



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 20, Issue 2

[www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)

May 2016

## Returning to where it all began

TRIBAL LEADERS TAKE  
TOWN HALL ON THE ROAD  
TO CALIFORNIA AND  
PACIFIC NORTHWEST

PAGE 7



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

The Wyandotte Nation  
64700 E Hwy 60  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

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



### Inside:

- A new look for 7th Street Casino
- WNTPD hires new Crime Victim Advocate
- Superhero 5K & Bearskin Strongman

## Board of Directors

Chief.....Billy Friend  
 Second Chief..... Norman Hildebrand, Jr.  
 Councilperson..... Ramona Reid  
 Councilperson..... Vivian Fink  
 Councilperson..... Juanita McQuiston  
 Councilperson..... Eric Lofland

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:  
 William Swaim  
**Tribal citizen  
 Josh Garcia  
 shows his Grass  
 Dance during a  
 Town Hall.**

## Contact Us

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.

### Looking for Elders, Veterans for Feature Stories

We are looking for tribal citizens to feature in upcoming issues, whether you live in the Oklahoma area or some far off distant land, we want to hear your story; elders and veterans especially.

Have News?

Share it

We want to hear from you! Send us news or stories you may have or suggest features for us to work on.

Email: [wswaim@wtok.org](mailto:wswaim@wtok.org)



## From the Chief

## Billy Friend

# Honor, respect, civility important to every day life

Kweh,  
 I hope that this quarter's tribal newsletter finds all doing well and enjoying the beginning of a new season.

I would like to begin by saying a special thank you to all of our tribal citizens in Southern California and in the Northwest who attended and participated in our Tribal Town Hall Meetings in Newport Beach, Calif., and in Olympia, Wash. It was such an honor for me to be able to meet many of our tribal citizens and their families for the first time. This has been a vision of ours for the past several years to be able to take our annual meeting that is done each year in September here in Oklahoma out to different areas of the country where we have large concentrations of Wyandotte citizens who are not able to attend our meeting in Oklahoma.

We now have 5,931 citizens and only 300-500 each year are able to attend the meeting here in Oklahoma. I believe it is one of the greatest things we have been able to do as a Tribe -- we want every Wyandotte citizen to feel connected to their Tribe and be proud to be Wyandotte!

Another great program here at the Nation is our summer youth intern program. Each summer we have 20-25 of our Wyandotte youth between the ages of 16-22 that participate in this program. It is an opportunity for our youth to not only work and earn an income, but also to learn about their Tribe and who we are, what we do and what is expected from them.

In today's world, all types of messages are directed toward our youth daily between their cellular phones, personal computers and other electronic devices, they are receiving a constant stream of calls, emails and text messages. Even as they drive along our streets and highways their eyes are directed to a multitude of signs and other devices designed to get their attention.

It is our goal that the 2-3 months that they intern with us that we can help instill the fundamentals of honor, respect and civility in their lives and the importance of keeping their lives in good order, and maintain emphasis on those things that are important in life.

Honor is more than simply the outer shell you show the world. Honor, much like integrity when

boiled down, is doing the right thing even when no one is watching. Practicing honorable behavior requires thinking about proper behavior and being prepared for challenging situations.

Respect means more than simply being polite, although politeness is important. You must give of yourself to help others and work with others to achieve positive goals. When a person lacks respect for others he is most often seen as selfish, self-serving or simply disinterested.

Dave Chief said the following about respect, "Respect means owning our own negativity and not being a "Blame Shifter." A "Blame Shifter" is one who projects or shifts his own negativity onto someone else. Respect is keeping the lines of communication open with those who have a different opinion, and making a sincere attempt to let them be heard and understood. Respect means listening until everyone has been heard and understood, only then is there a possibility for "Balance and Harmony," the goal of Indian spirituality.

See **Chief**, Page 3

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

# Make the Native vote count; Cultural Center looking for historic items

Kweh  
 Well Spring has sprung earlier than expected and with it enough pollen to make everyone miserable. I don't think I have ever seen it this bad, it is even affecting people who usually do not have problems with allergies.

I am very happy to announce that our Heritage Department will be moving into our new Cultural Center/Museum so I am urging

our Wyandotte Citizens to send us any documents, pictures or good copies of these articles and donate them to the museum so we may display them. The same goes for any other items you might have to help us tell the story of the Wyandotte Nation. If you have a picture or possibly some military items that may have been saved from a Wyandotte citizen's military service we would love to have

them so that we can honor our Wyandotte Servicemen. We have an agreement with the Wyandotte County Museum in Kansas City, Kansas, and possibly the Smithsonian in Washington D.C. to bring Wyandotte artifacts to our museum for display. There are a lot of exciting things we have planned for our new addition to the Wy-

See **Second Chief**, Page 3



## 2016 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

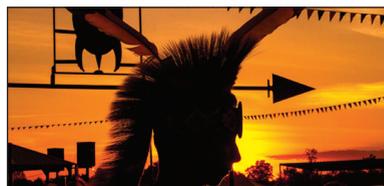
### GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

**JUNE**  
**24-26**



### 27TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.**  
**9-11**



### THE GATHERING

**SEPT.**  
**7-9**



### ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.**  
**10**



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## 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**

## Chief

Continued from Page 2

Civility or Politeness is an element of life that often seems missing in our society today. We have all seen on television, listened on radio or read in the newspaper of harsh and uncivil acts by one person or group toward another. The callousness of our communications is often reinforced by what we see, hear and

read today in our media and social media.

Civil and open communication allows for extended discussion and, very often, a positive outcome. No matter the subject or challenge, engaging others in a civil or polite manner can produce terrific outcomes that would not have otherwise occurred.

It is encouraging that today's Wyandotte youth display respect for our elders. Our elders, having

grown up in a time of more simplicity and less "messaging," have much to share with us if we will only take the time to listen. They have the good fortune of long life and have many experiences to share. We want to teach our youth to slow down, block all the messages for a time, and talk with Wyandotte elders. By doing so we know that they will be surprised by what they will learn!

I would like to challenge you to

keep the time-honored tenets of honor, respect and civility in the forefront of your mind and teach them in your home. I can assure you that it will pay huge dividends, for you, your family and for all with whom you interact.

In today's world, it can be very easy to slide into the "busyness" of life.

Take your time and remember what is truly important in life. That, I believe, is the Wyandotte way.

## Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

Wyandotte Nation Complex here in Wyandotte, Okla.

On National politics (very depressing), there still isn't a clear front runner in either party. It is hard for me to believe that these are the best candidates the parties can come up with to run for President. Like I said before very depressing.

I checked out the websites of all the front runners and only one candidate mentioned anything about Native Americans and that was Bernie Sanders; he vowed to honor the Tribes sovereignty I applaud him for that. Hillary has met with leaders of some of the Northwest Tribes and I haven't heard what was said, but it is a start. Trump has never had a good relationship with any Na-

tive American tribe, but he did say somewhere that he would tax the tribes and that is a violation of our sovereignty. The other candidates haven't said anything if much about tribes, but none of them have said much about anything. Everyone needs to get out and vote whether it's local, state or nationally -- we need to make the "Native Vote" count.

Now for a little history, this is from an interview with Percy Ladd Walker: "I, Percy Ladd Walker, 1/8 Wyandotte was born at Wyandotte, Kansas, September 1, 1849. My father, Matthew H. Walker, a brother of Gov. Wm. Walker was born in Ontario, Canada, June 17, 1810 and belonged to the Big Turtle Clan, Wyandotte's. His Indian name was Rah-hahn-tah-she or Twisting the Forest. He was one of the leading members of the Wyandotte's and noted for

his hospitality to both friend and opponent.

