** – One-time payment of \$100 per student aged pre – K through 12th grade.

**Jr/Sr Benefit** - \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School.

**Fuel Assistance** – There are a few programs for fuel assistance: Hardship – personal hardships, travel for work/job interviews, etc; Medical – travel to/from doctor/dental appointments and to pick up prescriptions; Major Medical – extreme medical issues (must be life threatening, terminal, etc., not chronic medical issues) that require multiple trips outside of the local area.

**Other Programs provided by the Family Services Department:**

**Child Safety Seats** - Each child is eligible for 3 seats in different sizes and can be picked up at the tribal office.

**Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare** – This program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families and is designed to help keep children in their homes with their family or ensure that if there is a need for removal that federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is put first and foremost.

**Enrollment** – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2016 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate.

**New Enrollee Benefit** - If a child's application is received prior to their first birthday they will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card and a blanket with the Tribal Turtle.

**Tribal Tags** – Available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma. Passenger, RV, Motorcycle and Handicap tags are available. Please call the office for prices and additional information.

**Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card)** - \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens beginning Jan. 1 each year. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Quarterly statements are mailed by CoreSource to show remaining balances. Account balances can be obtained at any time via [www.mycourcesource.com](http://www.mycourcesource.com) or by calling

## Wyandotte Nation

### Family Services Programs

#### Dates to Remember

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**Elder's Assistance:** October 1 – September 30

**Senior Energy:** Winter: October 1 – March 1

**Senior Energy:** Summer: July 1 – September 30

**School Supplies:** July 1 – September 30

**Winter Clothing:** November 1 – March 1

**Extracurricular Activities:** October 1 – September 30

**Jr./Sr. High School Assist.:** October 1 – September 30

**Children's Christmas Party:** December 10

**Annual Meeting:** September 10

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Note: All applications must be in our office or post marked on or before the last day of the program.

800-990-9058 ext. 42086. Family Services staff can also answer questions about the program, but may need to refer you to CoreSource in some instances.

**Burial Assistance** - \$1,500 to be paid to the funeral home or to the family representative if the funeral is paid in full.

**Domestic Violence Advocacy** – The Wyandotte Nation was approved by the Office of Violence Against Women to receive a grant to provide assistance to victims of domestic violence. To date, the funds have not yet been received but the Family Services staff can currently assist with advocacy for victims to help locate assistance through other agencies. If you are a victim of domestic violence, sexual assault or dating violence, please contact our office and we will do our best to assist you. When grant funds are received, staff will be able to provide a broad range of services to victims and their dependents.

**Programs that will begin Oct. 1, 2016 and end Feb. 28, 2017 for OK, MO, AR and KS residents:**  
**Winter Clothing** - \$100 per

student aged pre-K through grade 12 will be available either through a Walmart gift card or reimbursement. Receipts for reimbursement must be dated between Oct. 1, 2016 and Feb. 28, 2017 and applications MUST be received or post marked no later than Feb. 28, 2017.

**Senior Energy** – Winter energy assistance will begin Oct. 1, 2016 and the service bill must be dated after Oct. 1.

## Foster Parent Recruitment

A foster parent recruitment event was held June 11 in Miami, Okla. This event featured a panel of foster parents telling their stories of caring for foster children. It was especially moving to hear from a very courageous 11-year-old girl telling her experiences of abuse and neglect and how much she loves and appreciates her adoptive family.

Fostering is a very rewarding endeavor for families. Please contact the Family Services Staff if you would like to know more about becoming a foster parent where you live.

## HOUSING

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director*

All housing applications are now on the website ([www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)). If you are interested in rental units, please submit an application. Proof of income, and a copy of your tribal card will need to be submitted with the application. Federal income guidelines are followed.

This is the first year the Tribe has offered down-payment assistance. If you are in the process of purchasing a home in Ottawa County and have obtained approval from a certified lending source, we may be able to assist you. Contact our office for more information.

The 13th senior duplex is being built, and is expected to be finished by the end of summer. The duplex units are all two bedrooms and available to those 55 and older. At this time, all units are occupied. If you are interested in living in senior duplexes, submit an application and be placed on the list.

