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Content

Calendar of Events .................. 3
Shop with a Cop ...................... 4
WNTPD receives award .............. 5
Cemetery a Historic Landmark....... 6
Nation donates to school district.... 7
Town Hall Meetings Update ........ 7
Holiday events in Pictures .......... 8-9
Tribal Department Reports ........ 10-16
Important Numbers ............... 14
Superhero 5K Run .................... 16

Editor/Design: William Swaim
Cover Photo: Susan Friend, Madison Homler, and Officer Jared Robinson
shopping. Photo: William Swaim

Contact Us

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

Looking for Elders, Veterans for Feature Stories

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

Have News?
Share it

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

Email: wswaim@wtok.org

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www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation

From the Chief

Billy Friend

Our growing Nation

I hope this letter finds all doing well and that you enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. I would like to wish each of you a happy and prosperous New Year. We are looking forward to this New Year and the great changes that it will bring.

2016 was another great year for the Wyandotte Nation, as we continue to see growth in every area of our tribe. In just 4 years, we have doubled our scholarship fund from $40,000 to $800,000 for the current budget year. Our total social service budget, with the Benny Card, will surpass the $4 million mark this year. We have been blessed as a nation not only financially, but we also have the greatest staff of employees of any tribe in the United States and they are continually looking for new ways to better serve the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation.

When we stop to think about the basis of a strong nation, we must realize the foundation of any sovereign nation would be its families and its children. How a nation cares for its children, and how it supports its families, will always be indicative of how strong that nation is. At the Wyandotte Nation, we have understood for many years the importance of strong families and healthy, happy children.

In the years long before removal, Wyandottes built strong communities with support structures for families. If a family encountered trouble, related families would move quickly to its aid. Throughout the entire community, it was understood that support was always available and our children and elders would always be cared for. In the current Wyandotte Nation, that legacy of caring, support and strength has continued through our traditional family structures, as well as our tribal programs. The challenges may have changed, but the commitment to our youth, elders and families has remained constant.

Through our Family Services Department, families can access various services, all designed to keep them together and strong. The intent of all these programs, and many more, is to help our families when they encounter hardships and unforeseen life events. Our goal is to assist our families to overcome these challenges and help them with those basic essentials that are so important to a successful family unit. It has always been about giving people a hand-up, rather than just a hand-out.

Through the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center, families can access health care provided by some of the best providers in the state. When the Wyandotte Nation compacted with the Indian Health Service in 1994 to provide health care for our tribal citizens, we understood that quality health care was the top priority of Wyandotte people. It was the intent of our tribal leadership at that time that healthcare would be developed correctly and delivered efficiently. Since the compact, we have continued to grow and expand our health care services. We annually dedicate thousands of dollars in tribal funds for Wyandotte-specific health care programs. We know healthy families have the greatest opportunity for success, happiness and a long life.

Through our Education Department, our students are provided scholarships, tuition assistance and school supply vouchers to help them achieve at the highest levels. Wyandotte students now have the best opportunity of all time to succeed. And they are succeeding! We now see record numbers of Wyandotte students receiving their bachelors, masters and some even working toward their doctoral degrees. Wyandotte youth are definitely our “leaders of tomorrow.” We have many other programs throughout the Tribe that assist and support our tribal mission of helping to improve the quality of life for all of our tribal citizens and help to support our youth, elders and Wyandotte families.

In closing I want to say “tizameh” (thank you) for the opportunity to serve you as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation. I am always reminded of what Chief Bearskin would say each year at our Annual Meeting, “there are 567 federally recognized tribes in the United States and the Wyandotte Nation is #1!”

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

2017 is here; Looking back at some of our history

Kweh

It is January 2017, so that means it is winter and we survived one of the most controversial elections this country has ever seen. The American people sent a message they wanted change and voted Donald Trump to be our 45th President. I hope and pray that the change he brings will be equally beneficial to all people. In the middle of February I will be traveling to Washington, D.C. to attend the Executive Council Winter Session.
Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

of the National Congress of American Indians, hopefully I can gain some insight on how the new White House Administration will affect Indian Country.