He was made a Mason at Upper Sandusky, Ohio. On their removal to Wyandotte, Kansas, the first Masonic Lodge was organized and met in his log home on August 11, 1854. M.R. Walker was Senior Warden. In May 1855, he was made Worthy Master and the lodge was authorized to meet and work under name of Kansas Lodge 151 AF & AM. The first meeting under the charter was on July 27, 1855. The Eastern Star Chapter was also organized and my mother was the first Worthy Matron of Lodge Mendian (Women of the Soft Voice), John Leonard of Missouri organized it at our house. My mother was Lydia Brown Ladd, a white woman of Puritan descent. She was born in Sandusky, Ohio, and married my father there.

When the Wyandotte's were

removed to Kansas, my mother came with the women and children by steamboat. They landed at Westport, now Kansas City, Missouri. My father had charge of the livestock. He, with the other men, started in the spring and they were three months on the way, grazing and resting their stock on the way. They crossed the Mississippi River near the St. Francis River. After their arrival, they began selecting sites for their homes and my father chose and built our first home, a log house of four rooms and two halls, on the site where the Fowler Packing Plant now stands. Later in 1856, he built a comfortable nine-room frame house on the same location."

I am going to close my article with a quote that Chief Friend always starts the Annual and Town Hall meetings with "It is a good day to be Wyandotte."

# Johnston fills new role as Crime Victim Advocate

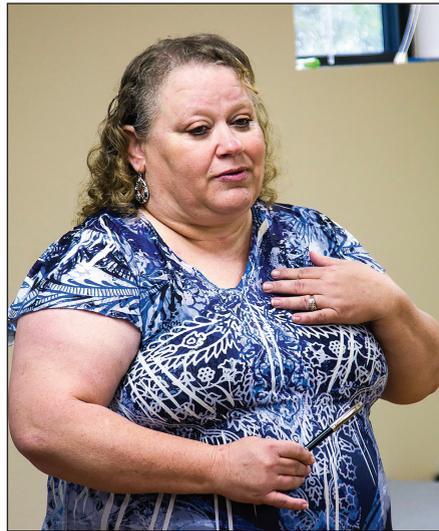
By **KIMBERLY BARKER**  
MIAMI NEWS RECORD

Kristi Johnston is the newest member of Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department, but she doesn't carry a gun- she is the tribe's first crime victim advocate.

Johnston is trained and certified by Council of Law Enforcement, Education and Training (CLEET) as a reserve police officer.

Wyandotte Police Department was awarded a federal grant managed through the District Attorney's Council in 2015, which was the first year the tribe applied for the grant.

"Through different associations through the District Attorney's Council, they were recommending that police departments look at putting advocates in the police departments," Ken Murphy, chief of police of the Wyandotte Nation, said. "Apparently, there are a couple of them around the



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
**Kristi Johnston speaks to those in attendance at the National Crime Victims Week Proclamation.**

state that are relatively new but successful.

"We're finding a lot of things that fall in that gray area that require assistance, but don't

elevate to a crime, which is really where we've missed in the past, in my opinion. Early intervention is important and why not intervene when it is not yet a crime to resolve the problem than wait until it does enter the justice system. I think that's the biggest win."

Through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant, the tribal police were able to employ Johnston part-time to help victims of any crimes.

"Kristi contacts a lot of people that we've done information reports on or our officers have made referrals that aren't yet crimes, where there is a clear cut victim that's eligible for that type of assistance," Murphy said. "The District Attorney's Council is wanting us to experiment and see what having a police department advocate model looks like. In conversations with them, they are very excited that we're able to serve, not only those gray area

victims, but all victims."

Johnston said her position as a crime victim advocate began as a part-time job, but the tribe will be applying for a full-time position in July. She began working for the tribe in November 2015.

According to Johnston and Murphy, she is the first crime victim advocate in Ottawa County. The closest crime victim advocate is in Osage County, Murphy said.

Murphy said that other law enforcement agencies have several types of advocates but not a crime victim advocate.

"I've tried to contact other crime victim advocates through VOCA," Johnston said. "I've made contact with some and most of them that I've made contact with have been doing it just for a month or two."

Johnston is a Wyandotte native. She graduated from Wyandotte Schools and has a 20 year background in law enforcement.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
**Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Wyandotte Mayor Leon Crow sign a proclamation in support of Crime Victims' Rights Week.**

## A proclamation to support crime victims

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Wyandotte Mayor Leon Crow signed a proclamation in support of making April 10 through April 16 Crime Victims' Rights Week. Several gathered to witness the signing and enjoyed breakfast.

They also got a chance to meet new Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department's Crime Victim's Advocate Kristi Johnston, who organized the proclamation.

"Having community leaders that are so gung ho about this, it makes me feel good being from this community," Johnston told those gathered at the event.

## Officers pass rigorous motor training

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department's Chief Ken Murphy and Officer Glen Johnston graduated from a two-week police motorcycle basic certification class hosted by the Quapaw Marshals.

The intensive course challenged both officers, but both rose to the challenge and graduated. Quapaw Marshal Dan Cook said they only needed a 75 to pass, but Police Chief Murphy scored a 94 and Johnston a 92 to pass the test.

"The Quapaw Tribe has been tremendous to us since we got our bikes. It's the toughest course I've been through in my career," Chief Murphy said. "Dan did a great job through the instruction, walked us through it."

Murphy added that the course is only the beginning.

"It's a good start. We have to continue to work and practice our skill. We have to recertify every year. It's an outstanding course and I'm very proud of Glen," he said.

Quapaw Marshals Cook and Travis Eby presented the WNTPD officers with their certificates, wings and a bell that will go on their bikes.



WILLIAM SWAIM/  
WYANDOTTE NATION  
**(Above) Quapaw Marshal Dan Cook presents WNTPD Police Chief Ken Murphy with his certificate. (Left) Quapaw Marshal Travis Eby presents WNTPD Officer Glen Johnston with a bell for his bike.**

# Registration open for annual Gathering of Little Turtles June 24-26

By MARILYN YOUNG  
CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Families, Grandparents, Aunts, Uncles, Elders, plan now to attend the 3rd Gathering of Little Turtles Friday through Sunday, June 24 - 26, starting at 1 pm Friday, and ending approximately 1 pm Sunday. The Gathering of Little Turtles is for all citizens, and will include activities geared toward our youth.

We are very excited that this year the Gathering will be held in the new Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center, located on the southwest side of the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Gymnasium. Activities will start with a special smoking ceremony of the Cultural Center by Chief Billy Friend at 1 pm Friday. It will be a fun filled weekend for all.

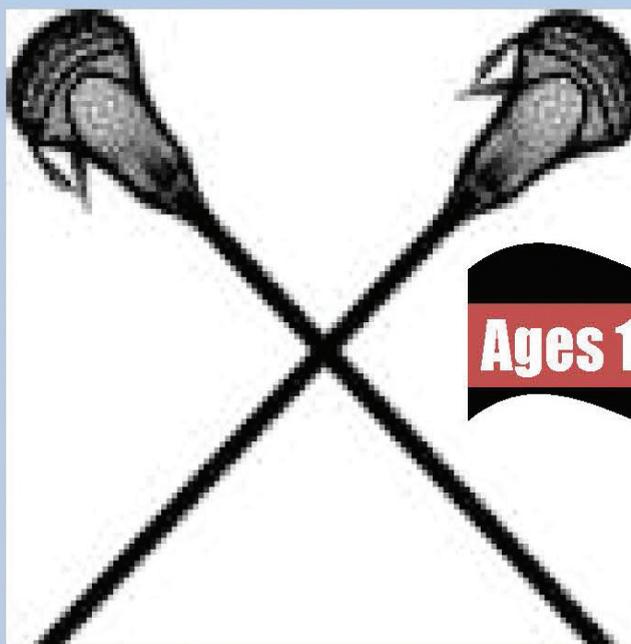
Dr. Steckley and his wife Angie are returning to teach our language and of course their animated stories. Many activities are being planned, including: Lacrosse, finger weaving, beading, and social dancing, to name a few. We are bringing back the ever popular lock-in for families to stay overnight Friday and Saturday nights.