The Community Center is open daily from 8 am - 4:30 pm. Pool tables, ping pong table, and air hockey are available for use. The cost of renting the center on evenings and weekends is \$50 for tribal citizens, and \$75 for non-tribal, with a \$25 cleaning deposit. Several dates have already been booked. If you are interested in renting, contact the housing office.

The Heritage Acres Park project has been completed. A basketball court, volleyball area, and a pavilion have been added, as well as barbeque grills. The Splashpad is in full swing, and will remain open until the middle of September.

The Indian Health Service well and septic money has been expended. Additional funding will not be available until the fall of 2017.

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

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental Director

### April

In our Water 106 Grant activities we have been busy conducting bio-assessments and habitat assessments on Warren's Branch, Lost and Sycamore creeks, and also fish and mussel sampling and collection.

Christen Lee spent the week of April 11-15 in Dallas, Texas at the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Mtg. and EPA Summit.

On the 15th our department conducted an Environmental Education Class with the Tribal Turtle Tots Program, and planted flowers.

The 21st we hosted another Rain Barrel Education Class at the Bearskin Fitness Center Storm Shelter. We have had a lot of interest in this class and have had very good attendance for each class.

### May

The week of May 2-6 our department held a tire and e-waste collection event. We collected a total of 161 car tires, 56 truck tires and two pickups and a trailer full of e-waste. A tire recycling company from Sapulpa, Okla., picked up the tires and the e-waste was transported to Neosho Recycling Center in Neosho, Mo. Another collection event is planned for the week of August 22-26.



On May 5 our department hosted its 9th Annual Environmental Festival. We had a total of 12 booths, with representation from 7 area tribal environmental departments (Miami, Ottawa, Eastern Shawnee, Seneca Cayuga, Cherokee, Quapaw, and Wyandotte), 2 State Parks (Bernice and Twin Bridges), NRCS, and the Missouri Audubon Society from Wildcat Glades Park, Joplin, Mo. We had 25 volunteers from the Wyandotte Nation staff, which helped us shuffle students from the Wyandotte Public Schools. A total of 487 students, 26 teachers, 7 teacher aides, 3 bus drivers, and 8 people from the general

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual Environmental Festival at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow grounds May 5, featuring various educational booths for kids from all over the area. Students from area schools, starting with Wyandotte in the morning, were signed up to participate in the event.



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

public that attended this event.

During the week of May 8-13, Kathy Welch attended the National NRDAR Workshop in Phoenix, Ariz. This event is hosted by the US Department of Interior and helps to identify and report on Natural Resource Damages within Indian country.

The week of the 16-20 found Lee traveling to Niagara Falls, NY for ITEP Air Training. Our department will be conducting a pilot air monitoring program in the next couple of months, and will be housing a mobile air monitor.

The week of the 23rd - 27th, Janice Wilson attended a Superfund Training in Spokane, Wash. As part of this training she was able to tour the Bunker Hill Superfund site in Bunker Hill, Idaho.

### June

This month has been very busy as we have been finishing up our Water 106 Assessments and Fish tissue sampling.

Our department also in collaboration with the Peoria, Quapaw, Ot-

tawa, Miami, Eastern Shawnee, and Seneca Cayuga tribal environmental departments, conducted a sediment sampling on 14 sampling sites throughout the watershed.



The week of the 20th - the 23rd we held Environmental Education Classes in the afternoon with tribal summer education program. On the 24th we held a recycling education class with the Little Turtles cultural

group.

Our department continues to monitor the local waters within the Wyandotte Nation jurisdiction on a monthly, quarterly and annual basis.

### Meetings attended by staff:

NATURE, TCC, TECO, TCTC, Spring River WRAPS, and Grand Lake Watershed Alliance.

### Upcoming Events:

Our department will once again be having a booth at the Ottawa County Free Fair the week of Aug. 17-20. Stop by our booth and say hi!

### 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  
 Scott Mills - 918-678-6386

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## PLANNING / DEVELOPMENT

*Submitted by Ron Kaiser, Senior Advisor*

There are two, Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) projects that are being finished.

1. The Cultural Center project had been issued a Certificate of Substantial Completion. Construction activity has reached a point where only the tasks that need completed include work on the multi-purpose room doors. Staff from the Heritage Department have moved in. 2. This second project is also finishing, providing expansion to the Ardie Nesvold Community Center Title 6 Building, which is an activity room that functions as a safe room. We are still completing a Title 6 spruce up. The Carla Culver Education Center has a new activity room functioning as "Gross Motor Skills" classroom and is a FEMA compliant safe room. Parking area for the pre-school has street lighting.

