



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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*See inside for the
latest news and
adjustments due to
COVID-19*



A New Reality

**Wyandotte Nation makes changes to
help stop spread of virus**

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

The Wyandotte Nation
64700 E Hwy 60
Wyandotte, OK 74370

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



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- ChiefBilly Friend
- Second ChiefNorman Hildebrand, Jr.
- Councilperson..... Ramona Reid
- Councilperson..... Vivian Fink
- Councilperson..... Juanita McQuiston
- Councilperson.....Eric Lofland

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo: A collection of courtesy photos during the recent COVID-19 changes.

Contact Us

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

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



www.youtube.com/WyandotteNation



www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation



From the Chief

Billy Friend

Facing the challenge

Dear Wyandotte Citizens:
We are all clearly aware the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is highly contagious and dangerous. We have received specific warnings and directions from the National Institutes of Health and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

At the Wyandotte Nation, we have taken across-the-board action to dull the impact of the virus and keep Wyandotte citizens, employees and our customers safe.

In mid-March, we announced the closure of a number of Wyandotte facilities. These closures included our Title VI Program (Elder Nutrition Center) inside meals, Preschool and Childcare Facilities, Wyandotte cultural sites and all Wyandotte casinos.

I want to commend our Elder Nutrition Center employees for continuing to go above and beyond to make sure our elders are served meals both through a drive through take-out approach and by delivering meals to our local elders.

These closures represent the significance of this public health crisis. We simply cannot take incremental

steps in our actions. We must do all we can to keep people safe even when it results in economic and social impacts on the Wyandotte Nation.

We will continue to compensate our employees during this time of emergency, and we will endeavor to maintain all essential programs and services at proper levels.

Our Bearskin Clinic remains open and our caregivers are dedicated to serving our Wyandotte and other community patients. We are fortunate to have our remarkable medical professionals and health care support staff. They are sacrificing daily to ensure our patients are well cared for.

The actions we can take on our own as individuals and families are simple and straightforward. The key is to practice those directions fully and regularly.

All of us at the Wyandotte Nation take this national public health emergency very seriously. We are doing all we can to protect people from the virus, and ensure they have the essentials they need during this period.

We are taking it in stages, but the truth is — as someone said yesterday in the media — “we don't make the timeline, the virus makes the timeline”.

Fortunately the Tribe has strong reserves and can operate without major disruptions for a while, but there is a limit and a time that if this continues we will have to make some hard decisions.

Our Emergency Response Team will continue to meet on a weekly basis to re-evaluate the situation and determine our plans going forward. We will post updates to our website based upon the best available information and through social media as they occur.

We can conquer this challenge if we will all stick together and do the things we know we need to do. This is a time when we must look out for each other, and for the common good of our Tribe, our state and our country.

Thank you for joining in this effort and may God bless you and may God continue to bless the Wyandotte Nation.

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

We are a hardy, resilient people

Kweh Omateru
As I am sitting here thinking about what to write during one of the biggest pandemics to hit the United States since the Spanish Flu that ravaged the U.S. over 100 years ago, the only thing that comes to mind is what Indian Country has endured since first contact with the Europeans. Up until the mid 1530s when the Europeans first wandered into our world, the American Indians were disease free, lived in a near

perfect Utopian Society except for a war with another tribe now and then. We even survived contact with the Norsemen and they think Asians sometime in the 11th and 12th centuries. It would be a good guess that the natives fought fiercely with them and sent them back to where they had come, if only the Wampanoag's would have done the same thing with the Pilgrims I am sure we would have been a lot better off.

Since then the American Indians

have been through numerous epidemics some natural but let us not forget the ones that were man made. Like the Small Pox laced blankets that the Federal Government gave to the Great Plains Tribes. They would never admit to it but it happened, because I have personally seen some of the graves in South Dakota. We have lived through many Flu



See **SECOND CHIEF**, Page 3

UPCOMING EVENTS

2020

GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

CANCELLED



FIREWORKS CELEBRATION!

JULY 2



THE GATHERING

SEPT. 9 - 11



31ST ANNUAL POW-WOW

SEPT. 11 - 13



ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT. 12 10 AM



TOWN HALL MEETINGS

OCT. 3-4

NEWPORT BEACH & SACRAMENTO, CALIF.



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

epidemics, Measles, Rubella, Tetanus, Malaria, Polio, and let us not forget the massacres of men, women and children. We have survived everything that nature and man has thrown at us and yet we survive and we will keep on surviving because that is in our blood. We are a hardy resilient people from the beginning of time to centuries yet to come we will be here for eternity.

