



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 23, Issue 4

www.wyandotte-nation.org

November 2019



Shared History: Mission Church, land returned to Tribe

PAGES 4 - 6

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

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Cover Photo:
*The procession
 to the Mission
 Church*

*Photo: William
 Swaim*

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Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 932-4778.

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!

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

State of the Nation

State of the Nation Address 2019 (Speech given Sept. 14 at the Annual Meeting):

Good morning! It is a great day in the Wyandotte Nation! A great day to be Wyandotte! This is a day we celebrate all that makes our nation and our people strong. It has been a wonderful week, a great week in the Wyandotte Nation! Our people have connected, reconnected, laughed and celebrated. It is truly a great day to be Wyandotte!

Wyandotte people have always benefited from the foresight of our ancestors, we have added to and built upon that foresight to become the great nation that we are today!

Without the dedication of our ancestors to make sure the Wyandotte Nation continued to exist and to grow, we would likely not be meeting here today to review our accomplishments.

It is that spirit of our forefathers which continues to fire our souls to this very day. And it is in that spirit that we continue the traditions of the past,

traditions such as this Annual Meeting. As our ancestors put us on the road to being the great nation of people we are today; so we owe them a debt of gratitude. Their foresight and desire to make the future better have enabled us to grow and prosper. As we celebrate our remarkable achievements, let us also celebrate those who came before us and made it possible for me to report to you that the state of the Wyandotte Nation has never been better!

We have had another great year. The State of the Nation is still strong. This is because we all pull together, and we make it happen together. We are family. We have a common bond that connects us, a heritage that binds us and a culture that keeps us thriving. Each citizen, every citizen, of our tribe plays an important role, as does every tribal employee and all the people who are committed to the success of the Wyandotte Nation. We have many things to celebrate today. We also have many things that keep us striving toward all

kinds of options, many tasks still need to be accomplished and many victories are yet to be won! The Wyandotte Nation has accomplished much, but we still have a lot to do, a lot ahead of us that we need to take on.

It's my privilege and honor to serve as your Chief.

I appreciate the support you've given me, and with your continued support, I look forward to continuing to serve you as we work towards the betterment of the Wyandotte Nation and its people for many years to come.

Ladies and gentleman, as you have seen and heard this morning, the state of the Wyandotte Nation is strong and getting stronger.

Each one of you, all of you, are important in our continued story – one that has no end, one that we will pass to our children and their children after them.

We are a strong Nation... Let's celebrate that strength today. May God bless you and may God continue to bless the Wyandotte Nation.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

'Kill the Indian, save the man'

Kweh,

The weather here in Oklahoma has finally broke and we are experiencing some really nice temperatures. Fall is here and I cannot wait to see what kind of winter that is on the horizon.

In September, I had the pleasure of experiencing history in Upper Sandusky, Ohio where our last federally recognized reservation was located. Global Ministries signed over the Old Mission Methodist Church to the Wyandotte Nation. Anytime you can get a piece of an original reservation that you were forced to leave 175 years ago, and not have to pay for it, is monumental. It was an honor along with many of our Wyandotte citizens to experience history in the making.

There has been a lot of discussion the last few years about the Indian Boarding School that was located here in Wyandotte, Okla.

"Kill the Indian, save the man" was the motto of Capt. Richard Henry Pratt, the most prominent Indian educator of the late 1800s. Progressive reformers like Pratt believed it was essential to get Indian children away from their families and nations in order to prevent parents from raising children in their own cultures. Reformers founded boarding schools where children could be isolated from Indian languages, values and traditions. Cultural erasure was the stated goal.

At that time there was no school in this area except the mission school

that had been established by the Quakers at what is now Wyandotte, Okla. The children stayed at the school and were allowed to go home each six weeks and to stay from Friday to Sunday, only if their families could afford to get them. A lot of the children ran away only to be caught and returned. Jerry Hubbard was in charge of the school, they had good teachers, who although strict, were good to the children. They had very poor clothing, food and quarters as they would be judged to today's standards, but they were feeding, clothing and teaching them at no expense to



See **SECOND CHIEF**, Page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

2019

ELDER THANKSGIVING

**Nov.
14
11:30 AM
- 1 PM**



CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

**DEC.
14
10 AM
- NOON**



ELDER CHRISTMAS

**DEC.
19
11:30 AM
- 1 PM**



2020

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

**MARCH
/ APRIL
TBD**



GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

**JUNE
26 - 28**



FIREWORKS CELEBRATION!

**JULY
TBD**



THE GATHERING

**SEPT.
9 - 11**



31ST ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.
11 - 13**



ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.
12
10 AM**



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

their parents on what the school received from the Federal Government.

The boys had red duck pants put together with rivets, hickory shirts of blue and white, brogan shoes, common black hats, no socks and no underwear. The girls wore blue denim all made alike with course canton flannel underwear, heavy shoes and the little girls had copper toes on their shoes. The sleeping room or dorm, as you would say today was without fire, hard mat-

tresses, coarse blankets and no sheets.

Breakfast consisted of boiled beef, gravy, light bread and weak coffee. For dinner it was cornbread, beans, gravy and water. For supper there was two tubs, one filled with sliced light bread, in the other tub was two slices put together with New Orleans molasses and there were rows of pegs about 2 feet apart, each boy took their place at the pegs with the larger boys in front and these led up to where two women were in charge of the two

tubs of bread and as a boy moved up to the peg in front of the tub one of the women would say "with or without", and if he said "with" he was given two slices of the light bread put together with molasses and if he said without he was handed two slices of dry bread, and then they would proceed to the pump to get water and that was their supper.

In the early 1880s the Government took over the school and then they had plenty to eat, good clothes and sheets.

Their clothes were grey uniforms with red stripes and the girls received blue flannel dresses. Conditions at boarding schools changed somewhat when the Government either took them over or started them themselves but the hard truth is they still tried to "Kill the Indian, save the man."

As one well known Indian Leader once said; "Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children." --Chief Sitting Bull

A remembrance of shared history

*Methodists return
land, Mission Church
to Tribe after 176 years*

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

*"Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come.*

*'Tis Grace hath brought me safe thus far
And Grace will lead me home."*

For the first time in 176 years, the sound of 'Amazing Grace' flowed from the windows of the old Wyandot Mission Church – sung by descendants of Wyandottes who once attended church there in the 1800s.

The words, a profound reminder of the Tribe's shared history with The United Methodist Church.

In 1843, Wyandottes were forcibly removed from the Upper Sandusky, Ohio area by the U.S. Government, abandoning their land and entrusting the Mission Church to the Methodists. And while services were held at the church following the Wyandottes' removal from the area, Sunday, Sept. 22, marked the first time tribal citizens once again gathered there for service – a service led by Chief Billy Friend.

It followed what was an historic moment for the Wyandotte Nation the day before as The United Methodist Church returned some of the land, which included the Mission Church, to the Tribe.

"Such a great day, such a great moment, it's hard to even come up with the words to say how grateful we are today, how honored we are by everyone that came out today," Chief Friend said during the Saturday ceremony after receiving the deed from Global Ministries General Secretary Thomas Kemper of The United Methodist Church. "When we left here, there were 664 Wyandottes who made that journey. Today we have 6,611 tribal citizens."

Nearly 90 tribal citizens made the trek from Wyandotte, Okla., to Upper Sandusky, Ohio, for the event. While the Saturday ceremony marked the historical occasion, it was the Sunday church service signifying the importance of it all for those who made the journey.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(Above) Chief Billy Friend delivers a sermon during service at the old Wyandot Mission Church in Sandusky, Ohio, Sept. 22. (Below) Global Ministries General Secretary Thomas Kemper presents Chief Friend with the deed to the land.

"I think to have the Wyandotte Nation be able to attend the old Mission Church, have Chief Friend talk to us, and offer a service for us in that building, in that location where our ancestors attended, and lived with their families and friends -- the peacefulness of it was touching," said Jodi Van Zanten, a tribal citizen who made the flight from her home in California to join the road trip to Ohio.