We also helped in developing an Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) application for improvements to a tribal housing area that needs improved potable water and street work.

This housing area is located in proximity to town of Seneca, Mo.

In response to proposed changes to FEMA new Floodplain levels, maps that illustrate the impact to the Tribe are being developed.

We are working on tribal properties for different projects; including replacing fencing, removing downed trees, protecting potential historic features, and clearing brush on several properties to maintain land quality.

Second house renovations are complete and it has been rented. We completed a new purchase that formally was a tire and auto mechanic shop. This property is on HWY 10 Southeast of the Admin Complex in proximity to Tribal Housing and near the new water system. In process of purchasing a three bedroom house directly south of the Administration Building that includes 7 acres.

As part of Fee to Trust activity the Tribe has to update the "Arrowhead Building" title commitment, Environmental Assessment, and has a final walk over with BIA Staff. Title Insurance policy is currently issued.

### **Planning/Development Staff:**

Ron Kaiser, Planning Director, (918) 678-6325  
Robby Graham, Land Management Technician, (918) 678-6357

## EDUCATION

*Submitted by Tammy Charles, Education Director*



COURTESY PHOTO

### **Youth prepare for a carnival.**

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department has been making the change of programs from Preschool / Before and After Care to Summer Program. Scholarship applications continue to arrive for fall 2016. Reminder to all interested applicants, we continue to accept applications after the May 1 deadline and process if funds are available.

The Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow was held at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow grounds May 3 with a large crowd. The showcase of the Wyandotte Language at the event was designed by Loretta Combes and Tara Gragg assisted her with musical recordings. Graduation ceremonies were held on May 16 in front of a packed Bearskin Fitness Gymnasium. Classes are full for fall 2016, but we continue to accept applications for a waiting list. Prospective students must be three years of age on or before Sept. 1.

The Child Care and Development Fund continues to serve around 200 children per month and the federal plan with all of the new provisions is being written and will be submitted the end of July.

Summer Program is in full operation with an average of 80 children per day. We were the host to Green Acres Baptist Church from Tyler, Texas, as they facilitated a Vacation Bible School program for four days in June. The Summer Culture Program presented by the following departments - Environmental, Family Services, and Bearskin Fitness was conducted partially in the new Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center. The tribal interns are a great addition to our Summer Program and this year we have the following Wyandotte tribal citizens with us in Education - Kaylee Arment, Shania

Bagnell, Cierra Cotter, Lynnea Cox, Tristen Cox, Susanne Divine, Trace Friend, Airiana Johnson, Mikalya Keller, Brandon Mitchell, Torey Seigel, Rebekah Shaffer, and part-time duties from Cade Friend and Sydney Nesvold. The children in our program adore the interns and the interns serve as good models for the children.

The Gateway to the World library enhancement grant continues to offer a variety of workshops for the community. Cultural topics as well as working with technology have been the focus of recent months. Recently a noon time creative bunch has met once a month to make something as well.

Reminder for returning college scholarship students - Deadlines for funding on semesters are as follows: Spring term Feb. 15 and Fall term is Oct. 1. All funds are sent to the school on behalf of the recipient. To renew funding for subsequent semesters, an official or unofficial transcript in its entirety it to be supplied to the Education department. The Housing Department works with us to get information out concerning the assistance for tribal citizens.

The Education Department is privileged to offer the following benefits for enrolled tribal members: Concurrent high school courses are covered for tuition or fees only; Vocational assistance is for programs that are not degree seeking and funding is dependent on intensity and duration of coursework; Undergraduate scholarships currently fund up to \$2,250 per semester for up to 8 semesters if all requirements are met; Masters level and beyond programs have a

maximum of four semesters of funding at \$1,500 per term.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act continues to be guided by the new federal regulations. If you are a Native American citizen from the Southeast Kansas or Southwest Missouri, you may be eligible for assistance with educational endeavors.

The staff of the education program is eager to assist Tribal citizens with available resources in the areas of educational funding, child care and the tribal library.

Please contact us if we can be of service to you.