I hope everyone is staying at home and practicing the safety measures put forth to help us get through COVID-19 -- which we will. People are finding various ways to stay entertained now that they can't get out and socialize. Some people put puzzles together, watch a lot of stupid stuff on television (believe me there is a lot of stupid stuff on TV) or do something the old fashioned way and read a book. I am reading a book "The Girl in the Photograph" written by former U.S. Senator Byron Dorgan. Another excellent book is "The Killers of the Flower Moon"

"Corporations have been enthroned An era of corruption in high places will follow and the money power will endeavor to prolong its reign by working on the prejudices of the people... until wealth is aggregated in a few hands ... and the Republic is destroyed."

-- Abraham Lincoln

about the killing of dozens of Osage Indians in the 1920s right here in Oklahoma. Whatever you choose to do to kill time, whether it is reading, gardening, painting, beading or any other craft or hobby, please be safe.

This will be a short article not much going on right now in Wyandotte, Okla., most everything is shut down. We have only our essential employees working accounting, Title VI (they are only doing carry outs at the front door). Turtle Stop is still open but only for limited hours, the clinic pharmacy is still open but they will meet you at the door with meds. Getting through a crisis like this takes some very dedicated people and we have the best people working for us, they don't complain they

just get in there and do whatever needs to be done they are absolutely the best. They make the Wyandotte Nation what it is: the best in the country.

We are building a new administration building south of the fitness center and they are making pretty good progress. They would be doing better if the rain would hold off, we have gotten twice as much rain than normal so far this year. The long anticipated state line water line project will soon be starting I signed the contract on it about a week ago so they will be starting it very soon. During these difficult times we must all work together to overcome the difficulties that will in the end only make us stronger.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Annual Meeting

On September 12, 2020 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Registration will begin at 9 am and the Annual Meeting will start at 10 am. Please note that citizens will be required to present their Wyandotte Nation membership/citizenship card to register for the meeting.

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined that there are no contested posts for elective office within the government of the Wyandotte Nation for 2020. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020 per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

-- Dee Killion, Chairman, Election Committee

Changes made to slow virus spread

Leadership to formulate plan for reopening

The Wyandotte Nation, as part of our ongoing effort to reduce the spread of COVID-19 (Coronavirus), made several changes to keep our citizens, employees and guests safe in March and April. Tribal leadership is currently working on a plan for reopening. Please visit our website, www.wyandottenation.org, or our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/wyandottenation to keep

up with the latest regarding this situation.

The following are the changes made back in March and will continue until otherwise posted on our website or social media. We thank everyone for your patience.

- The Wyandotte Nation has operated with essential employees and limited public access to emergency services, which was effective March

18. If services are needed, please call or email.

- The Bearskin Fitness Center was closed March 17.
- Turtle Tots (including preschool, and childcare) was closed March 19.
- Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center was closed March 18.
- Elders Services (Title VI) will continue to serve lunch as TAKE OUT ONLY from 11 am – 1 pm. No

public access to the building will be allowed during this time. Staff will be available to deliver meals to your vehicle. Please stay in your vehicle and drive through the driveway.

- Housing – Activity Center and Community Center was closed March 17.

- The Bearskin Clinic will provide limited services. Please call before coming to the clinic. Pharmacy services will continue.

For changes made regarding our businesses, see page 5.

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Court is in search of an individual to fill the position of Supreme Court Justice.

To be eligible for selection or confirmation as a Justice of the Supreme Court, a person shall: if an attorney, be a licensed attorney who is in good standing with the licensing authorities where licensed; who possesses a demonstrated background in tribal court practice, and have demonstrated moral integrity and fairness in his business, public and private life, and have never been convicted of a felony or an offense punishable by banishment, whether or not actually imprisoned or banished, and have not been convicted of any offense, except traffic offenses, for a period of two years next preceding his appointment. The two year period shall begin to run from the date the person was unconditionally released from supervision of any sort as a result of a conviction.

The candidate must have regularly abstained from the excessive use of alcohol and use of illegal drugs or psychotoxic chemical solvents. The candidate must not be less than (25) twenty-five years of age.

Indian preference will apply for qualified candidates.

Please submit your resume' or CV to Jan Grant, Court Administrator via email to jgrant@wyandottenation.org by May 31, 2020.