'A Remembrance of Our Shared History'

In 1843, the Tribe deeded the land to the Missionary Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church,



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

See **SHARED HISTORY**, Page 5

SHARED HISTORY

Continued from Page 4

forerunner of today's United Methodist Global Ministries, in order to protect its sanctity when the federal government forced the tribe off their last reservation in the state of Ohio. From Ohio, the Tribe moved to Kansas before being forcibly removed again to Oklahoma where the Wyandotte Nation resides today.

The history between the Methodists and Wyandottes, or Wyandots as they were known then, began long before the removal when in 1816 John Stewart became a missionary to the Wyandots in Ohio.

Stewart was taken into the home of Jonothan Pointer, a black man who in his youth had been kidnapped by the Wyandots, was adopted into the Tribe, and learned the Wyandot language. Pointer served as an interpreter for Stewart.

Rev. James B. Finley was sent in 1821 by the Methodist Conference to start the Mission School at Upper Sandusky. Stewart taught a class at the Big Springs Reserve. Stewart died later on Dec. 18, 1823 and his last words were, "Be Faithful."

Stewart forged a bond between the Wyandotte people and Methodists that continues today, and allowed for the rare and historic land return to happen.

As for the Wyandot Mission Church, it was built in 1824 in Upper Sandusky and was used by the Wyandots until 1843. It was the first mission in America of the Methodist denomination, and the school was reportedly one of the first vocational schools and the first co-educational school. The building was restored in 1889 and designated a national



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Princess Sara Wright presents 'The Lord's Prayer' in sign language.

historic shrine by the General Conference of the Methodist Church in 1960.

During the ceremony held in September, United Methodist Church Bishop Gregory Palmer, Pastor Brian Arnold, and tribal citizens Lloyd Divine and Van Zanten recounted the history through the eyes of some of the key historical figures of that time.

'Today, We Celebrate'

The ceremony on Saturday began at the John Stewart United Methodist Church, where hundreds filed into the sanctuary and out into the foyer. In addition to the Wyandotte Nation, representatives of the Wyandot Nation of Kansas and Wyandotte

of Anderdon Nation (Michigan) were also on hand for the event. The Wyandotte Nation is the only federally recognized of the three Wyandotte bands.

Betsy Bowen, the co-chair of the church's Records and History Committee, which has been the primary caretaker of the Mission Church, welcomed everyone.

"This is a good day to be a Wyandotte and a good day to be a Methodist. On this day, the land you entrusted to the Methodists will be returned to the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma," she said.

Tribal citizen Kim Garcia delivered 'The Lord's Prayer' in the tribe's native language and Wyandotte Nation Princess Sara Wright also presented 'The Lord's Prayer' through sign language.

State Rep. Riordan McClain of

"Such a great day, such a great moment, it's hard to even come up with the words to say how grateful we are today, how honored we are by everyone that came out today"

--Chief Billy Friend

the 87th District presented Chief Friend with a declaration from his colleagues in the statehouse. Upper Sandusky Mayor Scott Washburn also spoke on the historic day.

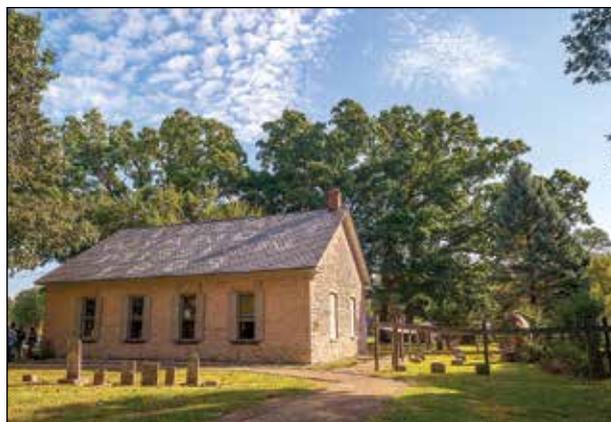
Following the opening ceremony, hundreds filed out of the church and took part in a processional walk, led by Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard members Larry Hamilton, Dave Culver and John Webb, to the old Wyandot Mission Church. A brief stop was made for a ceremony at the old Indian Burial Grounds.

For many on the journey from Oklahoma, the walk was a significant moment in their lives.

"Kim (Garcia) and I were talking about how we were walking in the steps of our grandmothers, and our grandfathers, and our aunts and uncles, and what it must have been like for them on that journey and how fortunate we were to be here, to be a part of this," Van Zanten said of the walk and the ceremony.

The main ceremony began just outside the Mission Church as Methodists, the Upper Sandusky community, and Wyandottes were witnesses to history.

See **SHARED HISTORY**, Page 6



(Above) Ohio State Rep. Riordan McClain presents Chief Friend with a declaration, (middle) the Wyandot Mission Church, (right) tribal citizens Joshua Garcia and Princess Sara Wright dance near the end of the ceremony on Saturday, Sept. 21.

SHARED HISTORY

Continued from Page 5

“We are here to commit ourselves to addressing the wrong and asking for the forgiveness of those who have been wronged by failing them so profoundly,” Bishop Tracy Malone told the large crowd. “We confess to God, acknowledging our guilt, resolving to cease the harm, pledging ourselves to live differently, reversing the damage that has been done through our participation in violence, maltreatment, and neglect of Native and Indigenous peoples so that we may bring about healing and restoration to all.”

Bishop Palmer followed by recognizing what was entrusted to them by the Tribe. “We celebrate that here in what was once the great reserve, you entrusted to us your sacred spaces, spaces we have long shared in practice of our faith and remembrance of friends and family gone before us. Our lives were separated after your departure to Kansas, and then to Oklahoma. But this church, these grave sites, this land, and the stories that are rooted in it, continue to connect us to you.”

General Secretary Kemper then presented Chief Billy Friend with the deed.

“Chief Billy Friend, on behalf of the Methodist people and the Methodist Mission, I return to you and the Wyandotte people and Nation, the land entrusted to us 176 years ago,” he said.

Friend accepted the return of the land to the Wyandotte Nation. “First thing I want to say as Indian people, as tribal people, everything we get, we usually have to fight for, especially when it comes to land. But this was not the case.”

Friend said the conversation began years ago with Pastor Arnold. Then last year, he met with key leaders of the United Methodist Church and discussed the history of the Tribe, and the significance and importance of the Mission Church.

“They said, ‘Chief we think it is time this land comes back to your people.’ And that does not happen very often. We will forever be grateful for that gesture,” Chief Friend said of the conversation.

Chief Friend also recognized the hard work and effort made by the United Methodist Records and His-



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Tribal citizens visited the Indian Mill, Leatherlips Monument, a memorial to Chief Tarhe near his burial site, the Wyandotte County Museum and the Wyandotte Mission Church during a hugely historic weekend for the Tribe.



tory Committee.

“I just want to say it is a miracle that the church is standing in the shape it is in today, and that is a testament to this local community and this group, and their dedication and commitment to preserving not only their history, but preserving our history for us,” Chief Friend said before presenting Bowen with a check for \$10,000.

“Betsy made the trip to Oklahoma last year, wanted to know what their role was going to be going forward. I told her, ‘Betsy this will always be ‘our’ church, when I say ‘our,’ it is our, it is the Wyandotte people and the Methodist Church – it will be ours together. Going forward, you can be assured we are going to be a good partner and we are going to do our part, in helping with the upkeep and maintenance that they have done for so many years.”

Chief Billy Friend, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand and Princess

Sara Wright, as is customary for the Tribe, presented gifts to those key in making the historic day happen. Additionally, Wyandotte of Anderson Chief Ted Roll presented the Wyandotte Nation and The United Methodist Church with wampum belts to signify the day.

'The Journey'

For the tribal citizens making the journey, the ceremony was just a portion of this historic trip as they not only had the opportunity to attend a church service in the Mission Church, but also visited historic sites.