I hope everyone survived the holidays without being trampled by the onslaught of shoppers trying to complete their family’s wish lists. It seems to me it gets crazier every year, which proves the point that a lot of people have lost or ignored the true meaning of Christmas. Every year here at the Wyandotte Nation our employees donate gifts, food, or money to help families in this area that have fallen on hard times for one reason or another. The majority of them are very appreciative to the point of shedding tears because of what we have done for them, but they are those that take the gifts and food without so much as a thank you. That’s all right in our hearts -- we know we have done the right thing by helping these people.

The new Cultural Center/Museum has some special interest classes in the works so keep your eye on our website for times and dates. We still need our Wyandotte Nation veterans to send a picture of yourself in uniform and a small story of what you did while serving our country. The museum will only be as good as our citizens make it so search all those nooks and crannies for photos and documents anything that would have relevance to your ancestors and the Wyandotte Nation.

Now a little Wyandotte History, it is important to learn and know our history because very little is being taught in schools. The latter half of the 1820s signaled great changes for the Wyandottes, and these changes had profound effects. American settlers wanted even more land after the War of 1812. The U.S. Government bowed to this pressure and started treaty negotiations in Northwest Ohio. The result was that the Wyandottes and all other tribes gave up their claim to northwest Ohio and agreed to be placed on smaller reservations north of the Greenville Treaty Line. This opened up large tracts of land for settlement. Because they sided with the U.S. during the War of 1812, the Wyandottes received the largest reservation.

The Wyandotte’s reservation covered a 12-mile square area at upper Sandusky (still a region and not a settlement or town) centered at Fort Ferree, and also one tract of one mile square on a cranberry swamp on Broken Sword Creek. The Wyandottes were given $4,319.24 for injuries during the War of 1812. The Wyandottes quickly found this size to be inadequate, so the next year an amendment to the treaty was signed. The Treaty of St. Mary’s gave the Wyandottes 55,680 more acres of land, making the reservation 12 X 19 miles, and an annuity of $500 forever.

The Treaty of 1817 wasn’t enough for many American settlers. They wanted all the land in Ohio and all Indians moved west of the Mississippi River. In the early 1830s the other Indians in Ohio signed removal treaties and moved to Kansas. The Seneca and Shawnee in 1831, and the Ottawa between 1831 and 1833. During this time the Wyandottes successfully resisted the pressure through assimilation (they became like whites) and the sale of some of their lands. They sold a 5-mile by 12-mile section of the reservation in what is now Crawford County in 1835, and the 1-mile square Cranberry Bog reserve the next year. But these actions didn’t generate enough revenue to pay off tribal debts and stay in Ohio.

In 1841 Col. John Johnston was sent to Upper Sandusky to negotiate a treaty. Col. Johnston was a respected Indian agent, and the Wyandottes were relieved when he was sent because they know they would get a fair deal for their land. After a year of negotiation with Johnston, the Wyandottes reluctantly signed a treaty for removal to the Kansas Territory on March 17, 1842. Under the terms of the treaty the Wyandottes ceded their land in Ohio to the U.S. Government. The Wyandottes received $10,000 for removal expenses, 148,000 acres in Kansas, a permanent cash annuity of $17,000, a permanent fund of $500 per year for educational purposes, an appropriation to pay the Wyandotte’s debt of $23,860, compensation for improvements to their territory, two blacksmiths and a blacksmith shop with steel, iron, tools and an agent and interpreter. Remember this was all according to treaty and we all know what happened when we got to Kansas there was no land.

It is indeed a pleasure to work every day for each and every Wyandotte Nation Citizen.

Submit your News: Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 848-0724. Or mail to: The Wyandotte Nation, 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370, ATTN: TurtleTalk
Giving a gift of Christmas

WNTPD participates in 'Shop with a Cop' to help local families during holidays

By William Swaim  
Wyandotte Nation

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) participated in the “Shop with a Cop” program, taking 16 kids from area families to shop for Christmas at the Walmart in Neosho Saturday, Dec. 17.

Local families experiencing economic hardships can’t always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas. That is where the “Shop With a Cop” program comes in, joining these underprivileged children with local police officers, providing the children with money to shop for Christmas presents for their families and themselves. This is the third year the police department took part in the program, receiving $3,717.90 in donations.

The WNTPD officers picked the families up at their homes, took them to shop, treated them to pizza and returned to wrap gifts at the Title VI Building, 64700 E. Hwy 60 in Wyandotte.

Six officers and 19 volunteers helped with the shopping and wrapping. The kids bought gifts for themselves as well as 16 siblings and 18 parents.

