



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

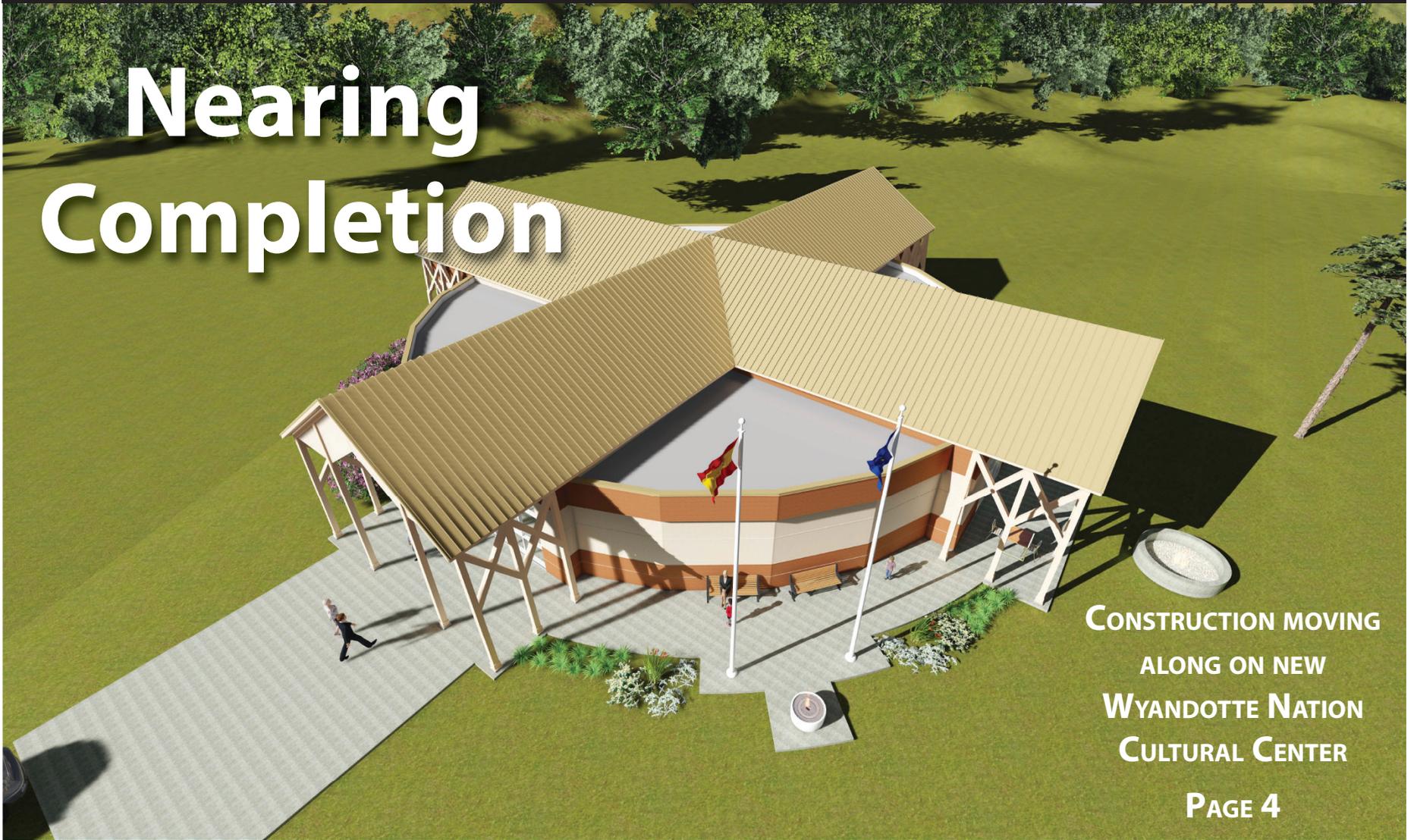
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Nearing Completion



CONSTRUCTION MOVING
ALONG ON NEW
WYANDOTTE NATION
CULTURAL CENTER

PAGE 4

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Inside:

- Prine honored with '40 under 40' award
- Competitive drive fuels Rutledge
- Holiday festivities for youth, elders

Board of Directors

Chief..... Billy Friend
 Second Chief..... Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
 Councilperson..... Ramona Reid
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 Councilperson..... Eric Lofland

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
 Artist Rendering

What the completion of the Cultural Center will look like

Contact Us

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

Looking for 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



From the Chief

Billy Friend

New year, new opportunities

'A journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step.'

Kweh,
 I hope this letter finds all Wyandottes doing well and that you each had a wonderful Holiday season. I also want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year.

Each New Year is an opportunity to remember the events of the past and look forward with hope to the year ahead. It is a time to offer thanks to our Creator for all that he has done for us this past year and to welcome the New Year and look ahead to the many great things that lie ahead for the Wyandotte Nation.

Throughout the generations, our ancestors often felt the insecurity and pressure of unwanted change as our country tried to find its footing. For many new years throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, the Wyandotte people could see only tremendous challenge ahead. Our people very often had to fight simply to survive.

Our story is well known, and the fact that we held together as a people and a tribe has been the foundation on which we have based our modern Wyandotte Nation. King David writing in the 133rd Psalm said, "How good and how pleasant it is when brethren dwell

together in unity."

The Wyandotte Nation is here today because we have remained united and have held together through good times and bad. It has long been the strategy of the U.S. government when dealing with tribes to "divide and conquer," but throughout the course of time and despite tremendous hardship and challenges we have remained united as a people.

We continue to face multiple challenges in this modern world in which we live, work and raise our families. As a tribe, we chartered a course over 30 years ago that set us on the path of successful commerce. We had a plan, we knew it would take time, and it has worked very well. An old Chinese proverb states "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step" and we continue to take those steps each day, we are continuing to build and diversify our business interests as we also hold true to our core beliefs and our commitment and dedication to the Wyandotte people

we serve.

We have worked hard to diversify our businesses across a number of categories. We formulated a business diversification plan early in the game, and we have stuck with it. The strategy has been successful. As we move forward, we continue to explore new opportunities. Our goal, as always, is to become engaged in those businesses that will best serve the Wyandotte people through greater funding for education, housing, health care, culture, and all the many programs and services critical to Wyandotte citizens.

For the Wyandotte Nation, 2015 was a great year filled with achievements that will pay dividends far into the future. Together we are laying the strong foundation that will serve our people well for many generations.

As Chief of the Wyandotte Nation I fully understand what a great privilege it is to serve and the responsibility that comes with my position. Fortunately, I am blessed to work with a very talented, motivated and passionate group of employees who are committed to serve our Wyandotte people. And by working together in unity we will accomplish our goals for 2016!

Best wishes for a successful, productive and very happy 2016!

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Great changes coming to Nation

"In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years." --Abraham Lincoln

Kweh
 Winter is finally upon us it seems as though the cold days are getting more frequent, I played golf last month in just a long sleeved shirt. Oklahoma is one of the few states that you can experience all four seasons in one week.