Friday night we will once again have a cookout and time by the campfire, singing will also be involved. Meals during the event will be provided to those attending the Gathering, as well as T-shirts for all registered youth attending.

This is a free event, open to citizens and their families of the Wyandotte Nation. Registration is required, to allow sufficient supplies and food for the weekend event. Registration opens May 1, and ends no later than June 3 to ensure T-shirts for all youth and enrollment in all crafts classes. Those registering after June 3 may not receive T-shirts, or some crafts may be limited.

Please watch the Wyandotte Nation website [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) for the Registration and Agenda.

If you have any questions, please email Marilyn Young at [Marilyn.S.Young57@gmail.com](mailto:Marilyn.S.Young57@gmail.com) or you may call Debbie Dry or Loretta Combes at the tribal offices (918) 678-2297 or (800) 256-2539.



## Lacrosse Camp

*Hosted by the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Committee*

**June 21st, 22nd and 23rd**

**June 24th Game vs. Eastern Shawnee**

**9:00 am—3:00 pm**

**Wyandotte High School Football Field**

*Lunch will be provided each day*

*Free of charge*

*Limited to 50 participants*

*Call 918-678-2070 to register your child*

# A test of speed and a test of might

## *Superhero 5K, Strongman competition challenge area athletes*

BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Some of the fastest runners and strongest men and women in the area donned their superhero outfits and showcased their skills Saturday, April 19 at the annual Superhero 5K and Bearskin Strongman competition.

After battling rainy conditions last year, our superheroes this year were met with sunny skies and warm weather as runners and walkers took part in the Superhero 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run in the morning.

As the runners crossed the finish line, some of the strongest men and women from the four state area put their super strength and skills to the test in what proved to be a battle of endurance during the Bearskin Strongman Competition. The Wyandotte Nation Casino sponsors the event every year.

The test of strength included throwing kettle bells, pulling vehicles, lifting and pushing trucks, and carrying weights and tires across a course.

The events were held to raise awareness for the Wyandotte Nation's Methamphetamine & Suicide Prevention Initiative.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend presented the overall run winners with a plaque and the top finishers with medals. He later presented trophy kettle bells and \$400 to the Strongman competition winners.

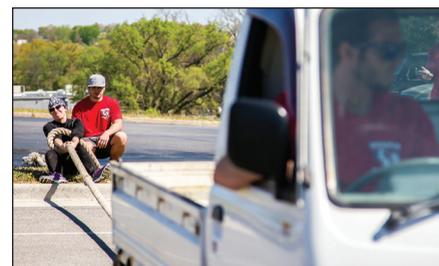
The top male runner was Nathan Riley with a time of 18 minutes, 10 seconds. The top female runner was Victoria Kline with a time of 19:35.

In the Strongman competition, Cody Watkins took home the heavyweight trophy for the men while Jessica Williams was the women's champ. In the lightweight competition, Vicki Fleming was tops for the women while Brandon Rapel led the men.

For complete race results and Strongman top finishers, see pages 17-19.



Photos by William Swaim



# Connecting with the Tribe

*Town Hall Meetings return to where it all began*

BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation wrapped up the 2016 Town Hall Meetings in March and April by returning to where it all began – the West Coast and Pacific Northwest.

In 2013, the Wyandotte Nation led by Chief Billy Friend, started a new tradition of hosting off-site Town Hall meetings. The first was held in Seattle while back-to-back meetings were held in California at Irvine and Sacramento.

The Town Hall Meeting presentation format is similar to the Annual Meeting. 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 is the fourth year tribal leadership brought the Annual Meeting on the road to improve communication and make connections with tribal citizens who live away from Tribal Headquarters in Wyandotte, Okla. After visits to Texas, Colorado, Arizona, and Indiana in previous years, the Nation took the Town Hall meetings to Olympia, Wash., and Newport Beach, Calif., this year.

“Our 2016 Town Hall meetings

were an outstanding success,” said Chief Friend. “It was great to go back to where we first started the meetings in 2013, see some familiar faces and to meet new citizens that were not able to attend the first meetings.”

With 5,930 tribal citizens scattered nationwide, many do not have the opportunity to make it to Oklahoma for September’s Annual Meeting. Chief Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, along with other tribal leadership, sat down to figure out the greatest concentration of Wyandottes in certain locales to try and reach as many tribal citizens as possible.

The Town Hall meetings help bring the connection to the Tribe that tribal citizens might not get otherwise.

“I believe the meetings are accomplishing the goals we set for them from the beginning and that is connecting with and informing our citizens across the Nation,” Chief Friend said.

Dates and locations have yet to be decided for the 2017 Town Hall Meetings. Be sure to follow the Wyandotte Nation website, [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org), the Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation), and the Turtle Talk newsletter for upcoming information concerning the dates and locations.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation brought its Town Hall Meetings to California and Washington in 2016. (Above) The Washington Town Hall was held at the Longhouse at Evergreen State College in Olympia. (Below) Chief Billy Friend, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Princess Emilee Wills and Fancy Dancer Sara Wright take time for photos in California. Chief Friend takes time to talk to tribal citizens. Wills signs *The Lord's Prayer*.





www.wtok.org

## WTOK promotes Boone to new position

Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) is pleased to announce the promotion of Jennie Boone to Director of Government Operations, moving up from her previous position as Program Manager for Wyandotte Services.

Boone has been Program Manager at the Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region in Folsom, Calif., since November 2010; starting out at Bearskin Services before transitioning to Wyandotte Services.

Boone will oversee all government contracts. The position will also entail getting involved in new business development. She will be based in Folsom while also traveling to all government contract sites.

"Jennie Boone has proven herself to be a strong, committed leader for the Wyandotte organization," said WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino. "It is her dedication to customer satisfaction, ability to lead teams of professionals and commitment to exceeding performance standards that led me to choose Jennie for the position.

"While she is known for her ability to focus and get things done, she also has a keen understanding of the big picture. I look forward to the strategic contributions Jennie will make to our organization in her new role."

# A new look for 7th Street Casino receives facelift inside and out to update its appearance

BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation's 7th Street Casino in Kansas City, Kansas, refreshed its look both inside and out, and the updated appearance should appeal to more patrons.

"The casino has a new fresh look and as our guests comment -- it looks more like a casino," said 7th Street Casino General Manager Kevin Lien. "The floors are a lot brighter with the new lights and color selection for the carpet and wall covering."

As for the interior, Lien said it involved new wall covering, new carpet, refinishing the woodwork and upgrading the lighting in the casino.

Some major changes included an upgrade to both of the bars on the second and third floors -- they both have a new modern look.

Work was also done on the third floor by enclosing the "stage area" and making that area the high stakes area -- "Platinum Room." Some ceiling elements were added to the third floor giving a totally new look to this floor. All the drink stations were upgraded and relocated to better serve guests. Minor changes were also made to the café to better utilize the space.

In addition to the interior facelift, the exterior got a bit of work done too as the project included changing both entrances. On the 7th Street side, the stairs were removed and replaced with a landing as you exit the building along with two sets of stairs going along side of the building.



COURTESY OF CHIEF BILLY FRIEND/WYANDOTTE NATION

7th Street Casino in Kansas City, Kansas, received a facelift to its exterior with a bigger and brighter sign to attract more guests. In addition, the steps were replaced to increase safety and a new sign displaying "Wyandotte Nation" and the turtle logo.