On Friday, tribal citizens had a chance to visit the Mission Church -- for many it was the first time they had seen it. Following that, they made their way to a monument dedicated to Chief Tarhe near his burial site, and concluded the evening with a visit to the Wyandotte County Mu-



seum. Following the church service on Sunday, tribal citizens made their way to the historic Indian Mill site and toured the area. They wrapped up the day with a trip to Leatherlips Monument in Dublin, Ohio, before making their way back to Wyandotte on Monday.

The visit to the historic sites was another memory in a weekend full of them.

“For me personally, it was the chance to present Mother Margaret Solomon during the ceremony, and share not only her story, but a story of our people in that time so that those in attendance could hopefully get a little bit of a sense of what we experienced in being removed and the challenges we faced. That is important, because to know who we are and where we are going, you have to know where we came from. And I think this weekend, it gave us a chance to do that and we can carry it forward. It’s not just creating new history, it’s adding onto the history of our ancestors and it is an honor and a privilege.”

To see photos from the weekend, check out our Facebook page and the photo albums at www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation and ‘like’ us if you haven’t already. Also, keep an eye out on our YouTube channel for an upcoming video of this historic occasion – and make sure you ‘subscribe’ to see our latest videos.

Tribe breaks ground on new Admin building

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

After constructing many walls and rearranging offices over the past 41 years, the Wyandotte Nation will have a new building to call home as the Tribe broke ground Thursday, Sept. 26, on its new Administration Building.

"It's a great day, it's a great day for us, it's a great day for the Wyandotte Nation, and I just want to say thank you to everyone for coming out and supporting," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend to a crowd of onlookers. "It is something we have dreamed about for a long time, and now it is going to become a reality for us -- we are looking forward to it."

While the Tribe will say goodbye to the old building, which was built and dedicated in 1978, it isn't going anywhere. The old administration building will be remodeled and become the new Judicial Building, housing the Wyandotte Nation court system and Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD). Chief Friend said it will be a good move for them as well being just off the highway.

The new Administration Building, located just south of the Bearskin



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(From Left) Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors Juanita McQuistion, Vivian Fink, Ramona Reid, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, and Chief Billy Friend.

Healthcare & Wellness Center, will house the offices of the Administration, Family Services and Gaming Commission.

"It was always our goal to eventually get up here on the hill and begin to fill out everything up here as we have been doing," Chief Friend said. "We have been growing, we've been able to do a lot of things. We are very thankful today to be breaking ground on this new building and

looking forward to the future."

Chief Friend related a story to having fewer than 10 employees in the early days of the administration building to having more than 100 tribal government employees today.

"The ultimate goal for us is to improve the quality of life for our tribal citizens and everything that we do is geared toward that," he said. "It allows us to provide better services, more efficient services, and every-

thing we do is serving the citizens of our tribal nation."

Chief Friend thanked the Board of Directors on hand, Juanita McQuistion, Vivian Fink, Ramona Reid and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand. He also thanked all of the employees on the government side as well as Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), which is the federally-chartered corporation of the Tribe and drives economic development.

The project is completely financed using tribal funds and not federal dollars.

"All the money we are using on this is generated by our economic development, so we are appreciative of all the work that WTOK does -- our casinos, the Turtle Stops, Wyandotte Precision Products, Wyandotte Technologies and all of our projects we do on that side to help fund this project," Chief Friend said. "Not having to use any federal dollars, it says a lot about where we are as a tribal nation."

There is no official timeline for the completion of the project, although construction is set to begin in early November.

Crossland Construction is the general contractor for the project. CGA Architects produced the building concept.

Wyandotte Nation raising awareness for domestic violence problem

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation continued its ongoing support to protect victims of domestic violence by signing a proclamation in support of Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Chief Billy Friend signed the proclamation on behalf of the Tribe.

Chief Friend thanked the Wyandotte Nation domestic violence and sexual assault victim advocates.

"They work tirelessly around the clock many times, advocating for those in this area, being an advocate for those who have been victims of domestic violence," Chief Friend said. "We appreciate them and we appreciate the work that they do."

Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence &

Sexual Assault Advocate/Educator Supervisor for the Wyandotte Nation, said 1-in-3 women are victims of domestic violence, and that 1-in-7 men are victims at some time during their lifetime. She said those numbers are not okay.

Arnold also thanked the Wyandotte Nation for being so supportive.

She said in addition to the proclamation, they also hold a healing circle each month, which is a support group for those affected by domestic violence and sexual assault.

The Wyandotte Nation also hosted the annual Scarecrow 5K and 1-Mile Fun Walk Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. Donations were accepted at the event for the Community Crisis Center of Miami in lieu of a race fee.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Racers take off at the start of the Scarecrow Run. The event was part of the Wyandotte Nation's effort to raise awareness about domestic violence.

'Gathering' ties in Mission Church history

By MARILYN YOUNG
CULTURAL ADVISORY BOARD

Mission: Wyandot accomplished, in many ways. You did it again citizens. This year's Gathering broke the records again. Over the three days, we averaged 150 in attendance. Citizens traveled from all over the country, including California, Michigan, Ohio, Arizona, Texas, Florida, North Carolina and Washington -- to name a few states represented. We even had visitors from Africa stop by.

With the Mission Church deeded back to the Wyandotte Nation by the Methodist Church, emphasis was placed on the Mission Church in Ohio. Every day Lloyd Divine gave us more insight to the Methodists -- John Stewart, James Finley, Charles Elliot and their roles in bringing Methodism to the Wyandots, building a congregation and eventually the Mission. He also spoke about three Wyandot Chiefs -- Between the Logs, Mononcue, Summundowat -- who converted as well as Big Tree, an honored and celebrated warrior who converted first. This history and knowledge gave not only those attending but also those who would make the journey to Ohio to witness the transfer of the Mission back to the Wyandottes, a better understanding of how important the Mission was to our history and timeline.

This year several options were given for citizens during breakout sessions, which included crafts, history, language and traditional dress. Kim Garcia and several assistants taught the Beading class, which is requested every year. This year



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(Above) Tribal citizens 'gather' for a photo during the annual Gathering. (Below left) Janie Cole talks about the different styles for ribbon shirts during the Traditional Dress session. (Below middle) Flowers were placed at the graves following the Walk of Remembrance. (Below right) Tribal citizens had the opportunity to get close to eagles.

Raised Beading was the selected beading craft. It was said the native women loved the look of the lace that the English women were wearing. Even though they were not able to access the lace themselves, they did

have access to white glass beads. They began to use these beads on dark backgrounds to replicate the look of lace. This was the beginning of raised beadwork. The class focused on the twisted rope and a

floral design.

Another highly sought-after class was how to make Moccasins. David Keffer and several assistants taught

See **GATHERING**, Page 9



GATHERING

Continued from Page 8

the basics of making moccasins. Attendees of the class were able to make their own patterns and using felt to practice sewing a moccasin. With additional practice especially of the baseball stitch, we should see some actual moccasins next year. We hope those who attended both classes will post pictures of their completed projects on the Wyandotte Citizens page over the coming months.

In the Traditional Dress session, Janie Cole gave tips on how to make a ribbon shirt, which pattern to use as well as types of material. I showed the different women, teen and little girl style dresses that are appropriate for Wyandotte Nation providing various guidelines for making the dress. This year History and Language sessions were both an open forum format, giving those attending a chance to come and ask questions, which set the conversation rather than having a set agenda. This allowed the citizens attending to set the topic of discussion.

SIA, The Comanche Nation Ethno-Ornithological Initiative from Cyril, Okla., returned for a second presentation for the Wyandotte Nation. Their mission: Preservation through cultural understand of the Eagle in History, Science and Spirit. This presentation brought lots of reaction from the crowd. Can you envision a large full-grown adult Eagle sitting on your head or shoulder? Many may have seen an Eagle or birds of prey at a local zoo or other festival, but I would almost guarantee most of you have never been able to see an eagle of this size closer than 5 or 6 feet. Well many got this chance and many photo opportunities were taken during the presentation.