Now that 2016 is here I hope everyone survived the holidays

and looking forward to a great year. There will be a lot of changes at the Wyandotte Nation. Our safe rooms/multi-purpose/motor skills rooms are nearing completion.

The Cultural Center/Museum is about 60 percent completed, can't wait until we have the grand opening and smoking ceremony for this beautiful facility.

It will be the epicenter for all of our cultural-related activities. It will have a classroom, museum, artifact storage, research library, kitchen, multi-purpose room and gift shop. It will be a great addition to the Wyandotte Nation complex.



See **Second Chief**, Page 3

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2016

TOWN HALL MEETING IN CALIFORNIA

**MARCH
19**



TOWN HALL MEETING IN WASHINGTON

**APRIL
16**



GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

**JUNE
24-26**



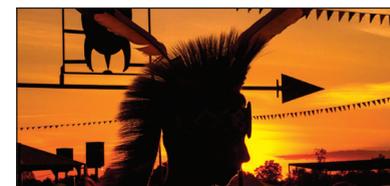
THE GATHERING

**SEPT.
7-9**



27TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.
9-11**



ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.
10**



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

We are going to elect a new president this year -- it is too early to have a front runner in each party at this time. It will be important to us in Indian Country to pick a candidate that will be sympathetic to the problems we face with the Federal Government. We need a president that will be an advocate to our needs not a menace, so whoever you support find out what their policies are when it comes to Indian Country.

If there are elections for congressional seats find out their views as well, there are U. S. Senators and Representatives that are totally clueless of the Indian world and the struggles that we have faced for hundreds of years. Do we want these people making laws that will affect our future? Certainly not. Whoever you support get out and vote -- it does make a difference. I will be attending various meetings across Oklahoma and nationally that hopefully will give me some insight on a presidential candidate that will be good for Indian Country.

Here is a little history about the school formed by the leaders of the Wyandotte Nation on

the Reserve in Upper Sandusky, Ohio in the early 1820's. Harriet Stubbs, who had left her comfortable home to come to the wilderness of northwest Ohio with the family of Rev. James B. Finley, started teaching a small group of children at the cabin, or under the trees, or in a shed, while they waited for the school building to be ready for use.

This school was not an ordinary school. It was a boarding school; the children lived there though they were encouraged to return to their homes on week-ends. For some, this was impossible for they had come from as far away as Canada. It was for both girls and boys, reported to be the first co-educational school in America. Furthermore, it was a school where the boys were taught how to farm, carpentry, animal husbandry, and various skills they needed to become self-sufficient. The girls learned how to spin, how to weave, to sew, to knit, and to be good homemakers. So this was a vocational school, one of the first in America. The basic subjects, arithmetic, reading, English, spelling, and writing were taught to everyone.

All were expected to share in the duties of running the school and the farm. On the farm the boys took turns, each having

one day a week to work with the hired hands. Daily they had to chop the wood, feed the livestock, milk the cows, carry water from the spring and wood for fires. The girls' classes took turns cooking, knitting, weaving, sweeping the rooms, making the beds, washing the clothes, and other duties as were necessary to keep a well-organized mission home. At first the boys did not like the rules and regularity with which duties had to be done. It was necessary to organize a contest to see who could hoe the most rows of corn, or roll the most logs in a given length of time. Contests and races were always great fun.

When the classes first opened, some of the Wyandottes were reluctant to send their children to a school run by white people. They had grown, through experience, to distrust the promises of the White Man. Many did not want their children to take on the ways of the dishonest paleface. Squire Grey-Eyes believed that the school was in the best interests of their children and of their tribe. He used his influence as a chief and a spiritual leader to persuade the Wyandottes to trust Rev. James B. Finley, and as an example to the others, he took his own little daughter, Margaret, and enrolled her. History

speaks of her as being the first child to enter the mission school. The number grew and grew until there were more than 70 scholars at one time, most of them were Indian children. Margaret, as an adult, was known by local people as "Mother Solomon."

I thought our tribal citizens who don't know this little tidbit of our history might find it interesting that the Wyandotte's started the first co-ed vocational school in America -- how awesome is that. But these stories are not told in history books, not even in Ohio, history books only tells history from one perspective, and that is a shame. Hopefully the "Journey Towards Understanding" that I was a part of this past summer will start a trend where history will be told from different perspectives. It may take a while but anything can be achieved.

The Wyandotte Nation is what it is because of our tribal citizens, our elders are good examples for our young people to look up to, our young ones are wanting to learn our culture and learn to dance to represent our Nation at pow-wows. It is my sincere honor to help lead the great Wyandotte Nation and to be a proud member of the "Greatest Indian Nation in the World."

Tizameh!!!

Cultural Center nearing completion

Project will be opportunity to preserve Wyandotte history, revitalize Tribe's culture

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

It's been a lot of hard work and years in the making, but the Wyandotte Nation's Cultural Center is close to completion and Tribal Heritage Director Sherri Clemons couldn't be happier.

"It is almost breathtaking to realize all the work and research and time spent gathering artifacts from different places is coming to life," she said. "And I am speaking of all the ones who came before me."

The road to completion hasn't always been smooth as the tribe had to go back to the drawing board on the design, but the Cultural Center is about 60 percent done and construction, weather permitting, could be completed by the end of February. Clemons said the center could be open near the end of April.

When completed, the 7,625-square foot Cultural Center will feature a museum, classrooms, a multipurpose room, gift shop, and Tribal Heritage Department offices. It will play host to language and arts and crafts classes as well as be the site for the annual 'Gathering.'

"It finally will give the people a place that is just for them to come and study, share and spend time on our culture that has slept for so long," Clemons said.

At the groundbreaking, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend had this to say about what the Cultural Center means to the Tribe.

"This center will give the opportunity for our citizens to walk through our past, and to know what it is, and learn what it is to



be Wyandotte. From beginning in Canada, coming through Michigan to Ohio to Kansas to here," Chief Friend said. "To have that history in display form where we can teach it to our children, our grandchildren and to their grandchildren -- seven generations in the future will have a better knowledge of who we are than what some of us did when we were younger."

Clemons expects the classrooms and multipurpose room to be used a lot and it will give the Wyandotte Nation opportunities to offer classes they see a need

for, such as dance, bead work, cooking, etc.

The museum will safely house tribal artifacts. Clemons said they are working on a list of what they can house and said she is looking for tribal citizens to donate items to the museum.

She said they are currently working on shelving and cases for exhibits, and getting ready to move years of donations together.

The \$1,687,000 project was expected to be completed in 190 days. Part of the funding for the project came from an Indian Community Development Block

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Construction has been moving along on the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center. (Above) The most recent update as rays of sunshine try to poke through a cold and cloudy day. (Left) Various stages of construction. The project is expected to be completed around late February with a possibility of the Cultural Center being ready to open near the end of April.