There is a new canopy covering the landing and stairs with a new large sign above the canopy. The wall of the landing proudly displays a new sign which reads "Wyandotte Nation" with a turtle in the middle.

The entrance will be much safer for guests, especially in inclement weather.

The Ann Street entrance proj-

ect is currently underway and is the final stage of the project. A new canopy will be installed that will extend from the building to the property line. This will provide coverage of the vehicles who are dropping off our guests.

"The project moved along very

See **FACELIFT**, Page 9

## Facelift

Continued from Page 8

**'The casino has a new fresh look and as our guests comment -- it looks more like a casino. The floors are a lot brighter with the new lights and color selection for the carpet and wall covering.'**

*-- Kevin Lien, 7th Street Casino General Manager*

smoothly," Lien said. "We shut down each floor, one at a time, for approximately six weeks.

"We started with the third floor first and moved down. The machines were removed from the floor as the construction took place. Even though our guests were inconvenienced, the revenues held steady throughout the construction."

The project began Nov. 9 as the floors were completed along the way. The 7th Street entrance was completed April 16 and Lien said he hopes the Ann Street update is completed by Memorial Day – weather permitting.

The design work was completed by H2B Architects from Kansas City, Mo. Crossland Construction was the successful bidder on the project.

Lien said the project wouldn't have been a success without the support of tribal leadership, CEO Kelly Carpino and especially the staff.

"The team members were outstanding in helping with the remodeling project. They pitched in and helped with additional work in disconnecting the machines, moving them and then reinstalling them," he said. "There were many extra hours worked by a lot of team members. They also had to adjust when each floor was shut down yet continue to run up and down from floor to floor.

"They all worked without complaining and in total excitement for the finished product."



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION



## Smoking ceremony

(Above) Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend discusses the significance of the smoking ceremony in the new multipurpose room at the Cultural Center with several board members and other tribal leadership in attendance at the private ceremony. (Right) The yet to be finished multipurpose room as seen from the entryway as tribal leadership takes a tour of the soon to be completed facilities.

## N7 Youth Movement

Thursday, March 30, Oklahoma State University hosted the 2nd Annual N7 Youth Movement Event. The main objective for the day was to inspire Native Youth to be more active, educated and connected to the power of community. OSU student athletes and the Native American Student Association lead youth through various sessions including: Traditional dance, Track, Football, Soccer, Adventure Games, Basketball and Stickball. Through these activities, emphasis was placed on health and wellness. Wyandotte Nation Tribal Participants included: Caleb Garcia, Gabriel Garcia, Kacie Rupert, Calvin Hudson, Brayden Casey, Blake Casey, Katana Hamilton, Collin Gray, Brady Lofland and Preston Reynolds.



COURTESY PHOTOS

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

<p>Friday, September 9 Evening</p> <p>Jr. Boys Fancy Womens Fancy Shawl Mens Straight Jr. Girls Jingle Womens Golden Age</p> <p>49 Contest - Jay Blalock</p>	<p>Saturday, September 10 Afternoon</p> <p>Jr. Boys Grass Womens Buckskin Mens Traditional Jr. Girls Cloth</p>	<p>Sunday, September 11 Afternoon</p> <p>Mens Golden Age Womens Cloth Jr. Boys Traditional Jr. Girls Buckskin Mens Grass</p> <p>Special Grandparents Day Honor Dance Prizes for the Oldest Grandmother and Grandfather present</p>
<p>ALL SPECIALS HELD SATURDAY AFTERNOON CONTACT THE ARENA DIRECTOR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION</p>	<p>Saturday, September 10 Evening</p> <p>Tiny Tots Mens Fancy Jr. Girls Fancy Shawl Womens Jingle Jr. Boys Straight</p> <p>Stomp Dance - Invited Grounds</p>	<p>Gourd Dancing 1 hour prior to all sessions.</p>

**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 Family Services Department is very happy to welcome tribal member Tiffany Webb. Tiffany will serve as ICW Social Worker/Domestic Violence Advocate. She obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Oklahoma State University. Tiffany worked for 3 summers in our Summer Youth Program. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her fiancé Chris. She also enjoys reading, sewing, crocheting, and baking. We are very fortunate to have her return to the Wyandotte Nation and wish her much success in her position.



Webb

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is very happy to welcome Emma Burns and Jacie Smith as Substitutes, and Michelle Nuckolls as a Certified Early Childhood Lead Teacher in our Education Department.

Emma is currently a sophomore at Wyandotte High School. She enjoys hunting and fishing, spending time with her family and friends, and watching her baby cousin. We are very glad to have Emma to help out when needed in Education.

Jacie is currently a sophomore and attends Wyandotte High School. She is in the band and select choir. Jacie enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her spare time and also enjoys reading. Jacie loves to work with children and plans to become a kindergarten teacher after graduation and college. We are very fortunate to have Jacie to fill in as



Burns



Smith



Nuckolls

needed.

Michelle has her Bachelor's Degree in Education and over 20 years of experience in the education field. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her spare time. We are very fortunate to have Michelle on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

## FAMILY SERVICES

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,  
Family Services Director*

As many of you know Kate Randall, Family Services Director, retired Feb. 1. She was a wonderful asset to the Wyandotte Nation and is greatly missed. She was a true champion for Wyandotte families and children. I feel blessed and honored to have worked with Kate for the past 20 years. I consider her my mentor and friend and am very happy she's enjoying her retirement and spending lots of time with her twin grandsons.

The Family Services staff will strive to continue to provide the same level of compassionate and understanding service for all of our Wyandotte citizens that she provided.

We have done a bit of reorganizing within the Family Services Department and hired a new staff member. Tribal citizen Tiffany Webb is the new ICW Social Worker/Domestic Violence Advocate. Tiffany worked at the Nation for several years during her high school and college education in the Summer Intern Program. We are happy to see our youth coming back and working for the Tribe in permanent positions and are expecting great things from Tiffany! If you haven't met her yet, feel free to stop by and get to know her.

There are so many wonderful programs and activities going on here at the Nation. We are all excited to see the new Cultural Center open and begin using the facility. The first event Family Services will have in the Center will be our "Kids Culture Program" (KCP) beginning the week of June 6. Family Services staff will have arts and crafts activities as well as some historical/cultural information. KCP is presented in conjunction with the staff of the Environmental and Fitness Center for kids aged 6 through 12 years and will run Monday-Thursday, from 1-2:30 pm June 6-23. If you have kids who want to participate, please

## National Foster Care Month

**"We know from research that American Indian children in the child welfare system who are connected to Native culture thrive and do much better than those who aren't."** -- (The CASA publication /Connection -Winter 2009)

The month of May is National Foster Care month. As Native people we are called to take care of our own children. We currently do not have enough tribal homes to take care of our children in need. Help us protect our legacy for the preservation of our culture into the future by becoming a Native American Foster or Adoptive Family. The role of a Foster/Adoptive parent is to be a caregiver, provide shelter, care and everyday nurturing and support to children who have been removed from their homes. The Wyandotte Nation needs adults (21 years of age or older) who are dependable, consistent, committed and compassionate to become Foster or Adoptive parents and make a difference in the life of a Native American



child. Knowing you have helped a child become successful in life while maintaining a connection to his or her culture, can be a very rewarding experience.

You would not take this journey alone. The Family Services Department will provide our Foster and Adoptive families with ongoing training and support.

For more information, please contact Tara Gragg at ext. 6355.

gives us a call to discuss details of the program.

Another exciting program for our Department is the Family Violence Prevention Program. This program is being funded through a grant from the Office of Violence Against Women and will consist of a broad variety of community awareness and outreach projects. The first event being sponsored is a Family Wellness night on Thursday, May 19 at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center. We are working with the Eastern Shawnee and Seneca-Cayuga Family Violence Prevention programs for this event. The details are still in the works, but watch the website and Facebook for additional information as we get closer to the date. The Family Violence Prevention program will be presenting cultural activities throughout the year and provide advocacy for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault and dating violence.