Bill Voelker who is the President of SIA and has more than 40 years of experience was the main speaker/presenter and spoke about SIA's mission, research, the first Native American feather repository and hatching of the first Bald Eagle via artificial insemination. Listening to him and what SIA does was amazing and hard to tell about in one short paragraph. If you did not get an opportunity to see the presentation or want to learn more about SIA visit their website at comancheeagle.org. They also offer free tours of



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(Clockwise from top left) The Walk of Remembrance started at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gym and ended up at the Wyandotte Indian Cemetery. Tribal citizen artisan showcase entires. Up close photography of the eagle presentation. Kim Garcia teaches a beading class during the annual Gathering. The three-day Gathering again had record attendance.



their facility, but you will need to call and schedule the tour.

The Gathering ended on Friday with the annual Memorial Walk from the Bearskin Gym to the Wyandotte Cemetery where everyone was given the opportunity to lay flowers at the graves of their choice. This is a special time for Wyandottes to walk in unity and to remember those who have walked on. The walk ended at Chief Bearskin's grave where Chief Billy Friend spoke about Chief Bearskin and led us in a closing prayer.

Of course we can't talk about the Gathering without giving special thanks to all those who volunteered their time, to Family Services for providing a meal, to River Bend Casino and Hotel for lunch and breakfast, to Title VI for cooking and providing the traditional dinner, to

the maintenance staff for setting up all the tables and chairs, to Bearskin Fitness, and to our Chiefs Billy Friend and Norman Hildebrand and our Board of Directors for your continued support of this event. A big THANK YOU to everyone who donated items for the giveaways during the Gathering. You all outdid yourself and went over the top with your beautiful items. Many attendees, including many youth, took home some really nice gifts. Another big THANK YOU to everyone who came as you are helping to preserve the past for the future.

The Culture Advisory Board is already starting plans for the 2020 Gathering of Little Turtles and The Gathering. With both events growing in numbers we are looking for volunteers to help with both events from those who can help with set

up, helping serve, teaching a class, assist with teaching, to name a few. We are not only needing instructors but also assistants to help the instructors. Prior to the events special volunteer classes will be held where volunteers will be given additional instructions and/or taught the craft they will be assisting.

We also want to hear from citizens regarding suggestions for history, language and crafts. We want to know what you liked or did not like at either event in 2019 as well as changes or suggestions for 2020. Please contact Courtney Cummings at 918-678-6318, via email ccummings@wyandotte-nation.org. You can also send by general mail c/o Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center 5 Council Fire Road Wyandotte, OK 74370. To remain anonymous use general mail.



30th Annual Pow-Wow

Photos by
William Swaim



The annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow celebrated its 30th year Sept. 13-15. The Head Singer for this year's event was Damian Blackfox and the Northern Drum were the Redland Singers. The Head Man Dancer was Neil Lawhead, the Head Lady Dancer Geneva Hamilton, the Head Gourd Dancer Kenny Brown, the Head Judge Jay Blalock, Arena Director Murray Rhoads Jr. and Master of Ceremonies Steve Kinder.



To see more photos from the
30th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow,
visit our Facebook page and 'Like' us.

www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation





Tribe receives DOJ grant

The Department of Justice announced it has awarded over \$273.4 million in grants to improve public safety, serve victims of crime, combat violence against women and support youth programs in American Indian and Alaska Native communities.

In Oklahoma, 15 tribes and nations received in total \$14,142,025, including the Wyandotte Nation, which received \$132,648 for public safety and community policing from the COPS office.

"Violent crime and domestic abuse in American Indian and Alaska Native communities remain at unacceptably high levels, and they demand a response that is both clear and comprehensive," said Attorney General William P. Barr. "We will continue to work closely with our tribal partners to guarantee they have the resources they need to curb violence and bring healing to the victims most profoundly affected by it."

Four tribes in the Northern District of Oklahoma were awarded more than \$3.1 million in funding, including the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, the Cherokee Nation, the Delaware Tribe of Indians and the Wyandotte Nation.

Chili Feed raises money to support 'Shop With a Cop'

National Night Out another success

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) held its first Chili Feed Saturday, Oct. 12, for the community. Officers served up chili, cake, refreshments, and held an auction with plenty of great prizes. The best part -- ALL proceeds went to support the WNTPD's annual Shop With A Cop program held each December where officers pick up area youth, treat them to lunch and a gift shopping for families under hardship.

Various Wyandotte Nation departments donated prizes as well as Crossland Construction and River Bend Casino & Hotel.

The event raised nearly \$1,900 for the Shop With a Cop program.

Back on Aug. 6, the WNTPD hosted its annual 'National Night Out' Community Block Party at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gym.

It was a chance for the community to come together and visit with neighbors and local law enforcement officers to form stronger partnerships. The evening events featured fun activities, food,



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
(Above and below right) Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department Chief of Police Glenn Johnston and volunteers served up bowls of beef and deer chili during the Chili Feed. (Below left) Officer Ken Brodrick passed out stickers and talked to youth at the annual National Night Out.

refreshments, prizes, and school backpacks and supplies were handed out to students.

National Night Out is celebrated each year. The introduction of National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," began in 1984 as an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships,

neighborhood camaraderie, and to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. That first year, 2.5 million Americans took part across 400 communities in 23 states.

Annually, communities across the United States join forces and celebrate National Night Out.



TRIBAL CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Hamilton honored at Annual Meeting

Tribal citizen Larry Hamilton was named as the 'Honored Person for 2019.' Hamilton is a part of the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard and is also an employee of the Maintenance Department.

Tribal citizens filled the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center to hear the 'State of the Nation' at the Annual Meeting held Saturday, Sept. 14.

(PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SWAIM)



Higginbotham great example of First Steps program success

Wyandotte Nation Title VI Employee Seth Higginbotham has benefitted greatly from the First Steps program, from being involved in the original pilot program, to where he is now – celebrating 10 years of employment recently at the Wyandotte Nation.

First Steps is Missouri's early intervention system for infants and toddlers, birth to age 3, who have delayed development or diagnosed conditions that are associated with developmental disabilities.

First Steps works with families by ensuring that coordinated services are provided as conveniently as possible.

The original First Steps Pilot Program was started when Higginbotham was around 2 years old and it did not become a fully funded and recognized program until 1993. The program benefitted Higginbotham by allowing his parents to find professionals that could help in his development. They introduced such programs as Missouri Impact, which allowed them to understand his rights to receive services under the law and how to be their child's advocate for his needs and his future. Because of First Steps, Higginbotham was given the necessary help with his development that put him on the path to become the fine young man he is today, who contributes to his community, work, church, and has been an encouragement to other parents with children with a developmental disability by showing them that early intervention is the key to letting their grow into the person they were meant to be.

The First Steps is voluntary and is intended to help families of children with disabilities:



- Understanding their child's special needs
- Obtain the help they desire to deal with situations that could interfere with their child's growth and development.
- Provide the best conditions for their child's growth and development.
- Involve professionals such as occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech-language pathologist, special instructors and audiologists.



Service Awards

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand honored employees Friday afternoon for their years of service to the Tribe. From left: Second Chief Hildebrand, Becky Johnson – 5 years, , Kortney Nesvold – 5 years, Cristi Hudson – 10 years, Seth Higginbotham – 10 years, and Chief Friend. Not present: Valari Richards – 10 years.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Family Service Department is very happy to welcome Cesilie Hale. Cesilie will serve as our Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Advocate. Cesilie transferred to us from the River Bend Casino. Cesilie grew up in Grove and is the oldest of five children. She received her



HALE

Bachelor's Degree of Science from MSSU in Business Administration. She enjoys spending most of her time having fun with her daughters, or just relaxing with family and friends. In her free time, you can find her cheering on her kiddos at one of their sporting events and exploring the outdoors doing things such as, kayaking, running, or hiking. In the fall, you can count on her spending Sundays cheering on the Kansas City Chiefs. We are very fortunate to have Cesilie on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Michael Osburn. Michael has 3 years of experience in Law Enforcement and is CLEET Certified. Michael enjoys working on cars, helping his wife at their store, doing yard work, and keeping up with rental properties. In his spare time he spends time with his kids and wife, swimming or playing, watching cartoons. We are very fortunate to have Michael and wish him much success in his new position.