Grant (ICDBG) while the rest of the funding came from economic development provided by the Nation's federally-chartered corporation, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK). Crossland Construction provided the construction on the project.

With this new endeavor for the Tribe, Clemons said it's important for tribal citizens to recognize the work and planning involved.

"I hope people are patient with us. We want to get it right," she said. "It is a lot of work caring for family treasures."



www.wtok.org

Wyandotte Services secures contract with WAPA

Wyandotte Services, a Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) 8a business, recently secured a \$15.8 million contract with Western Area Power Administration in the Sierra Nevada Region to provide Technical Support Services.

"This is a great opportunity for Wyandotte Services to continue their excellence in providing Technical Support Services once again to Western Area Power Administration," said Jennie Boone, Program Manager. "The Wyandotte team at SNR is excited to provide their tremendous value and exceptional expertise across the many disciplines supporting Westerns mission to provide reliable efficient energy to their customers across the west."

Wyandotte Services is responsible for providing drafting, telecommunications engineering, engineering project management, GIS, technical support and document services. In addition, Wyandotte Services will provide support including, but not limited to, power marketing, records management, environment, maintenance, vegetation and access road management services.

Wyandotte Services provides Technical, Administrative and IT Support Services for Department of Energy (DoE) and Department of Defense (DoD) facilities across the nation. Visit www.wyandotteservices.com for more information.

Business Feature Profile

Giving back to her Tribe

Hard work, competitive drive fuels Rutledge as president of Wyandotte Services

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Dalana Rutledge knows firsthand the benefits her hard work and dedication has as President of Wyandotte Services, not only toward the company's success, but for tribal citizen programs funded by economic development.

"I take pride in the fact that I do work for my own Tribe, and that my work affects the programs the Tribe provides," Rutledge said, adding the programs contributed on her own path to success. "I get to give back to the Tribe that helped me."

Rutledge attended Missouri Southern thanks not only to a track scholarship, but an educational scholarship provided by the Wyandotte Nation. She started working in the Wyandotte Nation administration office as an intern and upon graduating from Missouri Southern in 1998 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration, began her career as a Staff Accountant at the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK).

WTOK is the federally-chartered corporation of the Wyandotte Nation, supporting tribal citizen programs such as nutrition, health services, housing, law enforcement and education scholarships.

Her drive to compete as an All American runner at Missouri Southern carried over into Rutledge's commitment to excellence as the youngest tribal citizen to become president of a Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma company. It



WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Services President Dalana Rutledge was the youngest tribal citizen to become president of a Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) business. Rutledge, who was an All American and Hall of Fame sprinter at Missouri Southern, credits the Wyandotte Nation and the programs it provides to tribal citizens in helping get to where she is today.

is the position she has held since 2008 after working her way up as a staff accountant first for Wyandotte Tribal Petroleum and then Wyandotte Net Tel, where she later became Assistant Controller before assuming her current duties for Wyandotte Services.

"I didn't want to be here just because I was a tribal citizen – it was hard work," she said. "But it just shows hard work pays off."

The Missouri Southern Hall of Fame sprinter strives to not only do her best, but be the best, and it has shown in motivating her team at Wyandotte Services, which successfully landed sev-

eral contracts this past year, including new contracts to provide Technical, Administrative and IT Support Services for the Department of Energy (DoE) and Department of Defense (DoD) facilities across the nation.

Rutledge's hard work and continued success as one of the young leaders in the Indian community showed when she was selected for the Small Business Administration's 'Emerging Leaders' initiative, graduating from the seven-month program in 2013.

Rutledge currently resides in Miami, Okla.



Inspiration Opportunity

Encouragement

By **WILLIAM SWAIM** *WYANDOTTE NATION*

The meaning of these three words are at the heart of what entrepreneur and Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Michelle Prine has used to not only achieve a level of success in her own life, but what she tries to bestow on other small business owners trying to attain their own success story.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Entrepreneur and Wyandotte Nation Tribal citizen Michelle Prine.

Tribal citizen honored nationally for '40 under 40'

"I hope one day people will see me, see the success we have been able to obtain, and that will encourage someone else to do what their dream is," said Prine, owner and president of several marketing operations including Grand Splash Marketing, LLC, 360GrandLake.com, and more recently NativeKnot.com. "I get a lot of entrepreneurs who come in and have lots of questions, and I take time for them because I've been through that struggle and sometimes still day-to-day those struggles come up.

"I love talking to people starting new businesses because any insight I can give them that would help them, I am more than willing to. I know the mentors I had when I was starting – those people were vital – so I was able to avoid some of the mistakes people make when they start new businesses."

Grand Splash Marketing, LLC is a digital marketing company; 360GrandLake.com promotes tourism throughout Grand Lake O' the Cherokees; and NativeKnot.com is a custom designed software to showcase Native businesses, non-profits, and tribes through strategic digital marketing campaigns.

It was her recent effort with NativeKnot that landed Prine in the national spotlight when the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED) announced she was a 'Native American 40 Under 40' award recipient.

"I was overwhelmed and really excited," she said. "I knew I had been nominated, but a national award like that is a little out of my realm of thinking, so to be considered for it... I was overwhelmingly surprised."

The prestigious award is bestowed upon individuals under the age of 40, nominated by members of their communities, who have demonstrated leadership, initiative, and dedication and made significant contributions in business and their community. Prine was honored during the 40th Annual Indian Progress in Business Awards (INPRO) Gala in November at



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Michelle Prine in front of her businesses in Langley, Okla., with the '40 Under 40' award she received from the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED).

the Buffalo Thunder Resort and Casino in Santa Fe, N.M.

"The 40 Under 40 award recipients are a diverse group of young men and women from across Indian Country who have all made invaluable contributions to their communities," said Derrick Watchman, Chairman of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development. "We are proud to honor this extraordinary group of leaders, and I am excited to see what the future holds for them."

Gary Davis, President and CEO of the National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development, added that, "If we are to expand economic opportunity in Indian Country, we need innovative and entrepreneurial Native American leaders. The 40 Under 40 recipients have all demonstrated their dedication to moving their communities forward, and I want to congratulate them on their achievements. This is a very deserving group."

Getting her start

Prine grew up in the Grand Lake area, graduating from Jay High School and later attended Oklahoma State University in Stillwater before returning to the

Grand Lake area after graduation to help with the family business.

She later worked at KITO AM/FM 96.1 in Vinita helping with on air shows and advertising/sales. She also worked Chronicle of Grand Lake and helped with their show Grand Lake Live. It was her work in advertising and sales that laid the foundation for her branching off onto her own after seeing a need.

Prine said she was doing research trying to find information online about different businesses in the area instead of cold call, driving door-to-door and couldn't find anything. This led to her coming up with the concept for Grand Splash Marketing, LLC and 360GrandLake.com.