If you ever have any 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.

## Upcoming Summer Programs

LIHEAP - Summer LIHEAP will be available July 1 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.

Senior Energy - \$100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Eligibility requirements; 55 or older, OK, MO, AR, KS resident. Program begins July 1 and ends Sept. 30.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE PROGRAMS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POST MARKED BY SEPT. 30 TO BE ELIGIBLE.

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

Continued on Page 13

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 12

Elders Assistance - One-time expense for \$250 for tribal elders aged 55 and over.

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 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

Child Safety Seats - Each child is eligible for three 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 the 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 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, but account balances can be obtained

## Wyandotte Nation

### Family Services Programs

#### Dates to Remember

**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

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

at any time via [www.mycourcesource.com](http://www.mycourcesource.com) or by calling (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.

## HOUSING

**Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director**

The Heritage Acres Housing area has been buzzing with activity. A pavilion, basketball court and volleyball area are in the process of being built. New equipment has been added to the park. The Splashpad will be opening the middle of May. All this will be up and going soon, and we are looking forward to a wonderful and busy summer. This park is not only used by tribal members, but by the surrounding communities as well.

The 13th senior duplex is being

built, and is expected to be finished by the end of summer. The duplex units are all two-bedroom and available to those 55 and older. At this time, they are all full and there is a waiting list. 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, the ping pong table, and the air hockey table are available for use. The cost of renting the center on evenings and weekends is \$50 for tribal members, and \$75 for non-tribal, with a \$25 cleaning deposit. The dates for 2016 are already beginning to fill. If you are interested in renting, contact the housing office.

If you live in the Indian Health Service area, which includes nine counties in Oklahoma, and are in need of water or sanitation services, please contact our office for an application. 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

## PLANNING / DEVELOPMENT

**Submitted by Ron Kaiser, Senior Advisor**

There are two Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) projects that are being finished. These projects are funded in part by Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

- The Cultural Center project has been issued a Certificate of Substantial Completion. Construction activity has reached a point where only minor tasks need completing. Staff from Heritage Department are moving in.

- The second project is also finishing, providing expansion to the Artie Nesvold Community Center Title 6 Building, which is an activity room that functions also as a safe room. Still completing 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. This project is nearing completion. Drainage work is finishing and functioning. Parking area for Pre-school still needs street lighting.

Tribal properties are currently undergoing different projects; ranging from replacing fencing, removing downed trees, protecting potential historic features to clearing brush on several properties to maintain land quality.

We are cleaning, updating and renting out two houses the Tribe recently purchased. We have completed renovations at one house and it has been rented. Renovations on a second house are complete and it is scheduled to be cleaned. We completed a new purchase that formally was a tire and auto mechanic shop. This property is on HWY 10 Southeast of Admin Complex in proximity to Tribal Housing and near the new water system.

Notification has been sent from the BIA that the Tribe's property in Kansas City, Kansas, known as the "Arrowhead Building," was to be placed in Trust. However the State of Kansas has appealed the Regional BIA Director's decision. The Regional director denied that appeal, Kansas then appealing to the Department of Interior's Board of Indian Appeals. The Tribe has been notified that the

Continued on Page 14

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 13

Department of Interior's Board of Indian Appeals has denied Kansas their appeal and the Tribe needed to update the "Arrowhead Building" tile commitment, Environmental Assessment, and have a final walk over with BIA Staff.

The Tribe has been notified that the BIA has taken a track of land known locally as, "Catherine Crotzer Tract 1," into Trust. This 35-acre tract of land the Tribe has held in Fee Simple for two years and is contiguous to existing trust land near the Wyandotte Nation Casino.

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

Ron Kaiser, Planning Director, (918) 678-6325

Robby Graham, Land Management Technician, (918) 678-6357

## ENVIRONMENTAL

Submitted by **Christen Lee, Environmental Director**

### January

The New Year came in with a flurry of activities for our department. On Jan. 25 Kathleen Welch was appointed the Wyandotte Nation representative for the NE Community Action Agency, replacing Kate Randall who retired. The NECAA meetings are held on the last Monday of the month at Jay, Okla.

Our department has seen a recent increase in people calling and setting up appointments to have their private well drinking water sampled for bacteria, e-coli and heavy metals. This test is a valuable service that is free of charge to participants, and is paid with funding from our EPA 106 grant.

### February

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration activities have also increased greatly in the recent months. Kathleen has found herself either participating in meetings or on conference calls on a daily basis. On Feb. 2, Kathleen traveled to Albuquerque, N.M., to participate in a Face to Face Listening Session with several tribes and Department of Interior delegates.

With the ever growing issues from the Tar Creek and Tri-State Min-

## TRIBAL HERITAGE

Submitted by **Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director**

Kweh (hello). It really is about to happen! Our own Cultural Center/Museum.

It has been a long wait to have a place to leave our treasures, be that stories we can record or other items of interest to the Wyandotte Nation and the community. It's a place I hope is used often. We haven't moved into the building yet but feel it is very soon, (I have a key now!) So as of now my office looks like Pow-Wow time.

The Cultural Center will have a classroom for lots of activities for young and all the rest of us as well. This also will include other classes like canning, cooking, and sewing, it is for whatever need or request we get and if we have the resources.

There is a kitchen for classes people may want learn different things about different cultures. There are office space and a library for language and research of our history. The middle is round and is going to be amazing for gatherings and dance classes. It can be used for small art showings.

There will be the Senior Turtles Gift Shop located at the front entrance. The south side will house the "Not open to the public" storage and in-take rooms. This is where the gifted and special treasures are sorted and stored. They are always

locked down.

ing District, this is an area that will require much attention in the near and distance future.

### March

Yay, the birds, flowers and warm temperatures are evidence that Spring is here. March 20 was officially the first day of spring, and on March 24 we hosted our first Rain Barrel Education event. There were a total of 13 in attendance, and each household represented received a rain barrel.

Our next class was held April 21 at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Storm Shelter.

On March 23, Wyandotte Nation hosted a 6-hour drinking water education class at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center classroom.

The class was provided thru Communities Unlimited, and Rural Community Association Partnership.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation's new Cultural Center/Museum located across from the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center in Wyandotte. The grand opening of the center will coincide with the annual The Gathering event and the 27th Annual Pow-Wow.

locked down.

The museum seems so big right now but it will fill up very quickly. Truly, this is a building all can be proud of. I am honored to be the caretaker for the Nation.

I would like to introduce the new Tribal Heritage Specialist, Loretta Combes. Loretta has worked for the Nation for nine years working with the Turtle Tots. She became very interested in the language, joined the

Cultural Committee and now works with Dr. John Steckley, retired professor from Humber College, located

In Toronto Canada. Loretta has a passion for the language and has taught several finger weaving classes at the Nation. She has already been a wonderful addition to the department.

So it is a busy time here, look for our Grand Opening during The Gathering/Pow-Wow week.

Christen Lee, Kathleen Welch, Janice Wilson and Scott Mills, along with Roger Fidler and Garold Alumbaugh from the maintenance department were in attendance for the Wyandotte Nation.

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

Meetings attended by staff:

Grand Lake Watershed Alliance, Native American Tribes Understanding Resources in the Environment, NE Community Action Agency, Tar Creek Conference Planning, Tar Creek Trustee Council, Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma, Spring River WRAPS, and Wyandotte Nation Safety Committee.

Services provided:

--Private Water Well Tests  
--Septic Assessments  
--Recycling Center



COURTESY PHOTO

The Environmental Department held a Rain Barrel Education Class at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness 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



COURTESY PHOTOS

(Left) Tiffany Webb tribal citizen/staff member shows the bracelet she made during lunch time creative bunch. (Above Middle) Let's play workshop for childcare providers held March 5. (Above Right) Staff of hillside dental in Neosho MO provide dental screening for preschool students.