COURTESY PHOTO

### **New playground at preschool.**



COURTESY PHOTO

### **Youth put on a Patriotic Program at the Title VI building July 1.**

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Important Numbers

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

Family Services / Enrollment / Tags  
Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319  
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org  
Tribal Social Worker  
Tara Gragg (918) 678-6355  
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Nutrition & Caregiver Services  
Brenda House (918) 678-6327  
bhouse@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

## ELDER SERVICES

**Submitted by Brenda House,  
Elder Services Director**

The Wyandotte Nation Title VI Part A is a grant from DHS Administration on Aging. The purpose of the program is to provide nutrition and socialization, promoting mental and physical well-being of the elderly. To advocate for elders rights, fight against elder abuse, and fraud.

### SUPPORTIVE SERVICES

- Information and assistance--12,609
- Transportation - 396
- Assessment -1,419
- Cultural -2,051
- Education -2,230
- Physical Fitness -1,634
- Recreation - 14,243
- Shopping - 34
- Counseling - 3,276
- All others - 27,035

The program serves meals five (5) days per week from 11:30 am to 1 pm Monday through Friday. Participants that are 55 or older with a CDIB card are eligible to eat free - spouses are also eligible to eat free. Guests are welcome to eat. The cost is \$5 for adults and \$3 for children 12 and under. A total of 30,996 meals were served last year (Days Served: 243; Daily Average: 127).

### Building rental:

Our prices to rent the building are \$75 for public, \$50 tribal members and tribal employees.

### Services provided:

- Host educational visits from home health agencies.
- Provide space for health screening services.
- Host yearly Medicare Part D/ Diabetes Health Screening Initiative.
- Host bingo, provided by outside health care organizations.
- Coordinate with other tribal entities for food bank distributions.

### Special events:

1. Annual Health Fair, Bearskin Health Center - Sept. 15, 2015
2. Horse Races Will Roger's Downs, Claremore, Okla. - Sept. 18, 2015
3. Picnic In The Park, Twin Bridges State Park, Wyandotte, Okla. - Sept. 23, 2015
4. Disney on Ice, Tulsa State Fair - Oct. 2, 2015
5. Senior Day, Grove, Okla. - Oct. 9, 2015

6. Halloween Party—Oct. 30, 2015
7. Health Forum, Coleman Theater, Miami, Okla. - Nov. 5, 2015
8. Thanksgiving Dinner - Nov. 19, 2015
9. Christmas Dinner - Dec. 17, 2015
10. Valentine Party - Feb. 11, 2016
11. Insure Oklahoma Presentation - March 23, 2016
12. Crime Victim Advocacy Presentation - April 13, 2016
13. Horse Races, Claremore, Okla. - April 25, 2016
14. Mother's Day Dinner - May 6, 2016
15. Legal Aid Presentation - May 12, 2016
16. Mobile Food Distribution, High Winds Casino - May 24
17. Grand Country Jubilee, Branson, Mo. - May 25, 2016
18. Bingo with Bible School Children - June 8, 2016
19. Father's Day Dinner - June 16, 2016
20. Senior Day, Buffalo Run Casino - June 21, 2016
21. Aquarium Trip, Jenks, Okla. - June 28, 2016
22. Preschool Independence Day Program - July 1, 2016
23. Senior Prom, Grove, Okla. - July 8, 2016
24. Senior Fraud Conference, Coleman Theater, Miami, Okla. - July 13, 2016
25. Annual Health Fair, Bearskin Health Center - Aug. 9, 2016

The Wyandotte Elementary, Middle School and High School Choirs performed Christmas music for the Elders during the lunch hour every Wednesday in the month of December. The Choir, FFA Students, FC-CLA Students and Football Boys also helped with the Conferences, Prom, Senior Days and Holiday Dinners.

## Title VI Part C (Caregiver Program)

This is a respite program developed for families caring for an older adult and grandparents raising grandchildren. The program provides temporary relief for the caregiver to take a much-needed break.

If you would like more information or assistance for either program, we would be happy to assist you. Please call the tribal office at 1-918-678-6327 or 6328.