"When I went to search for companies to add to my leads list I had a hard time finding them. I was spending more time searching than actually getting a list accomplished," she said. "So I couldn't imagine what a potential consumer that may or may not know the area would go through."

She also came across 360Tulsa.com, and contacted them about starting one in the Grand Lake area. Within six months she made it happen, 360GrandLake.com launched Feb. 1, 2010 and

has continued to expand, covering a full Grand Lake, Oklahoma online directory, social media, photography, marketing and advertising consulting, events, and promotions for the four counties in the area (Ottawa, Mayes, Delaware and Craig).

Helping others

When it comes to expanding and building businesses, one thing Prine lacks is fear and that has been one of her biggest keys to success.

"I don't have any fear of failure. I have faith in myself so I think that is a big part of it," she said. "I just think if you put your mind to it, you want to do it, you will succeed."

It's this message she's tried to convey to other small business owners, especially small Native American business owners, and in a lot of ways it led to she and business partner Bryant Fletcher starting NativeKnot.com. Launched in November 2014, NativeKnot.com is a full service Internet marketing and design firm, and community directory featuring 100-percent Indian-owned business. According to the website, the goal is to help community businesses incorporate the Internet into their marketing programs. It also provides a premier online directory of Native Knot business, real estate and area attractions, designed to provide valuable information and unique visual content to online consumers.

On the website is a comprehensive visual directory of virtual tours of Native Knot attractions and businesses, including, specials, coupons, maps, pictures, and more.

"As a business owner and entrepreneur, I face just every day struggles too and so we try to create a solution for those for other small business owners as well. And that is where NativeKnot comes from," she said.

CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Town Hall meetings to be held in California, Washington

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

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

This year there will be two meetings and the first of these will be in Newport Beach, Calif., Saturday, March 19 at the Radisson Hotel Newport Beach, 4545 MacArthur Blvd. The meeting will begin at 10 am with lunch being served at noon. Question & Answer will follow. The hotel was not able to accommodate with a block of rooms for guests, but will honor the government rate

of \$157 for anyone attending the meeting.

The second meeting will be held in Olympia, Wash., in the Longhouse on the campus of Evergreen College Saturday, April 16. The schedule for this meeting will be the same as the California meeting with a start time of 10 a.m. The host hotel is the Red Lion Hotel, 2300 Evergreen Park Drive Southwest. There is a small block of rooms at a rate of \$102. Please refer to the Wyandotte Nation Courtesy Block when making reservations.

Postcards for both meetings will be sent 4 to 6 weeks prior to each event to citizens in the area with instructions on how to register for the meeting. If you have questions in the meantime please contact Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-6319 or dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation will be hosting Town Hall Meetings in California and Washington in 2016 after making trips to Indianapolis and Phoenix (pictured with a Wyandotte family) in 2015.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Library Workshop

The Wyandotte Nation Library hosted a coloring workshop. The workshop is one of many the library has hosted. Check out the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page for more upcoming activities.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Chief Cotter Portrait

Suzon and Larry Pogue, of Washington, Mo., presented Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend with a framed portrait of Chief Leonard Cotter. Suzon is the daughter of Chief Cotter.

Holiday Festivities



The Wyandotte Nation hosted holiday activities for the elders and students at the preschool over Halloween (pictured left), Thanksgiving (pictured top), and Christmas (pictured above and below). The tots were treated to a Halloween carnival and entertained guests over Thanksgiving. The Nation hosted an Elders Christmas dinner and also a Children's Christmas Party in December.



Photos
By
William
Swaim

Entrepreneur

Continued from Page 7

"It is a struggle when you first start, so marketing and outreach to breach your consumers are really important steps in the businesses succeeding.

"We want to help those businesses, that's what drives me – to help people."

"I don't have any fear of failure. I have faith in myself so I think that is a big part of it. I just think if you put your mind to it, you want to do it, you will succeed."

Plans for the future

Prine said they are continuing to expand NativeKnot.com with tribes nationwide after starting out near home and working out from there.

"I'm always looking for new

things to do, new opportunities to help small businesses, to help us grow, help us succeed and help other businesses grow and succeed," she said.

A lot of the focus for NativeKnot comes from the pride she

has of her own heritage.

"I think it is important. The heritage we have with our Tribe, it makes me proud to be a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation," she said.

When she's not helping other businesses, she and her husband are running their four kids around to various activities while cherishing the quiet moments at home. They are also actively involved at New Life Church just outside Vinita.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS



HUMAN RESOURCES

*Submitted by Deana Howard,
HR Director*

A reception was recently held to honor and recognize employees for their years of service with the Tribe. (Pictured Above from left to right) Janice Wilson- 25 Years, Sherri Clemons- 25 Years, Leanna Rada-baugh- 5 Years, Richard Teeter- 10 Years, Karen Duderstadt- 30 Years, Erin Corbit- 10 Years (not pictured), pictured as well with the recipients is Chief Billy Friend.

Thank you all for your hard work, loyalty, dedication, and passion that you bring to the Wyandotte Nation. We appreciate each one of you and are very fortunate to have you as part of the Wyandotte Nation Family. We look forward to many more years of your success.

New Hires

The Wyandotte Nation is very happy to welcome Cathy Wright as a Substitute in both Title VI and our Education Department. Cathy has over 8 years' experience in food service and 4 years' experience working with children. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. Cathy has 3 children and 7 beautiful grandchildren. We are very fortunate to have



Wright

Cathy to help out when needed.

Mindy Williams has joined the Title VI Department as a Substitute Food Service Team Member and will also serve as a Substitute in the Education Department. Mindy has experience working in the food industry and she loves to work with children. Mindy enjoys spending time with her kids and grandchild and doing crafts.

We are pleased to have Mindy and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is very happy to welcome Kelsey Stewart as a Substitute. Kelsey enjoys spending time with her family, doing crafts and reading. We are very glad to have Kelsey to help out when needed in Education.

The Facilities Department is very excited to welcome tribal citizen Nick Charlton as the newest Custodian. Nick graduated from Miami High School



Williams



Stewart



Charlton

and Northeastern Area Vo-Tech. He worked as an unlimited Journeyman Electrician and has over 25 years' experience. In his spare time he enjoys hunting, fishing, shooting and exploring. Nick also enjoys spending time with his family and has been married to his wife Katie for 25 years. He has four boys and a granddaughter. Nick is proud to be a Wyandotte Nation citizen. We are very happy to have Nick on our Facilities team and wish him much success in his new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is very happy to welcome Kim Myers as an Early Childhood Food Service Team Member. Kim comes to us with previous food service experience and loves working with children. Kim worked in her church nursery for 6 years and now teaches on Wednesday nights and was a reading coach at Seneca Elementary. Kim loves spending time with her husband and boys; also with her church family. She enjoys reading, cooking, baking, and learning to be crafty in her spare time. We are very fortunate to have Kim on our team and wish her the best of luck in her position.



Myers



Rhodes

Chris likes spending time cooking for his family every night. We are very fortunate to have Chris.