## EDUCATION

*Submitted by Tammy Charles,  
Education Director*

The spring season brings new life and rejuvenates the soul. The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is busy serving citizens and clients

in many ways. Current department involvements includes a week of the young child events, the Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow, graduation, receiving process for incoming scholarship applications, re-authorization for child care clients, planning for future events/programs, and continued reporting

and completion of grant applications.

The library enhancement grant facilitated numerous workshops in the spring season with many on the agenda for the summer months. Potential workshops are moccasin construction, canning/food preservation, ribbon shirt making, stress reduction with traditional ways, and others. Tribal citizen David Keffer instructed rawhide rattle, dream catcher and hand drum workshops, (See photos on Page 11) to several classes and interest exists for more offerings. Erika Green provided guidance for the construction of jingle dress for nine participants. The creative lunchtime offerings were facilitated by WTKO staff member Edie Ingram who instructed jewelry making and Wyandotte Nation citizen/staff member Loretta Combes who shared Wyandotte stories. The application for a continuation of the grant has been submitted and we will be informed in the fall.

Scholarship applications have a due date of May 1. Applications will continue to be distributed and received after that date but will only be considered if funds remain. Scholarships will be renewed for subsequent semesters if updated transcripts are received and program requirements are met. Reminder that those documents are due no later than Oct. 1 for fall semester and Feb. 15 for spring term.

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 schol-

## SPRING/SUMMER 2016 LIBRARY HOURS

**BEGINNING APRIL 11th, 2016**

**Wyandotte Nation Library will be open**

<b>Mondays.....</b>	<b>8:00—4:30</b>
<b>Tuesdays.....</b>	<b>8:00—6:00</b>
<b>Wednesdays.....</b>	<b>8:00—4:30</b>
<b>Thursdays.....</b>	<b>8:00—6:00</b>
<b>Fridays.....</b>	<b>8:00—3:30</b>

**We will be open on these Saturdays from 11:00 until 3:00**

**April 30th**

**July 16th**

**May 21st**

**August 13th**

**June 25th**

**September 10th**

**For check outs, computer use, and TBA special programs**

# 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*

Well Spring has finally sprung! Flowers blooming, trees budding, baby animals running around everywhere.

We will be traveling to the Horse Races at Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, Okla. April 25; to The Grand Country Resort in Branson, Mo. May 25, and The Aquarium in Jenks, Okla. June 28.

Bearskin Health and Wellness Center is providing free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings the third Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the Artie Nesvold Community Center dining room (Title VI).

We will be partnering with the Ottawa, Peoria, Quapaw, Eastern Shawnee and Seneca/Cayuga Tribes and the Tulsa Food Bank to host a food distribution at the High Winds Casino parking lot May 24. Each tribe will have tickets available for those in need prior to the distribution.

Our own Betty Johnson was honored recently as Cinderella of the Ball at the Windridge Nursing Center. Chief Billy Friend crowned Miss Betty. *NOTE: With much sadness we report that since the event and the writing of this article, Betty has passed away.*

They had a DJ, a nice buffet and a beautiful glass slipper ice sculpture.

Our Mother's Day Dinner will be May 5 and our Father's Day Dinner will be June 16.

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

## Caregiver

Recently, we partnered with the Quapaw, Eastern Shawnee, Ottawa, Peoria and Seneca/Cayuga Tribes, Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging, Good Shepard Hospice, Oklahoma Healthy Aging Initiative, Senior Companions and Amedisys Home Health to host our Annual Caregiver



COURTESY PHOTOS  
(Above Left) Cinderella's Winter Ball at Windridge Nursing Home. (Above) Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend with Betty Johnson at the Winter Ball (Left) Wyandotte FFA students serving elders at the Caregiver Spring Banquet. (Below) Wyandotte High School Select Choir, which includes tribal citizens.



Pamper Day at the Quapaw Elders Activity Center. Services offered to the Caregivers were: Massages, hot hand waxing, manicures and pedicures. They enjoyed and nice lunch and received door prizes.

We also partnered with the same groups plus the Alzheimer's Association to host our Annual Caregiver Spring Banquet. Members of the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard,

Larry Hamilton, Grover Tanner and Isaac Tanner, posted the colors. Miss Foxy from the Seneca/Cayuga Tribe performed the Lord's Prayer.

Participants enjoyed a continental breakfast and a nice catered lunch. Speakers gave presentations on Caregiver Stress, The Legal Issues around Caregiving and Understand-

**Continued on Page 17**

## Continued from Page 15

arships currently fund up to \$2,250 per semester for up to eight 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 (formerly WIA) is addressing proposed changes in new

federal regulations. If you are a Native American citizen from Southeast Kansas or Southwest Missouri, you may be eligible for assistance with educational endeavors.

The preschool program, and before and after school program will be ending soon and the transition to summer program will take place. Enrollment information and forms

are available to interested parties. Numbers for students for preschool 2016-2017 continue to indicate a great need for our programs.

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.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## HEALTH & FITNESS

*Submitted by Kelly Friend,  
Director of Health Services*

The dawn of a new year always brings a busy season here at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. With personal growth being a popular resolution, the fitness center always sees a jump in membership and activity levels. It's an exciting time and the staff loves being involved in helping each individual meet their goals. Through personal training, friendly competitions or a new class schedule, the Bearskin employees are there to meet your needs. Feel free to give them a call or visit to assist you with your fitness needs.

**A few tips to help you reach your goals:**

- Be Realistic in setting your goals
- Plan ahead (meal planning, activities)
- Buddy up with a friend to make each other accountable
- Reward yourself
- Track your progress
- Don't beat yourself up
- Stick to it
- Keep Trying

The class schedule has grown to include several options of fun, including yoga, water aerobics, water volleyball, Tai Chi and Turbo Jam. A dance for fitness class has been added in the evening and will begin Jan. 19 from 6:30 – 7:30 pm. This is a class similar to the "Cize" craze with a twist of the instructor's own. The instructor is Kayla White, a Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizen. In addition, a kids' fun night has been added to the calendar for Monday nights. Tribal children are free with a \$2 charge for non-tribal. This includes inflatables and swim time, with parent supervision.

Don't forget, Bearskin Fitness Center offers child care for children from infants through 12 years old. Our staff is attentive, caring and CPR-trained. Children receive the utmost attention from our staff members,

who love to engage them in circle time activities, story time, and more. They may even come home with something from arts and crafts time.

Another fitness center addition coming soon is an indoor batting cage. This will be a cage with options of softball or baseball usage. It will be scheduled by appointment for a fee. This cage can be rented for teams or individual use. Be on the lookout for information regarding private lessons and/or batting instruction. The new addition will be added to the birthday party add on option for an additional fee. To keep informed, visit Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center on Facebook ([www.facebook.com/bearskinwellness/](http://www.facebook.com/bearskinwellness/)).

### Reminder:

Just a friendly reminder that Bearskin Health Care Clinic gladly sees patients Monday through Friday by appointment only. Due to recent high volume, we are unable to accept walk in patients. We strive to schedule same day appointments, however based on medical priority and provider availability, it may take up to 48 hours to get an appointment. You may reach the clinic at 918-678-2282. Thank you for your cooperation, and we look forward to meeting your health care needs!