### Caregiver (Clients Served)

- Information about available services--124
- Assistance in gaining access to available services--18
- Individual Counseling—18
- Support Groups—13
- Lending Closet—6
- Respite—18

### Caregiver Special events:

- Caregiver Support Group Christmas Luncheon - Dec. 3, 2015
- Caregiver Pamper Day, Quapaw Tribe - March 10, 2016
- Caregiver Spring Conference, Miami, Okla. - April 1, 2016
- REACH Training, Hard Rock Casino, Catoosa, OK - June 30, 2016
- Alzheimer's Training, Tulsa, OK - July 19, 2016
- Caregiver Support Group: Meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 10:30 am. Average attendance is 6-8 people.

### Boards:

- Elder Services Director serves on the following boards:
- President of Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council
  - Treasurer of the Oklahoma Indian Council
  - Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging
  - Northeast Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition
  - Received the National Leadership Award from the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
  - National Association of Area Agencies on Aging Board Alternate

### Meetings attended:

- Grand Gateway Advisory Council Board - 6
- Caregiver Coalition - 6
- Oklahoma Indian Council Executive Board - 12
- National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (N4A) Conference, San, Diego, CA

### Title VI Staff

Brenda House - Elder Services Director ext. 6327  
Stephanie Hamilton - Food Service Team Supervisor ext. 6328  
Seth Higginbotham - Food Service Team Member ext. 6328  
Teresa Wilson--Food Service Team Member ext. 6328  
Chris Rhodes--Food Service Team Member ext. 6328  
-- All full-time employees are CPR, Fire Extinguisher and Food Safety Certified.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## TRIBAL HERITAGE

*Submitted by Sherri Clemons,  
Tribal Heritage Director*

Kweh all! Well it has truly happened. Wyandotte's have a safe place to store and exhibit our treasures.

The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center/Museum is almost ready to open. Grand Opening is set for Sept. 9, 2016.

The event will be a great day for us.

Staff has been working to get things in place and the Cultural Committee has helped to have it perfect. As of now we are housing artifacts and working on getting them

all organized so we have records on everything we collect.

We hope everyone in the area can make it. Also this is the week of The Gathering, Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting.

Very busy week for all Wyandotte but if you are here it is exciting for everyone.

Watch the website (www.wyandotte-nation.org) for information and schedule for everything.

If your family has things to donate, please contact Sherri Clemons 918.678.6344 or Loretta Combes 918.678.6318 for information on what needs should be met before sending things. See you in September!

## HEALTH & FITNESS

*Submitted by Kelly Friend,  
Director of Health Services*

We would like to introduce our new physician:

Doug Cox M.D. is a graduate of University of Oklahoma College of Medicine. After completing a Family Medicine residency at the University of Tulsa Medical College, Dr. Cox has practiced in Grove, Okla. Dr. Cox has practiced both Family



Medicine and Emergency Medicine over the last 35 years. He has received many awards including Oklahoma Family Physician of the Year Award (X2), and the Hero of Emergency Medicine Award from the American College of Emergency Physicians.

The director of the Grove Emergency Medical Services, Dr. Cox is also completing 12 years in the Oklahoma House of Representatives, where he was Chairman of the Appropriations and Budget Subcommittee for Health Care.

He and his wife, Drenda, have 3 grown children and 6 grandchildren. He enjoys hobbies of playing on Grand Lake and flying his Cessna 172 airplane.

## Employee of the Year



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Second Chief Norman Hildebrand and Chief Billy Friend present Janice Wilson with a plaque as she was honored as 'Employee of the Year.'

We are pleased to announce that Janice Wilson was recently named 'Employee of the Year' by her co-workers.

Janice has been employed by the Tribe since September 1990. She began as a house-keeping/kitchen aid in our Title VI Department and worked her way up to head cook.

After 11 ½ years, Janice transferred to the Environmental Departmental where she currently works as an Environmental Technician.

Janice was chosen as 'Employee of the Year' for her strong work ethic, dependability, and loyalty to the Wyandotte Nation.

In her spare time, Janice loves the outdoors and enjoys fishing, camping, hunting, and spending time with her grandkids and great grandkids.

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

**SCARE(ROW)**  
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS  
5K AND 1 MILE FUN RUN  
OCTOBER 22, 2016, AT 8:00 AM

**FREE REGISTRATION**  
Registration must be received by  
October 15 to guarantee a t-shirt!

**DON'T BE SCARED TO STAND  
UP TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE!**

In lieu of registration fee, donations of toiletry items are being accepted for the Community Crisis Center of Miami. Items needed include: toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine hygiene products, diapers, wipes, hairbrushes, shampoo, conditioner, etc.