In addition to the gifts, each family received a ham, bag of potatoes, six cans of vegetables, box of stuffing, and a box of corn bread. Each child received an apple, orange, candy cane, cookies and M&M’s.

Officers and volunteers included:

Officers -- Ken Murphy, Faron Lee, Richard Teeter, Steve Johnston, Jared Robinson, and Philip Brice.

BY KIMBERLY BARKER
KBARKER@MIAMINEWSRECORD.COM
ARTICLE COURTESY OF THE MIAMI NEWS RECORD

WYANDOTTE -- The Wyandotte Nation Tribal/Municipal Police Department (WNTPD) received an award for its 2016 annual “National Night Out” block party. Wyandotte PD was chosen along with nine other agencies with populations of less than 5,000.

“National Night Out” is an annual community-building campaign promoting police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. The campaign culminates annually on the first Tuesday of August and is celebrated nationwide.

This year, the event was held at Heritage Acres Park in Wyandotte, where there were hamburgers, hot dogs, refreshments and prizes. Nine officers from Wyandotte PD were present, as well as EMT services by Quapaw Tribe Fire/EMS.

Officers conversed with members of the community while children competed in activities like limbo and hula hooping. Volunteers helped grill the food and serve beverages, while music was played and prizes were given away.

“We’re just ecstatic to be recognized,” said WNTPD Police Chief Ken Murphy. “It’s a great event, and we look forward to it every year. It’s a combination of hard work, by not only my staff who puts it together but all of the volunteers and contributors. This is totally supported by the community. The department doesn’t have a budget for it, so what we provide is all volunteer and donation motivated.”

Murphy said participating departments must register to use the “National Night Out” name and logo. Departments are entered to win upon registration and are chosen based on submitted feedback and criteria.

The department’s administrative assistant, Pat Wilson, serves as the coordinator of the community’s night out and is the driving force behind the event.

Wilson said the casinos, the Wyandotte Nation, local businesses and community organizations provided donations for the festivities.

“Sometimes we have private donations,” Wilson said. “We received more donations this year than the year before.”

Wilson said the meaning of “National Night Out” is for the community to come together as one.

“You organize this big event with food, drinks and fellowship, and it’s almost like a big family reunion,” Wilson said. “Sometimes you see people there you haven’t seen in a long time.”

“I think this award is not only for the police department but it recognizes the community,” Murphy said. “Our partnerships are strong, and we don’t have any problem getting together.”

According to Murphy, the event grows a bit each year, despite the scorching hot summer weather. There were approximately 250 people in attendance this year.

In 1998, Murphy worked in law enforcement in Albuquerque, which hosted a “National Night Out” and wanted to bring it to Wyandotte.

“I’ve modeled a lot of what I brought here on success stories from other agencies I’ve been involved with, and that was one that really seemed like something we needed to do,” Murphy said.

After the Wyandotte Community Partnership Meetings had begun a few years ago, Murphy asked community leaders what they expected of their police department.

“They wanted us to be able to respond to an emergency anywhere in the school district, which is a mile north of Hwy. 10, all the way to the county line from the river to the state line,” Murphy said. “We had tribal leadership there, as well and they said if that’s what is needed, we’ll work toward that goal.”

As a result, the police department applied for several grants to increase positions and expanded from five officers to 10.

“We still hope to meet that commitment and respond to those emergencies,” Murphy said. “I think working with the new sheriff will allow us to do that.”

The Wyandotte PD has also received grants to hire Kristi Johnston full-time as a crime victim advocate. According to Johnston and Murphy, she is the first crime victim advocate in Ottawa County.

Murphy said having Kristi with the department has helped prevent certain incidents from developing into crimes.

“Anytime we have the ability for the officers and public to visit on a one-on-one and develop relationships like that, it instills a little more trust with the folks that we’re here to help them and they’re more likely to call us if they need us,” Murphy said.

“With Kristi on board and having an advocate here, we get a lot more calls now that aren’t necessarily police matters, yet it lets us intervene in things before they escalate to police matters.”

Johnston, along with agencies throughout Ottawa County, set up resource booths at the event to inform the public on topics like victim’s rights and domestic violence.

The department’s goal with “National Night Out” is to build lasting relationships with members of the community, Murphy said.