Service Awards



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

On Thursday, March 5, the Wyandotte Nation honored six employees for their service. Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand honored Kathy DeWeese for her 25 years of service, Steve Walker for 20 years, Don Graham for 10, and Debra Haynes, Teresa Wilson and Rob Graham for five years of service. (Pictured from left) Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Kathy DeWeese, Debra Haynes, Steve Walker, Don Graham, Rob Graham, and Chief Billy Friend. Not pictured: Teresa Wilson.

First classes graduate from Wyandotte YOUiversity

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte YOUiversity graduated its first classes from employees at River Bend Casino & Hotel in Wyandotte and 7th Street Casino in Kansas City recently. Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) celebrated their accomplishments Wednesday, Feb. 26 at the River Bend Casino & Hotel and March 3 at 7th Street.

The graduates from River Bend included Tara Martinez, Lori Clark, Kristia Fox, Melissa Asaro, Carrie Sargent, Joanna Hadley, and Shirley Mangold.

"When someone completes four years of college or four years of training on the job, all it does is strengthen the team, and makes us better at what we do day in and day out," said River Bend Casino & Hotel General Manager Gary Johnson at the ceremony. "We've invested in you and hopefully you have invested in yourself, and those two things put together make a great team."

The graduates from 7th Street included John Maxwell, Larry Anderson, Kelsie Dice, Mica Chambers, Anna Salzano, and Kim Bary.

"It has been a pleasure working and learning with the 7th Street team for the past four years of this training program," said Edie Ingram, Manager of Training and Organization Development. "They take training serious and were willing to go above and beyond what was asked of them."

The graduates of Wyandotte YOUiversity completed a four-year leadership development program.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION
Vera Hernandez congratulates Shirley Mangold on her recent graduation from Wyandotte YOUiversity.

The purpose of Wyandotte YOUiversity's Leadership Development Program is to prepare employees for current and future leadership roles by providing a structured program of study of essential leadership competencies.

"Our purpose is to provide training

and develop leaders and to equip those same leaders with tools to become better leaders and to empower them to lead once they complete our program," said Ingram. "I am so excited about where we are now with this program."

The program begins with Motive

Matters, which includes a personality assessment that provides growth in self-awareness and relationship building. The program includes classroom training facilitated by

See **YOUINIVERSITY**, Page 6

WTOK to keep casinos closed through April

Turtle Stop in Wyandotte adjusts hours

The Wyandotte Nation will keep the River Bend Casino & Hotel and the Lucky Turtle Casino in Wyandotte, and the 7th Street Casino in Kansas City closed through April.

"The health and safety of our citizens, employees, and our guests continues to be of utmost importance to us," Chief Billy Friend

said. "We are committed to following the recommendations released by federal health officials to ensure we are protecting the public."

The Tribe's Emergency Response Team will continue to meet on a weekly basis to re-evaluate the situation and determine plans going forward. We will post updated to our

website based upon the best available information and through social media as they occur.

"Unfortunately, we don't know when it will be safe for operations to resume, but with the support of federal and tribal health experts, we are working to determine our next best steps," Chief Friend said.

Change in hours at Turtle Stop:

Our Turtle Stop in Wyandotte has new hours. The Turtle Stop will be open from 5 am to 11 pm daily. For the time being gas will not be available at the pump when the store is closed, however we are working out a way to have pay at the pump services when the store is closed. We will keep you updated when that might be available.

YOUNIVERSITY

Continued from Page 5

Edie Ingram, Manager of Training and Organizations Development. Outside speakers also provide classroom training. The program provides on-demand online access to over 14,000 online training videos that address topics important to leaders in today's workforce.

The goals in the program are:

- Identify members with potential to become leaders and invest in their professional growth and development;
- Provide these high potential leaders with skills required to step into leadership positions;
- Energize and grow Strong leadership at all levels of the business;
- Increase the future leaders' knowledge of leadership qualities, techniques

and the business/profession.

Graduates of the program must complete four years of training with a 100 percent attendance rate as well as completing 100 percent of the online assignments. This is quite an accomplishment and we are proud of these graduates and look forward to a future of developing more great leaders through Wyandotte YOUiversity.

"I don't think we could emphasize enough how important the graduates today are to what we are doing every day," said WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino. "You are the key to motivating our people to accomplish we need to get done to create the best experience for our guests. I just want to express my gratitude for the effort you put into the program."