**BEARSKIN FITNESS CENTER**  
TURTLE DRIVE, WYANDOTTE OK 74370  
PHONE 918.678.2070, FAX 918.678.3042  
BEARSKINFITNESS@WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG

<https://www.signmeup.com/site/online-event-registration/114498/SMUCalendar>

# CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

## Tribal Artisan Showcase 2016

Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center - Saturday, Sept. 10

### Three age divisions

- Golden years (ages 55 and over)
- Adult (20 to 54 years)
- Youth (ages 19 and under)

### Categories

#### Naturals:

- Gourd Items
- Pipes
- Flint knapping
- Drums
- Flutes
- Chokers
- Rattles/ Shakers
- Walking Stick
- Other

#### Textile:

- Clothing
- Finger woven items
- Quilting
- Shawl

#### Art:

- Pencil/Charcoal/Pastel
- Painting
- Photography
- Clay/Pottery
- Other medium

#### Beading:

- Traditional
- Contemporary

#### Leather Items:

- Moccasins
- Medicine Bags/ Pouches
- Other

#### Baskets:

- Pine Needle
- Reed

#### Silver smith:

- Knives
- Other

All items are to be submitted to Tammy Charles or Debra Haynes in the Education Building - no later than 4:30 pm Sept. 7, 2016.

Items must have been crafted after the Tribal Artisan showcase of 2015 and be dated.

If an item crosses into more than one category, exhibitor must declare the category of entry.

## Annual Fireworks Display



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual Fireworks Display Friday, July 1, to celebrate Independence Day. The event also featured vendors, youth fundraisers (below left), inflatables and The Diversity Band (below right), who hyped the crowd up with some familiar tunes.



## Senior Picnic

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual picnic for its seniors at the Heritage Acres Community Center in Wyandotte, Okla., May 6. With previous themes being western and beach, the housing staff led by Kathy DeWeese helped the elders take a trip back in time with a 50s Rock-n-Roll Diner theme this year. The elders listened to 50s rock-n-roll, competed in trivia and Name that Tune, and wrapped up the event playing a round of Kerplunk! They also enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, sundaes, floats and banana splits.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Ramona Reid tries her hand at the lifesize Kerplunk! game at the Senior Picnic.

# CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

## Intern Trip



PHOTOS BY TAMMY CHARLES/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation took its summer interns on the annual trip to help the youth connect with Wyandotte history. The interns went to Ohio this year and were able to take a kayak trip down the Huron (above), took part in a remembrance ceremony at the Mission Church (left and below), and visited other historical places. They also took a break for a Starbucks run too (below left).



### Schedule of Events

200th Anniversary of the arrival of John Stewart & Native American Days

October 21, 22, 23, & 24

October 21 6:30pm at Upper Sandusky Community Library

Wyandots today presented by the Chiefs

October 22 6:30am - 10:30am Breakfast with the Wyandots

All you can eat pancake & sausage-JSUMC

1:00pm- Cemetery Walk thru at Mission Church

featuring: John Stewart, Rev Wheeler,

Mother Solomon, Harriet Stubbs,

Squire Grey Eyes.

October 23 7:30am - Breakfast at the Mission Church

8:00am - Church Service at the Mission

10:10am - Church Service at JSUMC

1:00pm - Learning stations at JSUMC

includes: Pageant, Drums, Dance,

History, Aritfacts, Language,

LaCrosse, & Wyandots Today

October 24 7:30am - Stations at JSUMC for all 3rd graders

11:30am - Stations at JSUMC for all 4th graders

## ONLINE GIFT STORE

Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!

*Featured items:* Tribal mugs, pins, T-shirts, caps, books, & totes

**Check it out!**

### Convenient:

- 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.
- No need to retype your financial information.

### Secure:

- When shopping online you will never have to give your credit card number to us.
- 100% protection against any unauthorized payments sent from your account.
- All of your purchases are confirmed with an email receipt.

# CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS



## Garcia signs with Haskell to run cross-country



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte tribal citizen and Seneca Senior High student Joshua Garcia signed to run cross-country Thursday, May 5, for Haskell Indian Nations University. Accompanied by his friends, family, high school coaches and his new coach, Joshua signed the letter at Seneca High.