“We want them to see us in a dressed-down manner, have them discuss community problems with us, get to know us better and get closer to their neighbors. In today’s fast-paced world, we don’t get to know our neighbors. With nights like this, it allows them to get together and discuss what’s going on in their community, too.”

“National Night Out” is for the community to come together as one.

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Burial ground designated National Historic Landmark

WASHINGTON – The National Park Service designated the Wyandotte National Burying Ground (Eliza Burton Conley Burial Site) in Kansas City, Kansas, as one of 24 new National Historic Landmarks.

The National Historic Landmarks Program recognizes historic properties of exceptional value to the nation and promotes the preservation efforts of federal, state, and local agencies and Native American tribes, as well as those of private organizations and individuals. The program is one of more than a dozen administered by the National Park Service that provide states and local communities technical assistance, recognition and funding to help preserve our nation’s shared history and create close-to-home recreation opportunities.

In a National Park Service release, it stated the Wyandotte Nation burial ground “serves as tangible evidence of the consequences of federal American Indian removal policy to a tribal population and its identity during the nineteenth century. The property is also associated with Eliza (Lyda) Burton Conley who was the first attorney to raise the legal argument that American Indian burying grounds are entitled to protection by the Federal Government and to claim that the descendants of treaty signatories have the right to sue to enforce treaty provisions."

As the National Park Service enters its second century of service and strives to tell a more inclusive and diverse story of America’s history, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell announced the designation of the new National Historic Landmarks.

“These 24 new designations depict different threads of the American story that have been told through activism, architecture, music, and religious observance,” said Secretary Jewell. “Their designation ensures future generations have the ability to learn from the past as we preserve and protect the historic value of these properties and the more than 2,500 other landmarks nationwide.”

If not already so recognized, properties designated as National Historic Landmarks are listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

“As the National Park Service kicks off its second century of stewardship of America’s natural and historic treasures, we look forward to connecting new generations of Americans to the places and stories recognized as National Historic Landmarks today,” said National Park Service Acting Director Michael T. Reynolds.

The other 23 national historic landmarks announced were:

- The assassination of Medgar Evers on June 12, 1963, in the carport of the Medgar and Myrlie Evers House in Jackson, Mississippi, became one of the catalysts for the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- The Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture in New York City represents the idea of the African Diaspora, a revolutionizing model for studying the history and culture of people of African descent that used a global, transnational perspective.
- As one of the three New Deal greenbelt towns built by the Federal Government, the Greenhills Historic District in Greenhills, Ohio, shaped the federal response to the Great Depression and represents highly important aspects of New Deal policy, an important period in the evolution of the American suburb.
- On April 20, 1970, community residents occupied Chicano Park in San Diego, California, in an ultimately successful effort to prevent the construction of a California Highway Patrol substation on land where the City of San Diego had promised the neighborhood a community park.
- Casa José Antonio Navarro in San Antonio, Texas, was the home of Tejano statesman and historian José Antonio Navarro (1795-1871), a political leader whose prolific career as statesman and defender of Tejano rights shaped the destiny of Texas as an independent Republic and as part of the United States of America.
- The Neutra Studio and Residences (VDL Research House) in Los Angeles, California, is associated with Richard Neutra, a nationally and internationally seminal figure of the twentieth century Modern movement in architecture.
- The Keim Homestead in Oley, Pennsylvania, is an exceptionally intact example of early German American domestic vernacular architecture.
- Constructed in 1758, Schifferstadt is an outstanding example of a Georgian-period house influenced by German American cultural and construction traditions, located in Frederick, Maryland.
- This massive early-twentieth century enlargement of New York’s canal system was an embodiment of a Progressive Era emphasis on public works. The New York State Barge Canal was built explicitly to counter the growing monopoly of railroad corporations over the American economy.
- The Kimball Village Site (13PM4) in Plymouth County, Iowa, is an exceptionally well-preserved, circa CE 1100-1250, Plains Village site.
- Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission Chapel (McDonnell Hall) in San Jose, California, connected the Mexican American civil rights movement, Catholic ministry to ethnic Mexicans, and ongoing efforts to organize ethnic Mexican migrant farmworkers.
- As headquarters for Petrified Forest National Park in Apache County, Arizona, the Painted Desert Community Complex is the largest and the most fully articulated expression of a small, family-owned, twentieth-century foundry and machine shop.
- The Davis-Ferris Organ, built for...
**Nation donates to Wyandotte Public Schools**

**By William Swaim**  
**Wyandotte Nation**

The Wyandotte Nation has strived to build ‘community’ in the Wyandotte area, and part of that is being a good neighbor and partner with the town of Wyandotte and Wyandotte Public Schools.