The Bearskin Fitness Center is very happy to welcome tribal citizen Kayla White. Kayla will serve as a Fitness Childcare Provider. Kayla worked for us prior in Fitness and as a Summer Youth. Kayla has lived in the Wy-



White

andotte area most of her life. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her family and pets. She loves being outdoors, hunting, archery, etc. She also enjoys reading, making up choreography, dancing, working out, and volunteering at shelters. We are very fortunate to have Kayla on our team and wish her much success in this position.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Kristi Johnston as our Crime Victim Advocate. Kristi has 20 years' experience as a forensic interviewer/victim advocate. In her spare time she enjoys relaxing at home, working on hobbies including cake decorating, photography, scrapbooking and spending time with her family including her dogs. Kristi brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her. We are very fortunate to have Kristi and wish her

much success in this new position. If you are interested in obtaining employment with the Wyandotte Nation or other Wyandotte Nation entities, please check our website for job opportunities or contact the Human Resources Department.



Johnston

FAMILY SERVICES

*Submitted by Kate Randall,
Family Services Director*

It was an outstanding 2015 for the Wyandotte Nation. As I reflect upon the past year, I look forward to the future for the Wyandotte People. So many great additions in progress such as the new Cultural Center and the addition of safe rooms for the senior citizen center and Turtle Tots.

Since becoming an employee in October 1993, I have had the privilege of viewing firsthand the amazing accomplishments the past and present administrations have made. It is with a heavy but happy heart that I announce to you, to your families, that I will have retired by the time this newsletter reaches you.

It was an honor to have served under Chief Leaford Bearskin and we will always miss him. I began my career here as the receptionist and Chief's

Continued on Page 11

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 10

secretary. Although Chief did not ever have a computer in his office, his yellow legal pad and a pencil served him well. I had the honor of putting his words in this format and it always makes me smile as I recall his saying: "There is nothing more dangerous than an Indian with a pencil."

The time for a new generation of leaders arrived and with that came change, progress, and a new Chief. Chief Billy Friend and 2nd Chief Norman Hildebrand, and the Board of Directors will continue to carry on the visions of Leaford Bearskin. Chief would begin his speech by saying we have a 4 letter word here at the Wyandotte Nation. It is C.A.R.E. And I hope it is evident we do care.

For all of the families I have had the honor to serve, always remember the Nation is here to serve its citizens. We, the Wyandotte People, are one people united in the future of our children for generations to come. Although I am not Wyandotte by blood, I am Wyandotte in my heart. I write this not to say goodbye as there is no word in your language. My word to you is "until our paths cross again", you are in my thoughts and prayers. Thank you for allowing me this time in history to be a part of your people. The family services staff will serve you well. With business at hand, here is our news from family services:

LIHEAP Announcement (OKLAHOMA RESIDENTS ONLY)

There are still funds for the low income home energy assistance program. This federal grant was funded for the Wyandotte Nation. Income guidelines apply. Please contact a member of the family services staff for the 5 page application.

2015/16 Senior Programs

The senior programs are designated for the 4 State area of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas. The senior age is 55+. All programs require applications.

Winter senior utility benefit of \$100 began Oct. 1, 2015 and will end on March 1st. If you have not applied for your senior utility benefit, please contact us for the form required to send in with your current utility bill.

Elders Assistance: This \$250 benefit began Oct. 1, 2015 and will end Sept. 30, 2016. This benefit can be used to pay a vendor directly for any personal purchases you would like to have reimbursed. Please keep in mind a vendor invoice is required

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.

for direct payment and receipts are required for reimbursements. An elder form must be completed.

Summer Senior Utility Benefit: The \$100 summer senior utility payment begins July 1, 2016 and ends Sept. 30, 2016.

2015/2016 Childrens Programs

Children's programs are limited to the 4 State area of Oklahoma, Missouri, Arkansas and Kansas. All programs require applications.

Children's Winter Clothing: The winter clothing benefit began Nov. 1, 2015 and will expire March 1, 2016. Applications postmarked after 3/1/16 will be denied. School age children (preschool through 12th grade are eligible). Walmart cards may be requested, or you may purchase winter clothing and submit proof of receipts for each child. The per child benefit is \$100.

Children's Extra-Expense, extracurricular activities: This benefit begins Oct. 1 through Sept. 30, 2016. The \$100 benefit may include, but is not limited to school lunches, dues, sports, gymnastics,

school pictures, annuals, and out of school programs such as girl scouts or boy scouts. If you have any questions please call. This benefit cannot be used for school supplies.

Junior/Senior High School Benefit: This \$250 benefit is in addition to all the above named children's programs. The expenses for juniors and seniors can be offset by using this great program. The benefit can cover prom expenses, class rings, cap and gown, graduation announcements. The program can pay directly to the vendor with an invoice, or the family can be reimbursed for expenses with proof of payment/receipts.

Child Safety Passenger Seats: Keep your children buckled up! New laws are in effect in certain states regarding the appropriate safety seat for the height and weight of your child. The benefit offers each child 3 levels of protection. From newborn up to 100 pounds. As your child grows, come by when it is time to upgrade. Unfortunately this program is limited to those that can pick up their safety seat in person. A designated relative may pick up the safety seat if the office hours are not convenient for working parents.

Medical Fuel Assistance: Tribal citizens utilizing the Bearskin Clinic often travel to Wyandotte for their appointments or for prescription refills. In order to help offset those cost, tribal members may bring in proof of their appointment or RX pickup to obtain a fuel voucher for the Turtle Stop. Tribal Citizens may be required to travel distances to see medical specialist in other cities. The annual benefit for medical fuel is \$100. A serious medical condition may require multiple trips for a tribal citizen for treatment of diseases. In these instances, the amount may be raised to \$250. Due to HIPPA, the nature of your appointments is not disclosed to the family services staff. All appointments and RX pickup are verified.

Hardship Fuel Assistance: This \$50 per year benefit can be used for tribal citizens seeking employment, have had a recent family emergency, loss of employment or personal reasons. All fuel assistance requires an intake with a family services worker.

Promoting Safe & Stable Families / Indian Child Welfare

Since the Indian Child Welfare Act was passed in 1978, tribes across the Nation have been able to intervene in state court proceedings and advocate for family reunifications, secure kinship placements, and/or tribal adoptions, when necessary.

Independent adoption home studies are needed on our tribal families nationwide. When parental rights are terminated, and there are no relatives to care for the children, Wyandotte tribal adoptive homes are the alternative placement. If you are considering an adoption please contact a member of the family services staff. We can help refer you to the agencies that do home studies. Also, social worker Tara Gragg has been working with our other Ottawa County Tribes to recruit foster homes. Tribal foster homes are in high demand for all Indian children.

For more information, contact Tara at extension 6355.

Child Welfare

On Nov. 14, the Wyandotte Nation hosted a Foster Parent Recruitment event. This event was a great success in recruiting four new foster families for our area! A panel of current foster parents spoke about their experiences.