### Superhero 5K Race Results

(April 9)

<b>Overall Female</b>	
Victoria Kline	19:35
<b>Overall Male</b>	
Nathan Riley	18:10
<b>Female 7 &amp; Under</b>	
Evianna Hamilton	57:31:00
<b>Male 7 &amp; Under</b>	
Jaxon Bowers	32:11:00
Charlie Gould	34:15:00
Bryson Walker	1:12

01. Lifts your mood
02. Improves learning abilities
03. Builds self-esteem
04. Keeps your brain fit
05. Keeps your body fit & able
06. Boosts mental health
07. Boosts your immune system
08. Reduces stress
09. Makes you feel happier
10. Has anti-ageing effects
11. Improves skin tone and colour
12. Improves sleeping patterns
13. Helps prevent strokes
14. Improves joint function
15. Improves muscle strength
16. Alleviates anxiety
17. Sharpens memory
18. Helps to control addictions
19. Boosts productivity
20. Boosts creative thinking
21. Improves body image
22. Gives you confidence
23. Helps you keep focused in life
24. Improves eating habits
25. Increases longevity
26. Strengthens your bones
27. Strengthens your heart
28. Improves posture
29. Prevents colds
30. Improves appetite
31. Improves cholesterol levels
32. Lowers risk of (certain) cancers
33. Lowers high blood pressure
34. Lowers risk of diabetes
35. Fights dementia
36. Eases back pain
37. Decreases osteoporosis risk
38. Reduces feelings of depression
39. Prevents muscle loss
40. Increases energy and endurance
41. Increases sports performance
42. Increases pain resistance
43. Improves balance & coordination
44. Improves oxygen supply to cells
45. Improves concentration
46. Helps with self-control
47. Lessens fatigue
48. Increases sex drive & satisfaction
49. Makes life more exciting
50. Improves Quality of Life

<b>Female 8 – 10</b>	
Brook Brown	27:23:00
Calli Moncada	29:39:00
Dacey Brown	29:49:00
<b>Male 8 – 10</b>	
Nicholas Schaeffer	22:37
Cason Rentfrow	23:07

Cameron Nolen	23:11
<b>Females 11 – 12</b>	
Mikealla Meister	25:37:00
Kaitlyn Peyton	29:58:00
Zoe Sebastian	31:57:00

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ing Alzheimer's.

The Wyandotte FFA students served the lunch as the Wyandotte High School Select Choir performed a variety of songs. Several vendors had booths with pamphlets to access different services and information on Medicare Part D.

Good Shepard Hospice provided free on site respite care so the Caregivers could attend the conference. They were given some really nice door prizes.

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month. Our meetings will be held in our new safe room in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (aka Title

VI) at 10:30 am.

The group is open to all current and past Caregivers. Please contact Brenda for information.

As always it is a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizens.

Please feel free to call or come by and visit us anytime.

Department Staff:

Brenda House, Elder Services Director, (918) 678-6327.  
Stephanie Eads, Food Service Team Supervisor, (918) 678-6328  
Seth Higginbotham, Teresa Wilson and Christopher Rhodes, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328 Menu, (918) 678-6326

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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**Males 11 – 12**  
Ivan Garcia 22:13  
Mikey Lawson 25.5  
Jaret Burney 26:50:00

**Females 13 – 15**  
Kathleen Schertz 21:09:00  
Madison McBrien 25:07:00  
Jennelle Lundien 25:57:00

**Males 13 – 15**  
Devon Rutledge 31:42:00  
Sam Smith 59:15:00

**Females 16 – 19**  
Aspen Lawson 28:11:00  
Madie Thompson 32:08:00  
Morgan Black 43:08:00

**Males 16 – 19**  
Grant Smith 21:35  
Javier Pena 56:44:00

**Female 20 – 29**  
Jesse Lucas 23:34  
Taylor Fields 26:46:00  
Danielle Lapel 27:28:00

**Male 20 – 29**  
Derek Nichols 21:15  
Payton Rawlins 21:21  
Jesse Rogers 24:35:00

**Female 30 – 39**  
Ruth Sawkins 21:30  
Kendra Boswell 22:25  
Stacy Yost 25:37:00

**Male 30 – 39**  
Adam Pulley 21:05  
Les Shaeffer 22:56  
Nathan Taylor 23:50

**Female 40 – 49**  
Christy Caddy 24:55:00  
Ranell Hill 26:55:00  
Kelsey Lee 29:29:00

**Male 40 – 49**  
Robert Berry 21:12  
John Allemann 23:42  
Dustin Schertz 24:11:00

**Female 50 – 59**  
Kathy Ritchart 21:57  
Kathryn Mustain 31:30:00  
Pat Creech 34:28:00

**Male 50 – 59**  
Raymond Caddy 23:48  
Bob Coffey 24:40:00  
Gary Rhodes 26:48:00

**Female 60 – 69**  
Rose Oelke 32:52:00

(-- BY LEANNE BEATTIE,  
HEALTH & FITNESS WRITER)  
Just like you had to learn good table manners as a child, there are also some firm rules to follow for sharing a workout space with others. Even if you feel like you're in your own little world when you're exercising, keep in mind that others are trying to use that space too. Here are some general guidelines that will make your next gym experience pleasant for everyone:

### Equipment Etiquette

- Clean up after yourself. Always bring a towel—and use it. There's nothing worse than getting covered in someone else's sweat. Towels help keep surfaces clean, dry and germ-free. Most gyms have cleaning supplies available—use them to wipe down your equipment before heading off to the next station.

- If you take something out, put it away. Have you just finished using a set of free weights? Then put them away. Leaving dumbbells, bands, exercise balls and other equipment on the floor is a tripping hazard and makes it difficult for other members to find the equipment they need. Don't drop the weights when you're done either—it's loud and very distracting for others around you.

- Learn to share. Don't hog the equipment for yourself. If you're in the middle of a circuit but taking a short break, let others slip in between sets to save time. Don't leave your towel on the machine and walk away expecting the machine to still be available when you return. Everyone has a right to use the equipment, not just you.

- Practice patience. Don't rush others. If someone is obviously using a piece of equipment, don't ask if they are almost done. Wait until he or she takes a break and be prepared to wait or use something else in the meantime.

- Be on time. Many gyms lightly enforce 30-minute time limits for

## Proper Gym Etiquette



cardio machines during peak hours. If your gym is busy, respect that limit and don't go over. If you want a really long cardio workout, avoid the gym during the busy times, like the after-work rush between 5 p.m. and 6 p.m.

### Personal Protocol

In addition to using equipment properly and respectfully, the way you carry yourself also affects those around you. If every gym member abided by these personal rules of conduct, the gym would be a more pleasant place for everyone! So do your best to:

- Lower the volume. While exercising to music is motivating and fun, blasting your MP3 player at maximum volume is not. Respect the people around you and turn down the music—not everyone wants to hear your playlist.

- Turn off the cell phone. Are you there to exercise or to chat? Keep your private life private by shutting off your phone while you're at the gym. Some facilities have rules against bringing phones inside, especially camera phones. Respect the people around you and leave your phone in the car while you're working out.

- Share the water fountain. If you're filling up a huge water bottle, check to see if anyone is waiting to take a quick drink and let him or her go first. Don't spit in the fountain or use it to dispose of your used chewing gum.

- Don't offer unsolicited advice. Unless you are a certified personal trainer, don't go around correcting other people's form without permis-

sion. If someone asks you how to perform an exercise, don't give them advice unless you're absolutely sure—injuries happen all the time and your wrong suggestion could end up hurting someone.

- Dress appropriately. Torn, dirty clothing doesn't belong at the gym—nobody wants to see your underwear peeking through your ratty sweatpants. Similarly, cover your body appropriately up top too. The gym isn't the place for women to show off their cleavage (always wear a well-supporting sports bra too), or for men to go shirtless (talk about spreading sweat and germs onto equipment).

- Wear deodorant. Exercising will make you sweat and that can cause body odor. Wear a good deodorant/antiperspirant to keep odor to a minimum, but don't spray yourself with perfume before hitting the gym—some people are very sensitive to scent and get headaches or migraines from the chemicals.