With that in mind, the Tribe donated $100,000 to the Wyandotte Public School District to help during this difficult time of budget cuts facing schools statewide.

The Wyandotte Nation and its Board of Directors presented the check to Superintendent Troy Gray and the Wyandotte Public Schools School Board Tuesday, Dec. 13 at the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Administration Building, 64700 E. Hwy 60 in Wyandotte.

“On behalf of the Wyandotte Nation, the Board of Directors, our tribal members, we just want to say how much we appreciate the Wyandotte school system,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. “It is a part of our community, it’s a part of us, it’s our namesake, and we are very proud of the Wyandotte schools.

“We appreciate the job Superintendent [Troy] Gray and the school board does -- you guys do an excellent job, you are great stewards with the budget. This is not something where Troy came to me, nobody solicited this donation, but we read the newspapers, we see the headlines, and we know small schools are taking a big hit lately and we just happen to be in a position to help and that is what we want to do.”

Friend said the money isn’t earmarked for anything specific and the schools can use the money to address any need they may have. Superintendent Gray was appreciative of the donation, citing the great partnership the schools and the Wyandotte Nation have in the community.

Recently, the Tribe built the Heritage Acres Community Center and the Heritage Acres Park and Splash Pad – all of which serve the entire community, and opened the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum.

**Landmark**

Continued from Page 6

a New York City Episcopal church in 1846-1847, is an example of the technical and mechanical achievements in the pre-Civil War American organ-building industry.

• The Pauli Murray Family Home in Durham, North Carolina is associated with ground-breaking civil rights activist, lawyer, educator, writer, and Episcopal priest Pauli Murray.

• Constructed in 1860 as the Allen's Mill Bridge, Eldean Bridge in Miami County, Ohio, is an excellent example of nineteenth-century covered bridge construction and its span is a rare surviving Long truss, a highly significant nineteenth-century timber truss type.

• Constructed in 1876 by J. J. Daniels, one of the nation’s most prolific covered bridge builders, West Union Bridge in Parke County, Indiana, is an outstanding, intact example of the Burr truss, a highly-significant American timber bridge type that was widely used for a century.

• Built in the late 1920s, Omaha Union Station in Omaha Nebraska, is one of the most distinctive and complete examples of Art Deco architecture in the nation.

• The George Read II House, built by a prominent Philadelphia family in New Castle, Delaware, is an exceptional example of Federal style architecture in the mid-Atlantic region.

• The Biesterfeldt Site in Ransom County, North Dakota, is an earth lodge village site culturally identifiable as having been occupied by the Cheyenne Indians ca. 1724-1780.

• Walrus Islands Archeological District near Togiak, Alaska, is one of the few remaining places with evidence of human occupation of the Bering Sea continental shelf when sea levels were substantially lower than at present.

• 48GO305, commonly referenced in archeological literature as “Hell Gap Paleoindian Site,” located in Goshen County, Wyoming, contains evidence of repeated occupations by nine Paleoindian cultural complexes in well-stratified deposits.

• The May 4, 1970 Kent State Shootings Site in Kent, Ohio, is where the Ohio National Guard shot and killed four Kent State University students and wounded nine during a protest on the campus.

**Town Hall Meetings to be held in California, Texas**

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

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

This year there will be two meetings and the first of these will be in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, March 4 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West, 2200 Harvard Street, (916) 922-4700. The meeting will begin at 10 am with lunch being served at noon. Question & Answer and photos will follow from 1-3 pm. Lunch is provided.

The second meeting will be held in Waco, Texas, Saturday, April 1, at the Hilton Waco, 113 S University Parks Drive, (254) 754-8484. The schedule for this meeting will be the same as the California meeting with a start time of 10 a.m.

Watch for postcards with details and RSVP information. If you have questions in the meantime, please contact Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-6319 or dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org.