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(PICTURED TOP RIGHT) -- Back Row (from left): Cage/Vault Manager Vera Hernandez, Senior Controller, Gaming Division, Carla King, EVS Supervisor Tara Martinez, Purchasing Coordinator Lori Clark, Revenue Audit Manager Kristia Fox, Operations Compliance Officer Melissa Asaro, Dining Supervisor Carrie Sargent, Facilities Manager Reilly McLaughlin, General Manager Gary Johnson. Front Row (from left): Marketing Manager Joanna Hadley, Cage Vault Supervisor Shirley Mangold, CEO Kelly Carpino, and Manager of Training and Organization Development Edie Ingram.

(PICTURED BOTTOM RIGHT) -- Front Row (from left): Edie Ingram, Kim Bary, Jerrell Royal, Jillian Rainingbird. Back Row (from left): Kelly Carpino, Anna Salzano, John Maxwell, Mica Chambers, Kevin Lien, and Brad Waddell. Graduates not pictured: Larry Anderson, Kelsie Dice.



Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women Awareness Month

Native American and Alaska Native women face higher rates of violence than the general populace with more than four out of five indigenous women experiencing some type of violence in their lifetime, according to a study from the National Institute of Justice. That violence can include stalking, sexual violence or physical or psychological aggression by an intimate partner.

According to the urban institute report, 5,712 cases of missing American Indian and Alaska Native women and girls were reported to the National Crime Information Center in 2016 alone.

Overall, more than 1.5 million American Indian and Alaska Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime, which contributes to the epidemic of missing and murdered indigenous women and girls, according to the study.

Many of the women who do end up the victims of abduction or murder were previously assaulted, often by their partner. If you or someone you know needs help leaving a violent relationship please call Lisa Arnold at (918) 678-6324 or the National, Native Specific Domestic Violence hotline, Strong Hearts at (844) 7NATIVE (762-8483).

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Lysa



ELLIS

Ellis as a part-time After School Child-care Assistant and Tracy Mooney as an Early Childhood Food Service Cook.

Lysa graduated from Wyandotte High School in 2005. Her hobbies include baking and cooking, reading, and DIY projects. She also enjoys spending time with her family, movie nights, and walks in the park, fishing and swimming. We are happy to have Lysa join our team.

Lysa graduated from Wyandotte High School in 2005. Her hobbies include baking and cooking, reading, and DIY projects. She also enjoys spending time with her family, movie nights, and walks in the park, fishing and swimming. We are happy to have Lysa join our team.

Tracy comes to us with previous food service experience and loves working with children. Tracy transferred from one of our other entities. She enjoys spending time with her family and friends. We are very fortunate to have Tracy on our team and wish her the best of luck in her new position.



MOONEY

The Facilities Department welcomes David (D.J.) Bureson as a Facilities Technician. D.J. is a Cherokee Nation Tribal Citizen. He graduated from Wyandotte High School. He received his



BURELSON

Associates Degree from NEO A&M College, attended Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla., and has taken courses in electrical and HVAC. D.J. has several years of experience in the construction field. D.J.'s hobbies include playing pool, throwing darts, and shooting traditional long bows. He enjoys spending time with his wife, working on their place, and hunting, and fishing together. D.J. is a transfer from River Bend Casino & Hotel. We are very fortunate to have D.J. on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

During this monumental time of uncertainty in our country, I encourage our citizens to reflect on their heritage. While we have never had to deal with conditions such as they are now, our ancestors had to endure many trials and because of their strength and resilience, we are a strong and vibrant Nation today.

As I write this article, the majority of Wyandotte Nation employees are either working from home or off due to the coronavirus. Indian Child Welfare workers are continuing to have contact with Wyandotte children in custody via either phone or video and are providing assistance to families through preservation resources. The Domestic Violence Advocates are also working with their clients to ensure their safety. A member of the Family Services staff is in the office daily to answer questions and process mail. I would like to thank all of our front line workers who continue to provide services during this pandemic and look forward to a time when this has passed and we can all be working together again for the good of our Tribe and country.

In accordance with the Wyandotte Nation Constitution, the Annual Meeting will be held the second Saturday in September. The date and time for this year's meeting will be Sept. 12 at 10 am, with registration opening at 9 am. There will not be an election this year, but tribal citizens are still required to show either their Membership card or Citizenship card to register for the meeting and receive their travel gift certificates. Both of these cards include your roll number; the CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) card/certificate is NOT sufficient, as it does not provide proof of enrollment.

