Returning to where it all began

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

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

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

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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.”

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 pollinate 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 Wyandotte Nation Museum.
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

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 Native 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 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.

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.
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 for the Registration and Agenda.

If you have any questions, please email Marilyn Young at 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.
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.
Connecting with the Tribe

Town Hall Meetings return to where it all began

BY WILLIAM SWAIM

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, the Facebook page, www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation, and the Turtle Talk newsletter for upcoming information concerning the dates and locations.
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.”

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 face-lift, 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. 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 project 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
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.
27th Annual

**WYANDOTTE POW-WOW**

September 9-11, 2016

$35,000

In Prize Money

Contests in all Categories

**Grand Entries**

Friday
8:00 p.m.

Saturday
1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Sunday
1:30 p.m.

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

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<tr>
<th>Friday, September 9</th>
<th>Saturday, September 10</th>
<th>Sunday, September 11</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
<td>Afternoon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jr. Boys Fancy</td>
<td>Jr. Boys Grass</td>
<td>Mens Golden Age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Womens Fancy Shawl</td>
<td>Womens Buckskin</td>
<td>Womens Cloth</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mens Straight</td>
<td>Mens Traditional</td>
<td>Jr. Boys Traditional</td>
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<tr>
<td>Womens Golden Age</td>
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<td>Mens Grass</td>
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<tr>
<td>49 Contest - Jay Blalock</td>
<td>Special Grandparents Day</td>
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**ALL SPECIALS HELD SATURDAY AFTERNOON**

**CONTACT THE ARENA DIRECTOR FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday, September 10</th>
<th>Gourd Dancing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Evening</td>
<td>1 hour prior to all sessions.</td>
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<td>Tiny Tots</td>
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<td>Mens Fancy</td>
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<td>Jr. Girls Fancy Shawl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Womens Jingle</td>
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<td>Jr. Boys Straight</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stomp Dance - Invited Grounds</td>
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**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!

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**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!**

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Everyone welcome! Bring your cameras and lawn chairs!

(NO PETS ALLOWED NEAR ARENA)
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.

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:

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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 at any time via www.mycoresource.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 for $250 for tribal elders aged 55 and over.

Burial Assistance - $1,500 to be paid to the funeral home or to the family representative if the funeral is paid for $250 for tribal elders aged 55 and over.

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 competed 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. The 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

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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 Mining 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.

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:

Services provided:
--Private Water Well Tests
--Septic Assessments
--Recycling Center

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.
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 Leafor 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 Keffere 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 WTOK 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-
**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 Day at the Quapaw Elders Activity Center. Services offered to the Caregivers were: Massages, 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 Understanding.

**Continued on Page 17**

**Continued from Page 15**

Scholarships 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.
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.

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)

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</tr>
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</table>

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

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.
Proper Gym Etiquette

(-- 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 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 spill 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 permission. 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.

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**Continued on Page 19**
**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

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**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 (CLET); with over 15,000 hours of CLET Approved Training.

In addition:

- 5 hold “Advanced” certifications by CLET
- 5 are Oklahoma CLET 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

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**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.

*www.Wyandotte-nation.org/*

*ONLINE GIFT STORE/*
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 Chrsissy Smotherman and Catie Hitchcock and Uncle Jeff Hitchcock, Great Aunt Debra Smotherman and Great Grandmother Jannie Smotherman.

Obituary

James Carl Sloan

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