If you don’t receive a post card invitation, but feel you live within traveling distance to either meeting and would like to attend please feel free to RSVP.
The Wyandotte Nation Preschool held programs for Thanksgiving (pictured left) and Christmas (pictured above and below) while also holding a carnival for the kids on Halloween (top left). During the carnival, the kids enjoyed fun and games as volunteers from the Wyandotte Nation and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma set up the event. During the Thanksgiving program, held at the Bearskin Fitness Center gym, students sang songs and recited poems before a packed crowd enjoyed a Thanksgiving dinner. The Christmas program was similar as kids also enjoyed treats back in their classrooms after singing Christmas songs.

Photos by William Swaim
To see more photos from all of our events, visit our Facebook page and ‘Like’ us.
'Run for Tyler' a success

The Bearskin Fitness Center hosted a 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run Saturday, Dec. 3 at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, 1 Turtle Drive in Wyandotte.

The Fun Run benefitted Tyler Homler, 10, of Wyandotte, who was diagnosed with an inoperable tumor on the brain.

Participants signed a message for Tyler and took part in the fun run and walk with the proceeds from the event going to help Tyler's family.

On April 13, 2016, Tyler was taken to St. Francis Hospital in Tulsa per his eye doctor due to visual and balance changes. At St. Francis, a CT was done with a diagnosis that would change the family's life forever. Tyler was diagnosed with Diffuse Intrinsic Pontine Glioma (DIPG), an inoperable tumor on the brain stem that affects the pons in the brain.

During this time, both parents have been off work to be together as a family. The family has depended on continued support to get through this trying time.

The first 100 registered received a “Team Tyler” T-Shirt.

Children's Christmas Party

The Wyandotte Nation held its annual children’s Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gymnasium. 175 children attended along with parents, grandparents and other relatives. Each child received a gift from Santa, a cozy winter blanket and candy. There was also a craft table for ornament decorating as well as cookies and punch. Thank you to everyone who came out and enjoyed the morning with Santa, Mrs. Claus and Elf.

(Photos by William Swaim)
Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Bearskin Fitness Center is happy to welcome Kamisha Kirby. Kamisha will serve as a Fitness Front Desk Assistant. In her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband and son. She loves working out and any outdoor activities. We are very fortunate to have Kamisha on our team and wish her much success in this position.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

“The New Year - a new chapter, new verse, or just the same old story? Ultimately we write it. The choice is ours.”

-- Alex Morritt.

The New Year finds us with hope for a better future for our children, grandchildren and elders. The Wyandotte Nation leadership and staff are continually working to improve services for our citizens. Many services assist with the basic needs of today, but several programs are helping to build healthy futures. Education and healthcare have been priority areas where the tribe has seen great strides over the past several years and hopefully will continue to see growth. Programs such as school supplies, winter clothing and extracurricular for our school-aged citizens have been extremely successful in assisting families meet some basic needs for students as well as allow students to participate in activities that might not otherwise be available.

A need that was being seen, within the Family Services department, was services and advocacy for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. The Tribe secured a grant through the Office of Violence Against Women in late 2015 and received funding to begin providing those services in September 2016. Services provided include transportation, housing assistance, basic needs and general advocacy. The grant also includes an awareness campaign to educate the public on this epidemic. More than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native adults have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime and 56.1% of Native women have experienced sexual violence. If you or someone you know is experiencing violence by an intimate partner, or someone you know is experiencing violence, please contact our office to explore what services we can offer.

In the remainder of this article you will find highlights of programs offered by the Family Services Department. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us: Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, 918-678-6355; Leaneena Radabaugh, Family Services Assistant, 918-678-6329; and Tiffany Webb, ICW Social Worker/DV Advocate, 918-678-6324. Be sure to visit the Wyandotte Nation website www.wyandotte-nation.org and follow 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.

SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH (AKA BENNY)
NOTICES AND REMINDERS:

*The program year began Jan. 1 and all active accounts were renewed. You will use your existing card until the expiration date at which time new cards will be sent.

*You cannot use your Benny card for expenses that incurred in 2016. If you have remaining funds from 2016 you have until Feb. 28, 2017 to file a claim for reimbursement for eligible expenses. No exceptions.

*Claim forms can be found on the CoreSource website or by contacting the Family Services Department.

*Benny cards that were issued in December had an incorrect number. The correct number to call CoreSource is (800) 990-9058 ext 42086 will get you directly to a representative on our account. New cards will be sent to replace those at a later date.