I want to apologize to Mr. George Nickel as his name was inadvertently left off of the new member lists that were shared in the November and February newsletters.

Below you will find details about all of the programs available through the Family Services Department. If you have questions or need additional information please don't hesitate to contact a member of the staff:

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 & Sexual Assault Advocate Supervisor, (918) 678-6324; and Cesilie Hale OVC Domestic Violence Advocate, (918) 678-3269.

LIHEAP – Summer LIHEAP will be available July 1 for tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma and is income based. This is a small grant, so funding is limited and is available on a first come, first serve basis.

School Supplies – PLEASE READ APPLICATIONS CAREFULLY- INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED FOR CORRECTIONS: Applications will be available beginning July 1 on the Wyandotte Nation website, at the Family Services office or can be faxed/emailed. Tribal citizens residing in the 4-state area (OK, KS, AR, MO) can receive a \$100 Walmart gift card or submit receipts for reimbursement up to \$100. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement. The correct application must be used. Tribal citizens who reside outside of the 4-state area will be eligible for the \$100 reimbursement program. Eligible items for the program are school supplies, clothing, shoes, socks

and school supply fees charged by schools. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2020, no exceptions. Applications and receipts must be original documents. Faxed or emailed applications and receipts will not be accepted. There will be additional information available with the applications beginning July 1.

Senior Energy – Please note this program is available Nationwide to tribal citizens 55 and older. Beginning July 1 applications will be available for \$100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30. If this is the first time using the program please allow 30-60 days to process.

Elders Assistance – One-time expense for \$250 for tribal elders aged 55 and over who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, AR, MO). Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2020 to be eligible.

Extra-Expense/Extracurricular Activities – One-time payment of \$100 per student aged Pre – K through 12th grade for tribal citizens who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR). Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30.

Jr/Sr Benefit - \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior

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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 Assistance: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30
Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting: Sept. 12
Children's Christmas Party: Dec. 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.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 7

and Senior years of High School. This benefit is available to Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR) and applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2020.

Fuel Assistance – 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 threaten, 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.

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

Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare – This program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families. It is designed to help keep children in their homes with the family, or ensure that if there is a need for removal, federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is considered first and foremost. If you are involved in a child welfare case please contact either Tara or Tiffany. We often get calls requesting assistance with civil matters such as divorces and custody issues between parents. The Tribe is not an eligible party to those types of cases and are unable to assist at this time.

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 received after this date will be held until the 2021 Annual Meeting so it's important to get those applications in on time.

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. Some things to keep in mind when renewing tags and purchasing new vehicles:

Tribal citizen's name **MUST** be on the title at the time of sale. Tax Commission staff cannot add or delete names.

Renewal notices are mailed as a courtesy by the 15th of the month prior to the expiration.

Current insurance verification is required. Please have a paper copy of this when coming to the office.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card) - \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens beginning Jan. 1 each year. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Quarterly statements are mailed by Trustmark to show remaining balances. Account balances can also be obtained at any time via www.mytrustmarkbenefits.com or by calling (800) 990-9058 ext 42086. Family Services staff can also answer questions about the program, but may need to refer you to CoreSource in

some instances. Please keep in mind that your Member ID # is not your social security number. Your Member ID looks like this: WY000(your 4 digit roll number). If your roll number is only 3 digits you will add a 0 (zero) to the beginning of your roll number.

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

Family Violence Prevention Program – Program provides advocacy and services to victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. This program is available to any person residing within a 25-mile radius of the tribal headquarters and limited advocacy can be provided for Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide. The Program also hosts quarterly culture events, in conjunction with the Heritage Department.

Foster Family Recruitment – Indian Child Welfare social workers are actively seeking foster families. If you think this might be something you would be interested in please contact the office for more information.

Family Services Staff:

Director, Dana Butterfield, (918) 678-6319, dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg, (918) 678-6355, tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org
ICW Worker, Tiffany Garner, (918) 678-6353, tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org
Assistant, Leeanna Radabaugh, (918) 678-6329, lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org

DV Advocate/Educator Supervisor, Lisa Arnold, (918) 678-6324, lisaarnold@wyandotte-nation.org

DV Advocate, Cesilie Hale, (918) 678-3269, chale@wyandotte-nation.org

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

Kweh,

I hope this article finds you and your family safe and well! The Education Department is doing our best to help flatten the curve of the COVID 19 pandemic that we are all currently facing. Our offices are currently closed to foot traffic, but we are available by email and phone. We are going into the office to check mail and to answer any messages almost daily throughout the week. For immediate assistance, you may call (918) 533-0072, and I will be able to assist you, or you can send me an email at chudson@wyandotte-nation.org.