OSBURN

The Bearskin Fitness Center is happy to welcome Bailee Sherwood and tribal citizens Brittany Wood and Devon Rutledge.



SHERWOOD

Bailee will serve as a Front Desk Assistant Substitute. Bailee graduated from Seneca High School and is

currently attending Crowder College. She has been a lifeguard for two years. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends and dogs. She likes singing, dancing, and painting. We are very fortunate to have Bailee on our team and wish her much success in this position.

Brittany will serve as a Fitness Childcare Provider. Brittany worked for us



WOOD



RUTLEDGE

prior as a Front Desk Assistant. Brittany has her Associate Degree in Science. In her spare time, she enjoys making T-shirts and going to craft shows. Brittany loves spending time with her husband and daughter. We are very fortunate to have Brittany on our team and wish her much success in this position.

Devon will serve as the Fitness Center Youth Program Assistant. Devon's hobbies include drawing and reading. Devon enjoys spending time with family and

traveling. We are very fortunate to have Devon on our team and wish him much success in this position.

The Bearskin Health and Wellness Center would like to welcome Rebecca Wright as Clinic Assistant and Sarah Threlkeld as a part-time Childcare Provider.

Rebecca is an internal transfer for Wyandotte Nation and is an LPN and currently pursuing her Bachelor's in Nursing. She has worked in clinics, hospitals, and LTC facilities and comes to us with 7 years' experience. In her spare time she enjoys camping, riding horses, reading, writing, sketching, dancing

and Pow-Wows. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and children and attending her kid's ball games and activities. We are very fortunate to have Rebecca on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

Sarah transferred from the Educa-



WRIGHT










Youth in summer program find new positions with Tribe

The Wyandotte Nation is very happy to transfer the tribal citizens listed from our Summer Youth Program to other positions:

- Keya Corsbie, After School Asst.
- Dalton Duley, After School Asst.
- Kyah Enyart, After School Asst.
- Sydney Nesvold, Substitute with Family Services – Elizabeth Tanner,

Substitute with Title VI – Wylie Hudson, Facilities Tech. – Tristen Cox, Substitute with Facilities – Felicity Bruegel, Fitness Childcare Provider – Devon Rutledge, Youth Program Asst. We are very fortunate to have them on our team and wish them much success in these positions.

tion Department. Her hobbies include photography, reading, watching movies/ tv. Sarah likes spending time with her friends and family, has 3 dogs, likes to



THRELKELD



STEWART

drive around and explore, and enjoys playing with her nephew. We are happy to have Sarah join our team.

Kelsey Stewart has rejoined the Education Department as a Substitute. Kelsey has experience working in the classroom and she loves to work with children. Kelsey enjoys spending time with her family and her church. Her hobbies are reading, shopping, and fishing. We are pleased to have Kelsey back and wish her much success in her position.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

The big news right now in the Family Services Department is that we have moved! Our offices are now located at 64615 W 145 Rd in Wyandotte. This is a temporary location for us until the new Administration building is complete in late 2020. We look forward to providing services to our citizens at this location. **PLEASE NOTE:** This move does not change our mailing address or our phone numbers.

Once again, we had an amazing Gathering, Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow! The Gathering had a record number registered and the Annual Meeting had the largest number of adult tribal citizens ever to register. While the Pow-Wow saw extreme heat, it was still a wonderful weekend with good crowds and dancers from across

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 14

the country! We are so proud of our very own Tara Gragg and her family for singing the National Anthem during the Veteran's ceremony on Saturday night of the Pow-Wow. They did an amazing job.

Tribal citizen Larry Hamilton was named as the 'Honored Person for 2019.' Larry does a great job representing the Tribe on the Honor Guard and as an employee of the Maintenance Department. Thank you Larry for your contributions to the Tribe and the assistance you provide to the Family Services Department.

Family Services staff members Leeanna Radabaugh and Tara Gragg were able to attend the historic trip to Upper Sandusky, Ohio for the Mission Church ceremony. Both expressed extreme gratefulness to the Tribe for allowing them the opportunity to witness this event. Details, along with photos, about the event can be found in an article in the newsletter.

We would like to welcome Cesilie Hale to the Department. Cesilie is the new Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Advocate through a grant from the Office of Victims of Crime. She has been a great asset to the Department and has hit the ground running providing much needed services to victims!

The Family Services Department has many programs and services to offer tribal citizens.

If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact:
Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, 918-678-6355; Leeanna Radabaugh, Family Services Assistant, 918-678-6329; Tiffany Garner, ICW Social Worker, 918-678-6353; Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator, 918-678-6324; and Cesilie Hale, DV/SA Advocate, 918-678-3269.

Visit the Wyandotte Nation website www.wyandotte-nation.org and fol-

low the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page to stay up-to-date on events and program announcements that will be posted in between issues of the newsletters.

Upcoming Winter Programs:

Children's Christmas Party – The party will be held Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 am to Noon at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gym. Doors open at 9:45, depending on the weather. You will need to enter through the gym doors. Each Wyandotte child ages birth to 12 will receive a gift from Santa. Tribal parents present with their eligible children will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card (1 per household). As always, Grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc. are all welcome to attend and share in the joy of Christmas!

Winter Clothing – Starts Nov. 1 and ends Feb. 28 for pre-K (must be enrolled in a structured learning program and be at least 3 years old) through grade 12. OK, MO, AR, KS residents. Reimbursement program or

Walmart gift card for \$100 per student. Applications, along with guidelines, will be available on the home page of the Tribe's website. There are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement program. If you did not return your receipts for either the School Supplies or last year's Winter Clothing gift cards, you will be required to use the reimbursement program this year. Incomplete applications will be returned to the sender.

Senior Energy (Winter) – Available nationwide. \$100 will be paid directly to the utility provider for citizens who are 55 and older. Program dates are Oct. 1 through Feb. 28. Citizens are encouraged to continue to pay their bills as normal and a \$100 credit will display on their statement when the payment has been processed.

LIHEAP – LIHEAP is a federal grant funded program, if funding is

received, services will be available beginning Dec. 1 for tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma. This program is income based and proof of income is required, along with other required documentation.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE PROGRAMS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POST MARKED BY FEB. 28 TO BE ELIGIBLE AND BILLS/RECEIPTS MUST BE DATED BETWEEN OCT. 1, 2019 AND FEB. 28, 2020, NO EXCEPTIONS.

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

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Wyandotte Nation Family Services Programs Dates to Remember

- Elder's Assistance: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30**
- Senior Energy: Winter: Oct. 1 – Feb. 28**
- Senior Energy: Summer: July 1 – Sept. 30**
- LIHEAP: (if available) Winter: Dec. 1 – Feb. 28**
- LIHEAP: (if available) Summer: July 1 – Sept. 30**
- School Supplies: July 1 – Sept. 30**
- Children's Winter Clothing: Nov. 1 – Feb. 28**
- Extracurricular Activities: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30**
- Jr./Sr. High School Assist.: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30**
- Children's Christmas Party: Dec. 14**
- Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting: Sept. 12**

(Second Saturday of September each year)

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

TAG REMINDERS:

- **Must be an enrolled citizen of the Wyandotte Nation, an Oklahoma resident AND the car must be principally garaged in Oklahoma Indian country.**
- **Oklahoma Insurance Verification must accompany renewals (except for RV's and Travel Trailers).**
- **If you are purchasing a new/used vehicle, the Tribal citizen's name MUST be on the Title at the time of assignment. Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission staff CAN NOT add or delete names.**

For questions, please call (918) 678-6329 or (918) 678-6319

Start your journey today

You don't have to be perfect to be a foster parent!