*You can check account balances by calling the above CoreSource phone number during business hours or through the website www.mycoresource.com.

*Over the counter medications such as pain relievers and cold remedies cannot be purchased with the Benny card. However, some OTC medications are reimbursable if found medically necessary by a physician.

*Statements are mailed quarterly with balances. If you aren’t receiving your statements please contact the Family Services Department to update your address at (918) 648-6329.

Applications must be received or post marked by Sept. 30:

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

**Summer Senior Energy** - $100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Eligibility requirements; 55 or older, OK, MO, AR, KS resident.

**Fuel Assistance** – Programs available for fuel assistance: Hardship – personal hardships, travel for work/job interviews, etc; Medical – travel to/from doctor/dental appointments and pick up prescriptions; Major Medical – extreme medical issues (must be life threatening, terminal, etc. not chronic medical issues) that require multiple trips outside of the local area.

**Jr/Sr Benefit** - $250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School.

**Winter Program:**

**Winter Clothing** – Began Nov. 1 and ends Feb. 28 for pre-K (must be enrolled in a structured learning program) through grade 12. OK, MO, AR, KS residents. Reimbursement program or Walmart gift card for $100 per student. Applications, along with guidelines, are available on the home page of the Tribe’s website. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement program. If you did not return your gift card receipts for either the School Supplies or last year’s Winter Clothing, you will be required to use the reimbursement program this year.

**Senior Energy** - $100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Eligibility requirements; 55 or older, OK, MO, AR, KS resident. Program begins Oct. 1 and ends Feb. 28.

**Extra School Expense/Extracurricular Activities** – One-time payment of $100 per student aged pre – K through 12th grade.

The Tribe has received funding to begin providing those services in September 2016.

**New Program: Child Safety Seats** - Each child is eligible for 3 seats in different sizes and can be picked up at the tribal office.

**Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare** – Program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families and is designed to help keep children in their homes with the family or ensure that if there is a need for removal that federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is first and foremost. If your family is in a situation where the state is involved, please contact one of the Tribal Social Workers.

**Enrollment** – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2017 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate.

**New Enrollee Benefit** - If a child’s application is received prior to their first birthday they will receive a $100 Walmart gift card and a blanket embroidered with the Tribal Turtle.

Continued on Page 11
Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

We would like to thank everyone that helped make our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners a huge success once again. Without your help it would not be possible for us to provide such awesome events for our beloved Elders. Santa was a big hit as well! We hope he can take time out of his busy schedule to visit us again next year.

Our Valentine Party is Tuesday, Feb. 14, during the noon hour. We will give prizes for the newlyweds, oldest valentine, couple married the longest and the one married the most times and is willing to admit it. The Senior Turtles began a new beading class in the Title VI dining room. They will meet every Thursday morning beginning at 9 am.

A representative from the Pelivan will be here to give a presentation about the Pelivan services Feb. 23, beginning at approximately 11:45 am. She will be able to answer questions about eligibility to ride the van and the cost. Native American’s with a CDIB card and Veterans receive a discount.

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

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

Caregiver

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month. The meetings are held in our new safe room in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI) at 10:30 am. The group is open to all current and past Caregivers. Please contact Brenda for information.

As always, it is a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizens. Please feel free to call or come by and visit us anytime.

Education

Submitted by Tammy Charles, Education Director

The New Year brings students back to school on all levels of the education process. Public school students have enjoyed the holiday festivities with families and friends and days out of class. For many college students, the New Year means finishing up the laundry that was brought home when check out of dorm rooms was conducted.

Many people make New Year’s resolutions to lose weight, read more and numerous others. Have you thought about gaining a new skill set or working for a technical certificate or college degree? If you have and you are a Wyandotte Tribal Citizen or a Native American in southwest Missouri or southeast Kansas, please contact the education department for resources to assist you.

If you are a parent or a grandparent of a 3, 4 or 5-year-old in our area, consider enrolling them in our Preschool program. We have a few openings currently and are accepting enrollment for fall classes of 2017. The Preschool program is getting ready to celebrate the 100th day of school with special events. The two new programs in our facility this fall are weekly Wyandotte Language lessons in each classroom and try it Tuesday new foods in the cafeteria are going very well and the children are learning to be more adventurous. Ms. Loretta Combes was videoed for a special video segment on KSN 7 that showcased several of our Wyandotte Tribal Citizens and staff utilizing the language and talking about future plans.