Congratulations Joshua -- a bright future lies ahead!

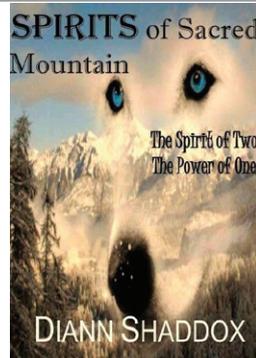
Josh Garcia signs his letter to run cross country with Haskell as his new coach, high school coaches and parents Kim and Arturo Garcia looking on.

## Tribal citizen releases new book

Wyandotte tribal citizen Diann Shaddox has a new book 'Spirits of Sacred Mountain.' The book is on Native American folklore. She dedicated the book to her husband, the Wyandotte Nation and to Chief Leaford Bearskin.

"Spirits of Sacred Mountain" can be purchased as an ebook, a paperback and hardback through major online retailers such as Amazon and Barnes & Noble.

For more information, visit [www.diannshaddox.com](http://www.diannshaddox.com).



## Obituary

### Dennis Smotherman

March 23, 1943 – March 9, 2016

Born March 23, 1943 to William and Jannie Lou (Jones) Smotherman, Dennis 'Smo' Smotherman passed from this life on March 9, 2016 from colon cancer.

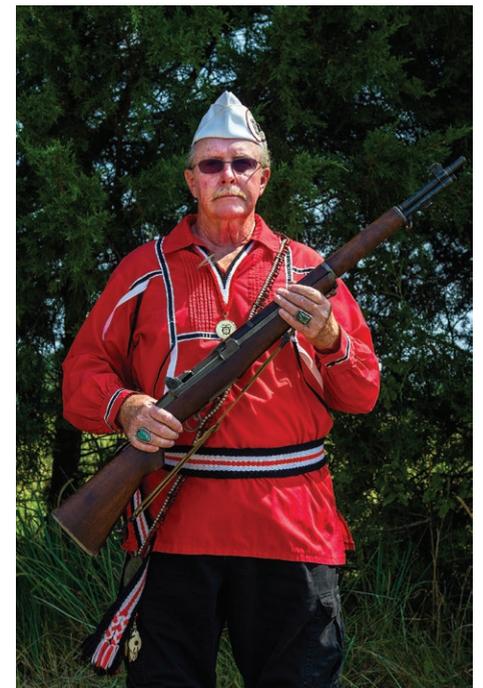
Smo was born in Miami, Okla. He spent his early childhood in Commerce, Okla., and the family later moved to Owasso, Okla., where he graduated from Owasso High School in 1961. In 1964 he joined the U.S. Navy. He was stationed in Key West, Fla., and later in Adak, Alaska before spending the remainder of his military life in the San Francisco area. Smo was honorably discharged in 1968 and returned to the Tulsa area where he accepted a position with Standard Oil of Indiana.

In July of 1969 Smo took a fishing trip to northern Minnesota. It was on this same fishing trip that he met a blonde, blue eyed farmer's daughter at a party. Guess who got caught? Smo married Brenda Jane in December of the same year and their union was blessed with three beautiful daughters.

It has been said that Smo never meet a stranger. He loved being around people and good food. He enjoyed hunting and fishing. He was a member of the American Legion in Skiatook, the VFW in Bernice, the Moose and Elk Lodges in Grove, the Masonic Lodge of Skiatook and Grove, the Akdar Shrine of Tulsa, the Akdar Indian Group and for a short time the Scottish Rite in Tulsa. He rode his motorcycle with the Posse out of Grove and liked to sing Karaoke.

He was a Wandat Gourd Dancer, a member and Past Commander of the Wyandotte Honor Guard and a gaming commissioner for the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma. Smo volunteered on the Pow Wow committee and enjoyed participating in the many different pow-wows in Northeastern Oklahoma.

Smo is survived by his mother, Jannie Smotherman; sister Debra Smotherman of Tulsa; his wife Brenda and their three daughters, Catherine and Jeff Hitchcock, Sara and Eric Phillips, Chrissy and two grandchildren, Orion Bear Phillips and Tallulah Violet Grace Phillips.



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