Every year thousands of children are placed in foster care. When a child who is a member or is eligible for membership in the Wyandotte Nation is placed into foster, the ideal situation is for that child to be either with family or in another Wyandotte tribal home. Children need a safe, loving place to stay. That is all you need to start the process of becoming a foster parent. It doesn't matter where you live, please contact the Family Services Department to start your journey today.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 15

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 (at least 3 years of age) through 12th grade.

Jr/Sr Benefit - \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School. Benefit can be used for both Jr and Sr year.

Fuel Assistance – Programs include: 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. Program provides fuel vouchers through the Turtle Stop convenience store for local tribal citizens or tribal citizens who travel to the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center.

Other Programs provided by the Family Services Department:

Child Safety Seats - Each child is eligible for three seats in different sizes and can be picked up at the tribal office. Staff try to keep all sizes on hand, but if you are traveling from a distance please call in advanced to ensure the correct seat is available.

Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare – Funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families, it 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. If your family is in a situation where the state is involved, please contact either of the ICW Social Workers. The Tribe is continually seeking foster families. If you're interested in sharing your home with a child in need, please contact Tara or Tiffany at the

November is National Adoption Month!

The Administration for Children and Families are promoting adoption of older youth. A recent article from the ACF newsletter reports: Older children in foster care, particularly teenagers, have a hard time being adopted from foster care. Of the estimated 428,000 youth in the U.S. foster care system, 112,000 youth are currently waiting for adoptive families. Youth between the ages of 15 to 18 years old currently represent 43 percent of all children actively photo listed on AdoptUSKids.org, and only 5 percent of all children adopted in 2015 were between the ages of 15 to 18 years old.

"All of us – and that includes teens in foster care who are waiting to be adopted – need and want families to support us and to give us the connections, relationships, and sense of belonging that are so critical to our well-being. The parents and families who adopt older teens from foster care enrich their own lives while providing an incredible impact on the lives of the adopted children and teens at a time when it is needed most." — Jerry Milner, Associate Commissioner at the Children's Bureau, and the Acting Commissioner for the Administration on Children, Youth and Families

Please contact the Family Services Department to find out how you can help.

numbers listed above.

Enrollment – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2020 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate. Applications can be submitted at any during the year and birth certificates will be returned within 10-14 business days.

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. All new requests must be accompanied by the original title and proof of insurance. Renewals require a proof of insurance. Incomplete requests will be returned to the tribal citizen.

Supplemental Health Benefit

(Benny Card) – The provider for this program, currently CoreSource, will be changing their name to Trustmark. Members should be receiving information regarding this change.

This program has been renewed and accounts will be re-loaded Jan. 1, 2020. The benefits will be the same as previous years with a \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Individuals who were voted into citizenship at the Annual Meeting will receive their account information in December and accounts will be active Jan. 1, 2020. Quarterly statements are mailed by Trustmark (*SEE BOTTOM OF PAGE*) to show remaining balances, and account balances can be obtained by calling 800-990-9058 ext 42086.

Burial Assistance - \$1,500 to be paid to the funeral home or to the family representative if the funeral is paid in full. Applications must be submitted within 90 days of the tribal citizen's death.

Family Violence Prevention

Program: This program is funded through grants from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), Family Violence Prevention Safety Act/Administration for Children and Families and Office of Victims of Crime. Funds can be used to provide advocacy to individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, human trafficking and stalking. Services for victims include shelter, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, court accompaniment, counseling, legal assistance, etc., and can be provided to any victim who resides within a 25-mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation. Victims do not have to be Wyandotte or Native to reserve services.

Look for upcoming awareness campaigns, events and cultural activities to educate the community regarding these issues.

CORESOURCE
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Trustmark
benefits beyond benefits

Our benefits administrator, CoreSource, is changing their brand name to Trustmark Health Benefits. This name change does not affect your benefits. Between now and Jan. 1, 2020, you'll start seeing the name Trustmark Health Benefits in places like:

- New ID Card
- Explanation of Benefits (EOB)
- Letters and Communications
- Your Web Portal
- Mobile App
- Customer Service

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

Kweh, New and exciting changes are happening in the Education Department. We recently received a new 30 passenger bus for the Preschool, Afterschool, and Summer Programs. The bus is used for many field trips throughout the year and to transport the afterschool children from the school to the Afterschool Program.

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool will be under construction soon! We have decided on a new playground design for the back playground and the front playground will be receiving a small makeover as well. We are also in the process of updating the Education Department offices, and the Preschool and Toddler Program areas of the building. We are in the process of adding an infant and one-year old program, with hopes of it beginning in January.

The Child Care and Development Fund Program is currently in the process of recertifying applications for families that are currently on our childcare assistance program. If you are in need of childcare assistance and have not applied, we would be happy to assist in getting an application to you. Parents must be working or attending school to apply. To be eligible for the Wyandotte Nation CCDF program, a household member must obtain a CDIB or tribal card. To request and application, or if you have any questions, you can email Sami Butterfield, our Child Care Coordinator, at sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org; or you can call her office at 918-678-6330.

The Wyandotte Nation Library will also see some changes happening soon. With our growing Education Program, we are running out of room in our library to house the many books and movies that the library currently checks out to the patrons. The library will be adding more space by opening up a doorway into the room that is currently our Afterschool Program Room. The Afterschool Program will be moving to the back of the building where the Preschool Program is located. By opening this room for the library, Deb our librarian, will be able to continue reading stories, including special birthday stories and pictures on the birthday wall, and there will be plenty of room to add more books and movies in the different genres the library has to offer.

Tribal Police Department

Submitted by Glenn Johnston, Chief of Police

The 2019 'Shop With A Cop' program will be going forward soon. Local children will have the opportunity to make this Christmas just a little bit brighter. In the past year, we have received numerous donations from businesses local and abroad.

The 'Shop With A Cop' program is scheduled for Dec. 8. With the resources already in place, it looks as though this year will be even bigger and better than the previous year. The chili feed, which was held Oct. 12, along with the auction that coincided with the feed, raised approximately \$1,600. Thanks to Wyandotte tribal citizens and employees. We could not have done it without you!

More information will be coming your way as the event grows near. If you want to see the biggest smiles and happiest children in the area, get your name on the volunteer list for this upcoming 'Shop With A Cop.' You will not be disappointed!

Again, thank you Wyandotte Nation and others who have been so gracious in donating both their time to a worthwhile project.



If you are interested in checking out a book, movie, or using the computer lab, the library hours are Monday and Wednesday 8 am to 4:30 pm, Tuesday and Thursday 8 am to 5:45 pm, and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program and WIOA are currently processing the fall semester scholarships. If you have not received your scholarship for this semester, here are a few Wyandotte Nation Undergraduate Scholarship reminders:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight semesters.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the programs duration.
- Deadline for spring submission is Feb. 15.
- Deadline for fall submission is May 1.

If you have sent in the required paperwork and have not received the scholarship, please call the office to make sure the paperwork has been received by Evan, his office number is 918-678-6331.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department also oversees the WIOA program. These funds are available to assist members of federally recognized tribes residing in Crawford and Cherokee Counties in Southeast Kansas or Barry, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence,

Newton and McDonald Counties in Southwest Missouri.

WIOA eligibility requirements include:

- You must be Native America, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian
- Possess a C.D.I.B. card
- Member of a federally recognized tribe
- Must be a resident of the service area listed above

To obtain any of the scholarships that Wyandotte Nation offers, email your request or any questions you may have to Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist at ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org; or you can request one by calling his office at 918-678-6331.

We are available to assist you with the application process in any of our programs and we look forward to working with you soon.