We were also privileged to hear the

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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experiences of a child who had been adopted from foster care from her own perspective. She was a blessing to all in attendance. Thank you to all who contributed to this important event. You will have another opportunity to attend another Recruitment event in the Spring. The date and location will be announced.

Enrollment

The Enrollment Department accepts applications year round. Each application must be accompanied by an original state certified birth certificate, as well as any other supporting legal documents as requested by Enrollment staff.

Applications must be received by Aug. 15 to be considered at the Annual Meeting.

Applications received on or before a child's first birthday will receive a blanket and \$100 Walmart gift card. This year's meeting will be held on Sept. 10 at 10 a.m. at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gym.

DNA will only be accepted to prove paternity and the testing must be done using the legal purposes procedures. The original documentation should be sent directly to the Enrollment Department from the lab.

If you have questions about the DNA process or any other enrollment questions please contact a Family Services staff member.

Tribal Tags

Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the state of Oklahoma are eligible to title and register their motor vehicles with the Nation. Currently, the Nation is registering passenger vehicles, RV's, travel trailers and motorcycles.

Handicapped plates are available for those who meet the requirements and individuals must obtain a form from the Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission to submit to their physician for completion. Citizens may be asked to provide proof of residency to be eligible for this program. Fees for the program include registration ranging from \$9 to \$51 depending on the year of the vehicle, excise tax for new purchases based on the year, make and model of the vehicle and \$10 for titles. Appointments are suggested, but not required.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card)

All tribal citizens should have

received information in December regarding the Supplemental Health Program. If you haven't received the information from CoreSource please contact us to verify your mailing address. Citizens should receive quarterly statements from CoreSource with account balances or can be checked through the on-line portal. However, citizens can contact CoreSource or Family Services staff to obtain this information.

Funds can be used to pay for health care needs not met by insurance or if no insurance is available. The Benny card can't be used for over the counter medicines such as pain relievers (Tylenol, Advil, etc) and cold/flu remedies or insurance premiums. Citizens will have until Feb. 28, 2016 to file claims for 2015 funds.

A claim form can be printed from the online portal or one can be obtained from the Family Services staff. If you lose or misplace your card please contact CoreSource directly to report and request a new card be issued.

If you have questions about this benefit you can contact any of the Family Services staff or CoreSource at (800) 990-9058 x42086.

Burial Assistance

This program is available to all enrolled citizens nationwide and will pay \$1,500 towards the expense of funerals, burials, cremations, etc. A burial application must be submitted to the Family Services Department along with a copy of the state certified death certificate and an itemized statement from the service provider i.e. funeral home. Payment will be made directly to the provider unless there is verification that the services have been paid in full.

TRIBAL HERITAGE

Submitted by Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director

Kwe kwe and Happy New Year to all Wyandotte Citizens! I hope everyone had a great holiday season with your family and friends.

The New Year is going to be an exciting time for the Wyandotte. The new Cultural center is almost done. So much thought really has went into the design and what needs we can meet. I feel there is nothing we can't achieve. There are several classes being planned and we hope to have a calendar on the web site soon. The Cultural Committee met

for the first time of the year and big plans are in the works for this year's Little Turtles and the Gathering. Save the date cards will be showing up soon. The 27 Annual Pow-Wow dates will be Sept. 9-11.

The Language program is moving along very nicely. Loretta Combes and Dr. John Steckley are working on new and better ways to teach the words to all ages. We have started some video recordings of our elders. This is an important step, because our elders hold so much knowledge and it is sad to say, they are slowly passing on. This is a very time sensitive project. Hoping to see everyone come and experience what the Nation is building here.

ENVIRONMENTAL

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental Director

Wow! Where has the year gone?

October thru December has been a whirlwind of activities for our department. Our seven monthly water monitoring sites continue to keep us busy, along with private well sampling, septic system assessments, recycling duties, tribal health inspections, and other daily activities.

October found Christen Lee and other department supervisors attending a Leadership Training during the week of the 19th thru the 22nd. The 27th thru 29th, Kathleen Welch attended the Tri-State Trustee Council Meeting in Catoosa. October gave way to November and the flurry of activities and meetings continued.

On Nov. 13, Janice Wilson was recognized for 25 years of service to the Wyandotte Nation. Over 14 years of this time has been in the Environmental Department. We are blessed and pleased to have her as our Water Technician.

The end of November found us celebrating Thanksgiving with friends, family and loved ones. On Nov. 19, Kathleen Welch became a grandma for the first time, so the first part of December found her traveling to Rhode Island.

December was full of work-related meetings and activities, but we still found time to spread Christmas cheer. The end of December we were greeted with torrential rains and witness record flooding in the area. This affected the sampling of three of our monthly sites and the water has not yet receded at these locations.

Happy New Year!

Services provided:

- Private Water Well Tests
- Tribal Drinking Water System
- Septic Assessments
- Recycling Center

Department Contacts

Christen Lee – 918-678-6341
 Janice Wilson – 918-678-6345
 Kathleen Welch – 918-678-6335
 Jon Quick – 918-678-6352
 Lost Creek Recycle Center – 918-678-4001
 Scott Mills – 918-678-6386

HOUSING

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Community Center was a popular place last year for those renting the facility to have birthday parties, family reunions, meetings, and game nights.

The center is open daily to the public from 8 am – 4:30 pm. There are a lot of activities to do including playing pool, ping pong, and air hockey, and also several board and card games. The center is available to be rented (evenings or weekends) for \$50 for tribal citizens, and \$75 for non-tribal citizens with a \$25 cleaning deposit. There are already several dates reserved in 2016 and the space will continue to fill up throughout the year. If you are interested in renting the community center, please contact the housing office at (918) 678-6336 or (918) 678-6339.

Housing has a variety of programs to assist qualifying tribal citizens. Those include the Rental/Homeownership Program, Home Improvement Program, Well/Septic/Rural Water Sanitation Facilities Program, Down Payment Assistance Program, and College Rental Assistance Program. Each program has different guidelines and varying qualifications which are listed on the first page of most of the applications. The applications for all of the programs listed above are available online or in the Housing offices, located at the Heritage Acres Community Center.

If you have any questions about the community center or any of the programs listed above, please contact the housing department.
 Kathy DeWeese- Housing Director
 Valari Richards- Housing Specialist
 Don Graham- Residential Maintenance Technician
 Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator
 Paul Parker- Project Coordinator

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

PLANNING / DEVELOPMENT

Submitted by Ron Kaiser, Senior Advisor

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

The Cultural Center project has been a beehive of construction activity. The project was awarded to Crossland Construction. Ground breaking began Sept 11, 2015. Much of the site work has been accomplished; except for curb, gutter, paving and exterior landscaping. This project is very close to being closed in; door frames are being set, windows are in place, (can view the lake from library windows), the central multi-purpose room has been framed in, heating and cooling ductwork is being run, and the roof is almost complete.