The Child Care and Development Fund program is currently accepting applications for families that are in need of childcare assistance. 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 is rearranging the many books and movies, which the library currently checks out to the patrons, into the new area we recently added for our toddler, preschool, afterschool, and summer programs. The

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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.



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**

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Library will have new hours once we open back up to the public. The new hours will be Monday through Thursday 8 am to 5:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm.

The Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is currently processing the spring semester scholarships. Here are a few Wyandotte Nation Undergraduate Scholarship reminders:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight (8) 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 February 15.
- Deadline for fall submission is May 1.

If you have sent in the required paperwork and have not received the scholarship for the current semester, please email the office to make sure the paperwork has been received. Email Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist, at ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org.

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 that you may have to Evan, 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.

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 Program Coordinator, (918) 678-3267 or lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Tribal Police Department

Submitted by Glenn Johnston, Chief of Police

We want to thank everyone who participated in the Pancake Feed. It was a bigger success than we anticipated, due to the present worldwide condition. The employees of Title VI were there for us and made it as great as it was! Thank you so very much guys!

I want to let everyone know that even during the test of times we are experiencing, the storm shelters located on Wyandotte Nation property, WILL be open should severe weather decide to rear its ugly head. It is there for the taking, it will be strictly up to each individual if he or she decide to take advantage of the facilities. Safety is first and foremost, and that sounds like a double edged sword. Especially with the virus. I would just ask that each person take the precautionary steps to stay healthy or as close to it if, and when, the severe weather arrives. If anyone does decide not to take advantage of the storm shelters, hopefully the quarantine phase will pass by then, just put together a little kit that could save you some time and trouble down the road:

- Weather Radios: Most of the weather radios are a very good tool due to the fact that most of the television weather is coming to us from televisions north of us. The weather radio monitors weather stations in the Tulsa, Okla., area where most of the bad weather seems to develop before heading our way.
- Cell Phones: Make sure you have your cell phone charged up when you know severe weather is a possibility. An extra charged battery is not a bad idea either. Keep that charging cord close.
- Storage for your important documents: Find yourself a good waterproof container to put your photo ID's, birth certificates, deeds or leases and photographs of belongings. Especially those with a serial number.
- First Aid Kit: If you can find yourself a second container, keep some gauze bandages, gloves, medications and prescription drugs in it. It's so much easier to grab one thing and know that everything you may need is right there.
- Rain gear: Keep yourself a poncho and rubber boots in a convenient area.
- Cash or Travelers Checks: Even the ATM machines and the card reader at the local retailers could be vulnerable to the bad weather. Keep \$50 to \$100 dollars stashed away for that rainy day.
- Whistle or Horn: If you do get caught in a storm and need to get someone's attention, try storing a couple of the Freon Air Horns away in that piece of Tupperware you have labeled as "FIRST AID KIT." Even something as simple as a whistle is a great source of getting someone's attention as well.

Get geared up for National Night Out coming up in October. It will be here before you know it!



Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

What an unusual St Patrick's Day we had! On March 17, with the COVID-19 Virus, lurking around, we chose to close our congregate meal program and hold drive through meals only for the safety of our elders and employees.

With the shortage of toilet paper, we were very blessed to find a stash in our out building so we started handing toilet paper out with our meals. I think they were more excited over the toilet paper than the meals! Some of the elders bring their fur

babies with them to pick up their meals so we have treats for them as well.

Chief Billy Friend, Family Services Director Dana Butterfield and other volunteers are helping deliver meals to our elders in the housing addition behind the Tribe while other volunteers are helping the Title VI Staff cook and package the meals for the drive thru. We greatly appreciate everyone that has stepped up to help make sure that our beloved elders are getting the best care possible.

Upcoming Events (Subject to change based on current events):

(Pending) Our Mother's Day Dinner, May 7, and Father's Day Dinner, June 18.

(Pending) Ottawa County Senior Day, June 11 at the Buffalo Run Casino from 9 am to 1 pm.

CAREGIVER

(Pending) The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI) 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.