Education Department Contacts:

Cristi Hudson – Education Director, (918) 678-6334 or chudson@wyandotte-nation.org

Sami Butterfield – Childcare Coordinator – CCDF, (918) 678-6330 or sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Lindsay Cooper – Early Childhood Coordination, (918) 678-3267 or lcoop@wyandotte-nation.org

Evan Hotulke – Education Specialist, (918) 678-6331 or ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org

Tribal Heritage

Submitted by Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director

Fall has finally come to Wyandotte! September was so full of events that now seems so slow.

The Gathering was amazing with our Wyandotte people. I always enjoy seeing families visiting, and meeting first time members who have made their way home to Wyandotte!

The Cultural Committee out did themselves this year. With tying the Gathering into the Mission trip, everyone was able to learn some history before arrival in Ohio. The committee works for a full year to find important and true history for members coming to the Gathering. They also work to make sure crafts offered are appropriate to wear or use in public. Great job people!

Friday of Pow-Wow started out raining, but Chief Billy Friend commanded the rain to stop at 10:30 and it did. I think he had a little help from the weatherman but we did not mind. Pow-Wow was wonderful. It was hotter this year than in the past years and we had a few guest suffer from heat exhaustion but none of the dancers. The water boys kept plenty of water and Gatorade passed out. I would like to thank everyone involved in putting the Pow-Wow on and helping it run so smooth. All of the Pow-Wow Committee, Head Staff, Maintenance, Police, Volunteers and our Board of Directors, they are amazing in their support. With all of you helping, Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow has become one of the best on the Pow-Wow Trail. Thank you all. We would also like to mention our guest from Wendeke Canada, Linda Sioui. Linda has made several trips from Canada to Wyandotte, Okla. I'm always glad to have brothers and sisters from Canada visit.

We are planning some classes for this fall and winter at the Cultural Center, so watch Facebook for more.

Health

–Submitted by Kelly Friend, Director of Health Services

Effective Oct. 1, 2019, a minimum of three business days' notice is required on dental, optometry and audiology appointments regarding referrals to ensure that proper protocol can be followed in sending documentation to providers.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Important Numbers

Police Department

Glenn Johnston (918) 678-6365
gjohnston@wntpd.com

Family Services / Enrollment / Tags

Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
Leeanna Radabaugh, 918-678-6329, lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org
Family Violence Program
Lisa Arnold, 918-678-6324, lisaarnold@wyandotte-nation.org; Cesilie Hale, 918-678-3269, chale@wyandotte-nation.org

Tribal Social Workers

Tara Gragg (918) 678-6355
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org
Tiffany Garner (918) 678-6353
tgarner@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

Cristi Hudson (918) 678-6334
chudson@wyandotte-nation.org

Historical

Sherri Clemons (918) 678-6344
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

Environmental / Planning / Development

Christen Lee (918) 678-6341
clee@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing

Kathy DeWeese (918) 678-6339
kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

Kelly Friend (918) 678-3259
kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org

Clinic Appointments

Dee Dee Clapp (918) 678-3228
lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org

Dental / Vision

Jade Robertson, 918-678-3221,
jrobertson@wyandotte-nation.org

Pharmacy (call-in only)

(918) 678-3244

Fitness Center

Sharon Bartley (918) 678-3231
sbartley@wyandotte-nation.org

Contract Health

Bridget Hart (918) 678-3227
bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org

Diabetes Clinic

Donna Spaulding (918) 678-3258
dspaulding@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese,
Housing Director*

Nahasda (Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act) is the program governed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Each year a Housing Plan must be submitted and approved by HUD. This plan provides for the upkeep of Nahasda units, rental assistance to college students and down payment assistance, as well as the day-to-day activities of the Department.

Down payment assistance will be available again this year. This assistance has provided homes for 14 Tribal families. The participant must meet income guidelines and be eligible for a conventional loan, and be within a 50-mile radius of the Tribal complex.

There are currently 18 senior duplexes. This provides homes for 36 senior families. There are three

two-bedroom family duplexes. The plan is to build another family duplex within the next year. Infrastructure is in progress at the Wyandotte Ridge housing site where homeowner units will be built in the future. The housing Department now manages 108 homes.

The Heritage Acres Community Center is available for rent. The cost is \$50 for tribal members and \$75 for non-tribal. There is also a \$25 deposit, which is returned if the building is left clean. Several dates are already filled for next year. If you are interested in renting, it is best to reserve early.

If you have visited the Heritage Acres Park, you have noticed the new items installed. There is a bear, wolf, turtle and canoe. The park and Splashpad were busy all summer.

IHS -121 Program

This program is funded through the

Department of Health & Human Services, to ensure safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for our tribal families. These services include drilling wells, installing septic systems, rural water hook-ups, and connections to city water and sewer. There are no income guidelines. Tribal members must reside in the following counties: Craig, Creek, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Rogers, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington.

Housing Department Staff:

*Kathy DeWeese-Housing Director
Valari Richards-Housing Specialist
Don Graham-Residential Maintenance Technician
Drew Lankford-Housing Facilities Technician
Levi Griffin-Project Coordinator
Paul Parker- Project Coordinator*

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

Recently we collaborated with Good Shepherd Hospice and held a Veterans Café. We honored 20 veterans from WWII, Korean, Vietnam, Desert Storm and Iraq wars. Chief Billy Friend gave the welcome. After a nice lunch, each honored with a flag pin and a certificate with their name and branch. The ceremony ended with a bugler playing TAPS.

We had to relocate our Picnic at the Park to the Bearskin Health and Wellness Gym due to inclement weather, but we still had a wonderful time. Duke Mason entertained everyone with his amazing Elvis voice. We had drawings for door prizes and surprised the 362 participants with the ice cream truck following lunch.

We will be sponsoring a Medicare open enrollment Nov. 5 from 10 am to 2 pm in the Title VI Safe room. Trained Medicare Counselors from Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging will be available to assist and answer questions. Participants will need to bring a list of their current

Veterans Honored



Charles Lofland



Dean Coons



Chris Mathews



Faron Lee



Chris Smith



Grover Tanner

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Environmental

*Submitted by Kathy Welch,
Environmental Program Manager*

July

The month of July was still crazy with all the flooding still taking place at many of our monthly monitoring sites, we were unable to get samples or flow readings for most of the month.

During the week of July 15-19, I traveled to Santa Fe, N.M., for the quarterly Tribal Caucus and Regional Tribal Operation Committee Meeting.

During the week of July 23-25, Janice Wilson and I attended the Annual ITEC



Conference in Catoosa, Okla. During a morning breakout session, I gave a power point presentation on Environmental Department Grants and activities.

During the week of July 30-31, department staff attended a Sanitary Survey Training, which pertained to the tribal drinking water wells. The training was hosted by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and presenters were from the EPA Southwest Environmental Finance Center.



August

We are happy to say, that our staff was finally able to access our eight monthly sampling sites on the area streams and creeks. We also were able to perform habitat assessments on Brush and Roark creeks, which were originally due in the spring months but got delayed due to heavy rains and flooding.

On Aug. 10, Wilson and Christen Lee had an Environmental Education Booth

at the Shoal Creek Water Festival.

During the week of Aug. 19-23, Lee attended the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum in Palm Springs, Calif.

On Aug. 22, our department hosted a Non-Point Source Workshop that was focused toward area farmers. The workshop was held in the Sandusky Room located at the River Bend Hotel, with presentations being given by three tribes and four state agencies, with each presentation focusing on Non-Point Source Pollution. I presented for the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department on the Non-Point Source Projects that have been performed, using EPA 319 Non-Point Source Grant funding.



Drinking Water Well samples.

Upcoming events

- Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma Meeting – Nov. 19
- Region Tribal Operation Committee/ Tribal Caucus Meeting – Nov. 26-27

Services Provided

- Private Well Drinking Water Sampling
- Private Home Owners Septic Assessments
- Lost Creek Recycle Center

Department Contacts:

Kathleen Welch (Env. Department Manager), (918) 678-6335

Janice Wilson (Env. Technician), (918) 678-6345

Braulio Ramirez (Env. Technician II), (918) 678-6396

Jon Quick (Recycling), (918) 678-6352

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medications and Medicare Card.