The second project provides expansion to the Artie Nesvold Community Center Title 6 Building to include an activity room that will function as safe room. The Carla Culver Education Center will have a new activity room functioning as "Gross Motor Skills" classroom and will be a FEMA compliant safe room. This project is nearing completion. Drainage work is finishing and a parking area for preschool staff will be paved with concrete.

We are working tribal properties for different projects; ranging from replacing fencing, protecting potential historic features, clearing Brush on several properties to maintain land quality, cleaning/ updating two houses the tribe recently purchased. Have completed renovations at one house and it has been rented. Second house renovations are winding down. Staff are also evaluating a new purchase that was a tire and auto mechanic shop.

The wildlife commission has been established with three members; Robby Graham, Derald Clemons, and Norman Hildebrand. We had our first meeting to discuss getting a commission symbol and to discuss the new hunting and fishing regulations. Will in the future, be installing signage on tribal property approving the use of property to be hunted. Currently, 20 people hunt deer, turkey, and wild hog on our properties.

There are 4 pending Fee to Trust applications with the Miami agency, the Arrowhead Building, Heritage Ac-

EDUCATION

Submitted by Tammy Charles, Education Director

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is busy with activity as we get back to the daily routine of preschool and before/ after care and the festivities that the spring semester brings. Along with childcare happenings, we are processing scholarships, planning workshops in the library area and working with our clients to assist them in various ways.

Preschool families and friends will have many opportunities to be involved with in the coming months. In January, children will celebrate 100 days of school with an outing and we will host classroom family nights. The events that link our families to our classrooms are a means of building a support network that enhances the learning capacity of the family unit.

Daily preparations will begin in February for the Wyandotte Nation Preschool Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow that is scheduled for May 3, 2016. The incorporation of the Wyandotte language in the event has been completely redesigned. The Education staff wishes to thank Tara Gragg, Wyandotte Tribal citizen, for her work in recording a new greeting song. The Preschool Pow-Wow has been a well-attended family event for years and we can only see growth in the future. Please mark the date on your calendar and attend if possible.

Wyandotte Nation Preschool has openings in the afternoon classroom and is accepting applications for fall 2016 term. Prospective students must be three years of age on or before Sept. 1.

The annual report submitted by the Child Care and Development Fund Program reflected that 157 children from 106 families received child care assistance during fiscal year 2015.

The child care assistance program serves as a vital link for our families and their ability

ers, Park City and Catherine Crotzer Tract 1.

Prepared and submitted a modified fee to trust application for Park City Completing the Fee to Trust application for an 80 acre parcel originally



COURTESY PHOTO

Wyandotte tribal citizen Kenny Glass works with Arturo Garcia and Deb Haynes during a patchwork workshop. In the coming months, David Keffer will be conducting various workshops in the coming months on rawhide rattles, dream catchers, and hand drums.

to work or attend school and afford quality child care. As another option to serve our tribal citizens, we can reach out to CCDF programs in other areas to assist you. If you or any of your family are interested in any of the programs we have in our child care program, please contact the office.

Gateway to the World is the title of the enhancement grant that is operating in the library. During the last several months, we have had many specialized workshops for our patrons. Those workshops have focused on Native American arts and technology. A new teen advisory group is being developed this month in hopes of boosting patronage in the teen years.

Wyandotte tribal citizen Kenny Glass instructed a class on patchwork. David Keffer, Wyandotte, will be conducting various workshops in the coming months on rawhide rattles, dream catchers, and hand drums. It is wonderful that we have local tribal members who can share their talents with the community.

A partnership has developed with the students that are participating in the Jack King Pow-Wow Dance classes and the library will be hosting an instructional class on jungle dress design and construction. We

continue to offer technology assistance workshops for individuals entering the digital realm. The library has several iPads that are available for use in our facility and we encourage you to try to them out.

College students are heading back for spring term and it is the goal of the department to promptly process those funds. A reminder to all who are receiving funding that the following deadlines are applicable for scholarship funds: Spring term Feb. 15 and fall term is Oct. 1. All funds are sent to the school on behalf of the recipient. To renew funding for subsequent semesters, an official or unofficial transcript in its entirety is to be supplied to the Education department. The Housing department works with us to get information out concerning the assistance for tribal citizens. As the education director, I am blessed to see funds for Wyandotte students being distributed all across the United States. Several schools both near and far have multiple Wyandotte tribal citizens in their student body.

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allotted to William Bearskin and recently purchased from Doug and Judy Loftland.

Goal for this fiscal year is to have 3 additional applications submitted.

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

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*

We are anxiously awaiting for spring to arrive. We are beginning to start planning our road trips. This last year we went to the horse races (2), Branson, Mo., and the Tulsa State Fair. We welcome any ideas for other places to explore.

We would like to thank everyone who helped in any way with our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners. You are greatly appreciated! Our attendance was the largest that we have ever had at both dinners. We would also like to thank Ms. Coyne and her choir groups from the Wyandotte Grade School, Middle School and High School for entertaining the Elders with their wonderful Christmas carols on

Wednesdays in the month of December during our lunch.

Our new safe room in our dining area is just a few days from being completed. We will be holding Diabetes Education Classes in the new room every Wednesday beginning Jan. 27 through March 2, at 12:30 pm.

Our Valentine Party will be Thursday, Feb. 11, during the noon hour. Prizes will be given to the Eldest Valentine, Couple married the longest, newlyweds and the one that has been married the most times and is willing to admit it.

Our Easter dinner will be Thursday, March 24. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt, Easter Bonnet contest for the ladies, and a Men's leg contest.

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

Caregiver

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month. 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 Contacts:

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

Education

Continued from Page 13

In a response to the State of the Union address, I feel compelled to share the following data concerning Native American students.

Source-National Indian Education Association: "Unfortunately, Native students did not share in the successes that were highlighted by President Obama. While the Administration's victory in raising the high school graduation rate to 82 percent in 2013-14, the highest graduation rate since states adopted a revised standard for calculating graduation rates five years ago, is admirable, the President failed to note that American Indian and Alaskan Native students are the only ethnic group whose rates remained flat. Native students had a graduation rate of 69.9 percent during the same time period, well below the national average. Even fewer of our students enroll in and graduate from college."

The Wyandotte Nation is committed to assisting its tribal citizens in securing an education that will allow for them to provide for self and family. Financially speaking, the Nation offers scholarships that meet and often exceed the amounts of tribes with larger populations. Wyandotte Nation tribal administra-

tion works diligently to make sound investments that have added to the benefits that citizens have available. The Education Department is privileged to offer the following benefits for enrolled tribal members: Concurrent high school courses are covered for tuition or fees only; Vocational assistance is for programs that are not degree seeking and funding is dependent on intensity and duration of coursework; Undergraduate scholarships currently fund up to \$2,250 per semester for up to 8 semesters if all requirements are met; Masters level and beyond programs have a maximum of four semesters of funding at \$1,500 per term. In the past several weeks, new tribal scholarship recipients have contacted the office with questions about funding. It is a pleasure to get acquainted with the recipients and we hope to meet you at annual meeting, town hall gatherings or in the tribal complex if you are near.