Department Contacts:

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

Stephanie Hamilton, Food Service Team Supervisor, (918) 678-6328, (Office) 6390

Seth Higginbotham, Chris Rhodes and Robyn Beaty, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328

Menu, (918) 678-6326

Planning & Natural Resources

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

January started off with its usual business of monthly water sampling on eight sites on streams and rivers within the Wyandotte Nation jurisdictional area.

On Jan. 22, environmental staff met with Wyandotte Schools Teacher Bob Coffey to provide a recycle collections trailer for the school. Students from Mr. Coffey's class will be in charge of monitoring the trailer, collecting recyclables from various classrooms and drop points within the Grade School, Jr. High and High School.

On Jan. 29, environmental staff were able to take part in a Recycling Educa-



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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, lrada-
baugh@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
bhhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

Education / Library / Child Care

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

Tribal Heritage

Sherri Clemons (918) 678-6344
slemons@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

Ashley Crawford, (918) 678-3221,
acrawford@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*

Due to COVID-19, our offices have remained closed to the public. Employees have only been working partial hours, and only doing essential housing needs. The Drop Box in the foyer of the community center is available for all correspondence and payments. This includes housing, tags, and Wyandotte Utilities.

The Heritage Acres Community Center has also been closed. If you have a rental date for the center, please contact our office. Any activities for April have been cancelled. If you have a rental in May, contact our office for information. The Splashpad, which was scheduled to open May 18, will probably be delayed. It is our hope that this will be available soon, but it will depend on the circumstances.

Nahasda (Native American Hous-

ing 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.

If you are purchasing a home within a 50-mile radius of Wyandotte, and are a first time homebuyer, let us see if we can help you with down payment assistance. The participant must meet income guidelines and be eligible for a conventional loan.

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 citizens must reside in the following counties: Craig; Creek; Delaware; Mayes; Nowata; Okfuskee; Okmulgee; Ottawa; Rogers; Tulsa; Wagoner; Washington.

NOTE: If you have been terminated at your place of employment, placed on furlough, or had hours cut due to COVID-19, you may be eligible for assistance. Please contact the housing office at (918) 678-6339.

Department Contacts:

*Kathy DeWeese-Housing Director
Don Graham-Housing Specialist
Paul Parker- Project Coordinator
Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator
Larry Hamilton- Residential
Maintenance Technician
Drew Lankford-Residential Main-
tenance Technician*

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tion Event at Wyandotte Public Schools. Wyandotte Schools Art Teacher Trena Crow and her students received state recognition for an art project using recycled materials.



On Jan. 31, Kathleen Welch and Janice Wilson met with Russell Dutnell of Riverman Engineering PLC to perform a site walk of an area located on Sycamore Creek, directly south of the Pow-Wow Grounds. The purpose of the site walk is to come up with a design plan to stop stream bank erosion that is causing a large portion of the stream bank to sluff off during high water and flooding conditions.

On Feb. 4, Kathleen, Janice and Brittany Crowe attended the NE Oklahoma Tribal Resilience Workshop, which was hosted by Quapaw Nation at the Downstream Casino Conference Center. Due to inclement weather, we were unable to attend the second day of the workshop.

On Feb. 13, EPA Regional Adminis-

trator, Acting Chief of Staff, and GAP Project Officer for Region 6 visited with Chief Billy Friend, Christen Lee and Kathleen, to discuss tribal environmental concerns.

Due to the threat of COVID-19, many of our operational duties have been put on hold, as staff have been furloughed indefinitely. During this time, Kathleen and Christen have been keeping up with EPA correspondence and calls, natural resource damages, restoration calls and webinars.

It was also determined that due to area schools being closed for the duration of the school year due to the virus, we decided it was best to cancel our Annual Environmental Festival. This is sad for us, as we have had this event for the past 12 years. With that, we look forward to brighter days, and hopefully be able to return to a somewhat normal schedule. Thank you, and stay safe!!!

Save the Date:

Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Resilience Workshop at Quapaw Nation – Feb. 4-5, 2020

Services Provided

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

Department Contacts:

*Director Christen Lee, clee@wyandotte-nation.org
Environmental Program Manager
Kathleen Welch, kwelch@wyandotte-*

nation.org

*Environmental Technician 1 Janice Wilson, jwilson@wyandotte-nation.org
Environmental Technician 2 Brittany Crowe, bcrowe@wyandotte-nation.org
Recycling Center Coordinator John Quick, jquick@wyandotte-nation.org
Land Management Technician Robby Graham, rgraham@wyandotte-nation.org
Water Utilities Operator Braulio, Ramirez bramirez@wyandotte-nation.org
Grant Writer 1 Debbie Dry, ddry@wyandotte-nation.org
Grant Writer 2 Michael Lowery, mlowery@wyandotte-nation.org*

Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Sherri Clemons,
Tribal Heritage Director*

Kwe kwe all! There is not much to write about due to the fact we have been closed since March 18. As of right now, we are canceling our annual golf scramble, which typically takes place in May. We have also cancelled the Gathering of Little Turtles and the LaCrosse Camp as well.