We will be traveling to the Cherokee Casino/ Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, Okla., for the horse races Nov. 8. Participants will receive a \$5 free play and lunch will be on their own. The coach will leave from the parking lot in front of the Artie Nesvold Community Center at 10:30 am and return at approximately 6 pm.

Please join us for our Thanksgiving Dinner Thursday, Nov. 14, from 11:30 am to 1 pm. We will have turkey & dressing, green beans, hot rolls, devilled eggs, relish trays and pumpkin pie.

We will be traveling to Branson, Mo., Nov. 15, to see a Christmas Show. More information will be available later.

We will have our Elders Winter Olympics Nov. 22 at the Ottawa/Peoria Building in Miami, Okla., from 9 am to 1 pm. We will have games and Jack the donkey will visit us once again and perform tricks. He gives the best kisses!

Our Christmas Dinner will be Dec. 19 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. We will have

smoked brisket, baked beans, potatoes, hot rolls, devilled eggs, relish trays and dessert. We will be drawing for a recliner. Santa will be giving out homemade cookies and candy.

If anyone is in need of food, we collaborate with area tribes and the Tulsa Foodbank to host a Food Distribution at the Highwinds Casino parking lot on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 11 am to Noon. Each Title VI program has tickets to distribute to those in need. Participants will need to get their tickets prior to the distribution.

CAREGIVER

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Artie Nesvold Community Center safe room beginning at 10:30 am. This group is for all current and former caregivers. It is also for grandparents raising grandchildren.

It is always a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation citizens. Please feel free to call or come by and visit us anytime.

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Larry Hamilton



Isaac Tanner



John Edwards



JC Roper

Elders Services Department Staff:

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

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

6390

Seth Higginbotham, Chris Rhodes and Twylia Stone Food Service Team Members 918-678-6328 Menu, 918-678-6326

NEW TRIBAL CITIZEN ENROLLMENT

Artripe, Walker Rhett
 Baldridge, Silas Benjamin
 Barrett, Jaelynn Ann
 Bass, Eliza Darlin
 Bass, Jacob Huston
 Bass, Maggie Leeann
 Big Eagle, Sarah Mae Valliere
 Blake, Cooper Drew
 Bond, Alice Rose
 Bowser, Emmalyn Grace
 Bowser, Madelyn Joy
 Brown Heckmaster, Aspyn Michael
 Burwell, Axel David
 Buss, Bentley Joseph
 Butcher, Emma Rose
 Cantu, Ian Enrique
 Cary, Stryker Dalyn
 Charlton, Stone Nicholas Joseph
 Christensen, Mavrick Michael
 Clark, Summer Ann
 Coffey, Kinley Jane
 Cook, Hazel Lynn
 Cookinham, Elliot James
 Craig, Jesse Grant
 Crane, Jensyn Eugene
 Curtis, Opal Elaine
 DeArmond, Payton Delbert Alexander
 Doty, Gibson Elias
 Doty, Michael Crew
 Edwards, Jackson O'Donnell
 Edwards, Jillian Sydney
 Edwards, Kimber Riley
 Eiland, Jeremy Owen
 Elliott, Tyler Alvin
 Evans, Zander Scott
 Fallis, Alaina Veta Nicole
 Farmer, Saylor Saige
 Farrar, Austin Ian
 Ferguson, Julian Breck
 Ferguson, Nathan Keith
 Ford, Breckynn Lynn
 Gately, Chloe Grace
 Giardina, Laila Elizabeth
 Green, Greyson Allen
 Griffin, Mylo Leon James
 Griggs, Megan Abigail

212 New Tribal Citizens 6,611 Total Tribal Enrollment

Hackett, Jaxdyn Shawn
 Hale, Lillian Rose
 Hamilton, Alexis Caitlyn Maureen
 Harmon, Wyatt Matthew
 Hart, Elliott David
 Hart, Finley Harold
 Hart, Rosalie Rachelle
 Hatfield, Novahlea Elizabeth
 Havens, Jameson Wayne
 Heffron, John Edward
 Hoeme, Lucille Lynn
 Honl, Eleanor Jane
 Honl, Harlow Raine
 Hutto, Jeffrey Lee
 Jackson, Braedy Grace
 James, Erma Marie
 Jepson, Adelaide Rose
 Johnson, Meadow Rain
 Johnson, Olivia Jean
 Jones, Alyvia Eileen Ruth
 Jones, Carson Alan
 Jones, Haylee James
 Jones, Jessica Ashley
 Jordan, Devin Thomas
 Kenner, Jace Denney
 Kibbons, Evelyn Irene
 Kilpatrick, Alexander Lee
 King, Annamaria Nicole
 King, Christina Marie
 King, Jack Michael
 King, Samuel Morgan
 Koon, Kooper Mackson Robert
 Kost, Dannikah Raelynn
 Landers, Isabella Jane
 Landers, Magnus Kevin
 Lankston, Beau Alexander

Leforce, Isabellah Nikole
 Leforce, Trystin Tyler
 Leonard, KeyLeigh Marie
 Lindsey, Colt Wyatt
 Lofland, Arthur Lincoln
 Lollis, Hope Elaine
 Long, Logan Michael
 Long, Scarlett Marie
 Lorenzo, Blake David
 Lorenzo, Liliana Nohemi
 Loughrige, Landon Russell
 Lucas, Breanna Janel
 Lujan, Quinn Everett
 Lynchard, Brooklyn Hazel
 Mathews, Everett Amon
 Maughan, William W
 McCombs, Aiden Lee
 McCordle, Kristin Lace
 McKnight, Camden Thetis Glen
 McQuiston, Kinley Lavonne
 Miller, Kayla Danielle
 Miller, Reign Alexander
 Miner, McCoy Drake
 Nelson, Remington Jo
 Nolan, Isaiah Michael
 Nolan, Mya Grace
 Obuch, Katherine Elizabeth
 Ortiz, Marius Orion
 Parman Jr., Benjamin Michael
 Pauls, Kade Tyler
 Perry, Collin John
 Perry, Harper Grace
 Plummer, Levi Thomas
 Razor, Lincoln James
 Reese, Rad Ryan
 Reneau, Jessah Grace

Riley, Hunter Derrick
 Robitaille, Afreya Ann
 Robitaille, Amiyrah Rose
 Roller, Owen Dean
 Rozinski, Piper Lee
 Russell, Hudson David
 Sanders, Shelby Marie Datsun
 Sapp, Tristyn Lewis-Scott
 Schindler, Ada Jean
 Schindler, Eden Fay
 Schindler, Elowen Rae
 Shamon, Bearett Guy
 Shideler, Peyton Olivia
 Shideler, River Alan
 Shockey, Tate Hudson
 Shoemake, Ayden Trent
 Solis, Jennifer Kristen
 Souders, Alistair Kairi Suriaya
 Steel, Taytum Jane
 Steele, Autumn Rayne
 Stephens, Adreanna Renee
 Stephens, Isaiah Adam
 Stephens, Josiah James Matthew
 Stephens, Xander Cayge
 Stone, Lote Jackson
 Sukstorf, Rex Cole
 Summitt, Greyson Dean
 Thomas, John Lincoln
 Thompson, Maddox Lee
 Tippit, Cadance Lilianna
 Tippit, Joshua Dean
 Tippit, Noah Jackson
 Vaughn, Hadley Sue
 Wadino, Oliver Alan
 Waldman, Layla James
 Webb, Ian Lee
 Wheeler, Kenadee Lynne
 Whitaker, Jamison Gregory
 Whitaker, Kenna Lauren
 Whitaker, Martie Jo Lena
 Wilson, Maelee Annette
 Wood, Emberlynn Rose
 Woodkey, Macy Mae
 Woodward, John David
 Yole, Raegan Linne

Submit Your News: *Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. Email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org.*



ONLINE GIFT STORE

Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!

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

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