Above all, always respect the people around you and follow any posted rules that your gym may have.

If you see someone blatantly breaking the rules, ask them politely to correct the behavior or talk to the facility manager about the problem. If you've noticed a situation, others probably have as well. Getting along with others at the gym just takes a little common sense.

By following the rules of gym etiquette, you — and the exercisers around you — can all enjoy a great workout with minimal aggravation.

Donna Gardner 38:08:00  
Susan Herbert 41:36:00

**Male 60 – 69**  
Russ Ritchart 21:48

Jim Creech 26:05:00  
Kim Herbert 37:45:00

**Female 70 and over**  
Delynn Kuhn 35:38:00

Jeanie Delozier 59:59:00  
Mary Garrette 1:12

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Bearskin Strongman Competition results

The annual Bearskin Strongman competition took place Saturday, April 9, as competitors pushed, pulled and carried their way to show their strength and endurance. Wyandotte Nation Casino sponsored the event. The top finishers:



HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP CODY WATKINS



HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP JESSICA WILLIAMS



HEAVYWEIGHT RUNNER-UP MICHAEL TUSHKA



HEAVYWEIGHT RUNNER-UP KATE TRIMMEL



LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP BRANDON RAPEL



LIGHTWEIGHT CHAMP VICKI FLEMING



LIGHTWEIGHT RUNNER-UP JACOB MUSTAIN

## Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department



In 2009 the Wyandotte Nation joined in a Compact with the Town of Wyandotte to share the resources of the Tribal Police Department with the Town of Wyandotte. This compact was signed by the Boards of Directors of the Town and Tribe and approved by the Governor of the State of Oklahoma. Officers are commissioned in accordance with the Town Code and the laws of the State of Oklahoma. Officers are commissioned separately by both the Wyandotte Nation and the Town of Wyandotte and have been issued a federal Special Law Enforcement Commission by the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

The 9 full time and 1 part time officers collectively:

Have over 213 years full time and over 43 years part time law enforcement experience; have all undergone an extensive background investigations as required for Federal L.E. Officers; receive hundreds of hours of the best training available from across the country annually; are all certified by the Oklahoma Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET); with over 15,000 hours of CLEET Approved Training.

In addition:

- 5 hold "Advanced" certifications by CLEET
- 5 are Oklahoma CLEET Certified Instructors – 2 are Advanced Instructors

- 3 are certified Firearms Instructors
- 4 are decorated military Veterans with 10 years active and 43 years reserve service
- 4 have decades of investigative experience and multiple certifications
- 5 are former Chiefs of Police, Assistant Chief, or Undersheriff
- 3 awarded the Medal of Valor by the Governor of Oklahoma or from another state
- 1 awarded a Commendation by the Governor of Oklahoma and 1 by MADD
- 1 Purple Heart recipient
- 2 have Bachelor Degrees and 1 an Associate Degree
- 2 are DEA certified Clandestine Lab Techs
- The only Police Department in the area to have Victim's Advocate on staff and available 24x7
- The current President of the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police
- The current State Coordinator of the Oklahoma State D.A.R.E. Officers Association
- Provide D.A.R.E. training to students of Wyandotte, Fairland and Turkey Ford schools
- Utilize a Narcotics Detector K9 Team with some of the most advanced interdiction equipment available.

They are Peace Officers of the State of Oklahoma and, as Municipal Police Officers, can take law enforcement action on an immediate threat to life or property anywhere in the state. They provide 24 hour crime prevention patrols across the original Wyandotte Reservation and tribal housing areas. They are Peace Keepers and Problem Solvers, and very proud to serve the citizens and visitors of the Wyandotte Community!

-- Submitted by WNTPD Police Chief Ken Murphy

## 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.

**NATIVE AMERICAN HERBAL TEA**  
**CHIEF'S DELIGHT**  
 • 12 TEA BAGS • NET WT. 31g (1.14 oz.)  
 ALL NATURAL • CAFFEINE FREE •

WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG/  
 ONLINE-GIFT-STORE/

PayPal VeriSign Identity Protection

# CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

## Taylor - 68th Anniversary



James A. Taylor and D'Adrian (Dee) Hays Taylor are celebrating 68 years of marriage. The couple met in 1945 at Everett High School. Shortly after Jim joined the Navy, he and Dee married at the tender age of 17. Two years later they welcomed their first child, Michael. The young family grew with birth of twins, Janice and James in 1950. They were blessed with another child, Gary, who arrived in 1952. When Jim advanced to flight engineer on the Super Constellation Aircraft the Navy took him around world and carried the family to Hawaii, California, and Maryland. Returning to Washington State in 1971, the couple settled down in Oak Harbor when Jim was transferred to NAS Whidbey. As the children grew, Dee went to work for the Navy Retail System. Following retirement from the Navy in 1977, Jim worked at Hawley's Auto Shop in Oak Harbor and Dee retired in 1988. Since Jim retired in 1994 they have spent their free time working on their acreage, traveling across the country in their motor home and enjoying their 8 grandchildren. Their legacy of love is the strong family they built which has now grown to include 12 great-grandchildren.

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PHOTO BY VIKI KEFFER

## Dream weavers

Roma Qualls, Ola Mae Ward, Johnny Webb, Janet Webb, and Alexis Harwood show off their dream catchers after learning the craft from Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen David Keffer. The Wyandotte Nation hosted a variety of workshops, including how to make rattles, dream-catchers as well as drum classes. Several events are planned in the future as well. Visit the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation) for event dates, times and locations.



**House for Rent** A 2,100 sq. ft., 3 bedroom, 2 1/2 bath, southeast of Wyandotte on paved road. Three car garage. The rent is \$750 per month. For additional information, call (918) 678-6357 or (918) 678-6325.

**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

### Birth Announcement

## Tallulah Violet Grace Phillips

Tallulah Violet Grace Phillips was born Feb. 3, 2016 at 6:46pm. She weighed 8 lbs, 4oz. And was 21in. She was born to Sara Smotherman and Eric Phillips of Seattle, Wash., and her big brother Orion Bear, Grandpa Dennis and Grandma Brenda Smotherman, Aunts Chrissy Smotherman and Catie Hitchcock and Uncle Jeff Hitchcock, Great Aunt Debra Smotherman and Great Grandmother Jannie Smotherman.



### Obituary

## James Carl Sloan

July 12, 1925 – Jan. 26, 2016

James Carl Sloan passed away January 26, 2016 at Monroe Manor in Jay, Okla.

James was born July 12, 1925 in Carl Junction, Mo. He was the son of Lucille and Alfred Sloan and moved to Jay as a young boy.

He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943 to 1947. He married Gloria Riley on June 17, 1952 at Bentonville, Ark., his love of 63 years.



He is survived by his wife Gloria, son James of Jay, his daughter Brenda and Steve Lamb of Claremore, Okla., daughter Rhonda and Dave Bedwell of Broken Arrow, Okla., daughter Carl Sloan of Jay, and one sister, Ruby Campbell of

Winslow, Ark., ten grandchildren, Brian and Angela of Grove, Okla., Heather and Joel King of Nashville, Ten., Lucy Stone of Tahlequah, Okla., and Audrey and Jordan McSperritt of Denver, Colo., Clifford of Tulsa, Okla., Jessica Lovelace of Catoosa, Okla., and Austin of Bedwell, Ark., and eight great-grandchildren, Adrain, Andrew, Olivia, Arden, Jerimiah, Jordan, Elisa, Anna Belle, and many nieces and nephews.

### In Brief

## Harris Family reunion

Due to the lack of attendance, I will not be reserving a spot for the reunion this year.

*Sincerely*  
**Teh-on 'di shi wa**  
**Ramona Reid**