We are still hosting the Gathering and Pow-Wow on the same dates as of now as well as our fireworks display.

Stay home and safe. The Cultural Center is closed until April 30 as of now. Leadership is continually evaluating the situation and will determine any extended closures, postponements or cancellations.

How to Care for Yourself at Home During COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

What is coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)?

Coronaviruses are a type of virus (germ) that can cause cold-like symptoms and sometimes serious problems with lungs and breathing. COVID-19 is a novel (new) coronavirus.

What are the symptoms of COVID-19?

Mild to severe respiratory illness, or problems with lungs and breathing. Symptoms include:

- **Fever, cough, and shortness of breath**
- **Constant pain or pressure in the chest**
- **Confusion or can't wake up**
- **Blue lips or face**

How does COVID-19 spread?

Person to person by coughing, sneezing, or personal contact like touching or shaking hands. Someone with mild symptoms may spread the disease without knowing they are sick.

Who is most at risk?

Anyone can get COVID-19. Those at risk of severe illness include:

- **Elders and adults over 60 years of age,**
- **People with heart disease, lung disease, or diabetes.**

Is there a vaccine or treatment?

There is no cure for COVID-19 at this time. To treat symptoms, the sick person should drink lots of water and rest.

Contact a healthcare provider for advice. They may suggest taking over-the-counter drugs like Tylenol to help with symptoms.

Most people will have symptoms for a few days and recover after **1-2 weeks**.



JOHNS HOPKINS
CENTER FOR AMERICAN
INDIAN HEALTH

For more information:
[CDC.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

Effective March 27, 2020
Source: CDC



What should you do if you have COVID-19 or symptoms of COVID-19, like a cold?

Stay at home.

- People who are mildly sick with COVID-19 do not need to see a healthcare provider and are able to recover at home.
- If symptoms worsen, call your healthcare provider.
- In an emergency, call **911**.
- Stay home and away from others for 14 days to avoid getting others sick. Some people may have mild illness and feel well enough to go out. **DO NOT** do this because it will spread disease.
- Inform those you've come in contact with as they should stay at home to prevent the spread of germs.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash and wash hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or use hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Drink plenty of water.
- Stay in a specific room and away from other people in your home. Use a separate bathroom if possible.
- Do not shake hands, hug, or touch others.
- Avoid sharing items such as bedding, clothing, towels, and dishes with other people in your household.
- Every day, disinfect all "high touch" surfaces multiple times a day. These surfaces include: counters, tabletops, faucet handles, phones, and doorknobs. Common household cleaners and disinfectants are recommended. Wear gloves if possible.

10 ways to manage respiratory symptoms at home

If you have fever, cough, or shortness of breath, call your healthcare provider. They may tell you to manage your care from home. Follow these tips:

- 1. Stay home** from work, school, and away from other public places, even if you feel well enough to go out. If you must go out, wear a face mask or bandana and avoid using any kind of public transportation or ridesharing.



- 2. Monitor your symptoms** carefully. If your symptoms get worse, call your healthcare provider immediately.



- 3. Get rest and stay hydrated.**



- 4.** If you have a medical appointment, **call the healthcare provider** ahead of time and tell them that you have or may have COVID-19.



- 5.** For medical emergencies, call 911 and **notify the dispatch personnel** that you have or may have COVID-19.



- 6. Cover your cough and sneezes.**



- 7. Wash your hands often** with soap and water for at least 20 seconds or clean your hands with an alcohol-based hand sanitizer that contains at least 60% alcohol.



- 8.** As much as possible, **stay** in a specific room and **away from other people** in your home. Also, you should use a separate bathroom, if available. If you need to be around other people in or outside of the home, wear a facemask or a bandana.



- 9. Avoid sharing personal items** with other people in your household, like dishes, towels, and bedding.



- 10. Clean all surfaces** that are touched often, like counters, tabletops, and doorknobs. Use household cleaning sprays or wipes according to the label instructions.