Federal legislation impacts many programs that we work with and Every Student Succeeds Act is a new regulation that I want to look at from a Wyandotte Nation tribal perspective. I would like to encourage all tribal citizens to reach out to me via email so that we may engage in conversation and discuss opportunities. Wyandotte Nation wants all tribal citizens to achieve their goals and we look for ways to assist. If we could develop a strong

network of Wyandotte's regardless of location, we could support the endeavors of those pursuing their goals. Previous scholarship recipients have the potential to provide the education staff with information that pertains to the school you attended that may be shared with another Wyandotte that is currently or plans to attend that same school. Networking with quality individuals and programs on campuses can make or break the college experience for students. The database of scholarship recipients is large with many degrees recorded. Sadly for some we have no degree awarded or program participation ceased for some reason. The education staff wants to hear from those individuals to help fill in the blanks and add to the potential contacts for your area.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act continues to be guided by the 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 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*

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center offers a full range of health services including primary care, lab, diabetic clinic and purchased/referred care (PRC). Through PRC, services are provided that are not provided at Bearskin Healthcare or an IHS facility, including limited dental, specialty services and emergency services. The PRC program is funded annually by the US Congress. It is NOT AN ENTITLEMENT PROGRAM nor is it an Insurance program. That is, PRC cannot guarantee that funds are always available.

PRC funds are intended to pay for care where no other sources of health care payments are available, or to supplement other alternate resources after they have been exhausted. The use of alternate resources allows PRC to maximize funds so that a wider range of health care may be provided to as many tribal members as possible. Purchased/Referred Care is a supplement to other third-party reimbursement services.

Payments for healthcare can only be authorized by a PRC ordering official. No one else can authorize payments. PRC payments are authorized through a process using federal guidelines and eligibility criteria. Additionally, the program provides quality, cost-effective/efficient services that preserve the rights of the clients. Each and every visit must be pre-authorized by a PRC official at Bearskin Healthcare.

Eligibility for services are limited to those individuals who are enrolled members of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; reside within one of the 12 counties in Northeastern Oklahoma (Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Washington), which comprise the Service Delivery Area (CHSDA).

Bearskin Healthcare contracted facilities include: Hillcrest Medical Center in Tulsa, Integris Baptist Regional Health Center in Grove and Miami, Mercy Hospital in Joplin, Missouri, Craig General Hospital in Vinita, Freeman Health System in Joplin, Missouri, and Claremore IHS Hospital. The PRC program also contracts with specialty care physicians, hospitals, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at prearranged



fees.

PRC is designated as a payor of last resort meaning that all other available alternate resources must first be used before PRC payment. An Indian Health/Tribal/Urban (I/T/U) facility is deemed an alternate resource when available and accessible.

When services are not available at Bearskin Healthcare, contracted facilities or an IHS facility, the physician will initiate a referral to a contract specialty provider. After the referral is initiated by the physician, the patient must meet with a member of the PRC staff to approve scheduling of the appointment.

Important Notice: All services REQUIRE prior authorization before obtaining services or a 72 hour notification following self-referred care (emergent care).

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC CONTRACT HEALTH SERVICES:

1. Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe. Patient must also have an established medical health record at Bearskin Health Clinic and reside within the Contract Health Service Delivery Area (CHSDA).

2. Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian

woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian's child through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian's household who resides within the CHS service area is eligible for CHS if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an acute infectious disease;

3. Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county CHS service area within Oklahoma.

Out-Of-State residents are not eligible for CHS funds.

CHS IS A PAYOR OF LAST RESORT! All other resources to pay for medical care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Worker's Comp, Title 19, Sooner Care, automobile insurance, and/or group health insurance, including IHS facilities must be utilized first, when applicable. Residents will be required to show proof of denial through alternate resources.

Each patient must meet the federal criteria listed, as well as produce documentation on proof of residency.

Documents required to be presented for service include:

- Social Security Card
- Oklahoma Driver's License or Oklahoma State issued Identification Card
- Tribal Membership Card
- Residency Requirements (3 needed):

Utility Bill in patient's name with physical address – lease agreement, gas, electric.

For individuals that do not have an utility bill or lease in their name and reside with other individuals

1. Previous years taxes (front page verifying state filed)
2. Land Tax statement
3. Recent School Records
4. Notarized affidavit verifying residence
5. Mortgage payment

Illegal Drug or Alcohol Impairment

Bearskin Healthcare reserves the right to deny payment for medical expenses incurred by patients while engaged in illegal activities or while impaired by alcohol or illegal drugs. Impairment will be defined as blood/breath alcohol levels in excess of the legal limit as set by the Oklahoma Department of Public Safety or urine/serum screens positive for illegal drugs documented by medical records pertinent to the case. Patients so denied will be responsible for those expenses.

Leaving Against Medical Advice (AMA)

If, while on a referred medical appointment or during an emergency room visit, a patient leaves against medical advice, without being seen or before the conclusion of treatment, that patient will be responsible for all costs incurred by that visit and/or any complications arising from such departure.

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WYANDOTTE NATION

2016 Summer Youth Program

The Wyandotte Nation Government is seeking Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizens to fill 25 positions for the 2016 Summer Youth Program.

Criteria for the program:

- Enrolled in high school or college (as full time student=12 hours) and must provide proof of enrollment on first day of work
- If previous participant in program was a college student, must show proof that college semester was completed
- Must be ages 16-22
- Must be enrolled as a Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizen
- Have dependable transportation to and from work
- Ability to fulfill the requirements of the assigned position
- Previous participants must have completed prior year in good standing
- Pass a background check and drug screen
- Eligible participants will work 40 hours per week at \$8.50/hour. Current assignments are available in the following areas: Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center, Title VI, Turtle Stop, Administration, Education, Tribal Heritage, Housing, Environmental, Maintenance, and Law Enforcement.

Applications are available at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 64700 E. Highway 60, Wyandotte, Oklahoma 74370 and must be completed by April 15, 2016. Positions are limited and will be filled based on availability so please submit your application as soon as possible.

For more information and to schedule an interview please contact Becki Bureson, Human Resource Assistant at (918) 678-6337 or you may email her at beckib@wyandotte-nation.org.



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Fitness

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 Member. 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.



Hoops Camp

Bearskin Fitness Center held its first basketball clinics this past fall. Coach Josh Schertz provided instruction on shooting, passing, ball handling, defensive skills and overall skills needed for both on and off the court to be a better athlete for grades 1st through 5th. Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Coach Lindsey Cooper coached the preschool age athletes, working on basketball fundamentals and providing opportunities to learn the game through interactive games and drills in a fun environment.



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.

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