The front playground at Wyandotte Nation Child Care program has a new restroom! Many thanks for the approved funding from Tribal reserve and the diligence of Julie West and the procurement department to make this much needed project happen for our children.

The Child Care and Development Fund annual report is due Jan. 31 and our program showed increases in numbers of children served and cost of child care services for both our grant and families that utilize services. If you live in an area beyond the 100-mile radius of tribal headquarters, please feel free to contact me to see if I can assist you with child care expenses.

The library enhancement grant project came to an end in December, we are proud to announce that Ms. Deb Haynes will remain on staff by utilizing shared funds to sustain her position. She has many ideas to continue to grow our library, increase patron numbers and promote our rich Native American culture.

As the semesters/quarters end be mindful that to renew funding for subsequent semesters, an official or unofficial transcript in its entirety is to be supplied to the Education department.

Continued on Page 12
Environmental

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental Director

October
October brought the slightly cooler temperatures, which has made it nice for our outside daily activities. The Lost Creek Recycle Center continues to see an increase of use on a daily basis. Along with the day to day pick up routes of the center, our two recycling trailers fill up quickly and are needing to be emptied bi-weekly. We have had many compliments on the service that this provides to tribal and local citizens.


The kids followed along as Janice read the story, then they placed the proper sticker on the appropriate page of the story. We visited all four classes and shared with approximately 95 kids.

On Oct. 20, Kathleen, Jon and Scott completed a Forklift Operators Recertification Class. This class was given by Maintenance Director Garland Alumbaugh and ensures we have the most recent training on proper operational methods for driving a forklift.

November
Christen Lee and Kathleen have become quite busy with increasing Natural Resource Damage (NRD) issues.

On Nov. 2-3, they both attended the Trustee Council of Tri-State Meeting in Webb City, Mo. On the morning of the 2nd and the afternoon of the 3rd, Kathleen gave a site tour of the Tri-State Mining District and the Tar Creek Mining area to our tribal NRD consultants Brian Cleary and Kaylene Ritter.

Our time and duties concerning NRD issues has doubled with in the past couple of months and will continue to do so for quite some time into the future.

On Nov. 10, Janice assisted Debbie Dotson of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe in water education event at the Seneca Middle School, in Seneca, MO. Twelve groups of students had their own environmental booth on water quality issues. Our department provided give away items for the students, and Janice provided environmental information to the students as needed.

On Nov. 15, Kathleen attended the Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma meeting in Stroud, Okla. The Wyandotte Nation was nominated to retain the secretory position for this group.

Nov. 29-30 found Christen Lee traveling to Tulsa for the Regional Tribal Operation Committee. Wyandotte Nation is a voting member of this group.

December
Well, the holidays are upon us and we are all busy trying to get our regular day to day activities completed, plus help out with the holiday activities that the tribe provides each year.

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

Meetings attended by staff:
- NATURE, TECO, TCTC, Spring River WRAPS, and Grand Lake Watershed Alliance.

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

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

Planning

Submitted by Ron Kaiser, Senior Advisor

Two Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) projects that have been closed out:

The Cultural Center project and the expansion to the Artie Nesvold Community Center Title 6 Building and the Carla Culver Education Center -- each have new activity rooms functioning as FEMA compliant safe rooms.

The new ICDBG project is a tribal housing area that needs improved potable water and street work. This housing area is located in close proximity to the town of Seneca, Mo. Funds requested for the Roadway/Drainage Project are coming from ICDBG and Tribal Funds. We are still trying to select an engineering firm.

We are still updating road inventory, which is used to calculate Wyandotte Nation’s allocation of Roadway construction funds.

We are implementing the Tribe’s Wildlife commission hunting and fishing regulations on trust properties.

The Tribe recently purchased a three-bedroom house situated directly south of the Administration Building, including 7 acres. This house is being renovated into a guest house.

As part of Fee to Trust activity the Tribe has received notice that The Arrowhead Building is in trust.

The Tribe’s application for fee to trust for Heritage Acres is at the Solicitors’ office waiting for a final title opinion.

We are preparing material for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) legal description -- this is needed to develop materials for Trust Land application for the Gibraltar, Mich., property known as “Six Point.”

If you have any questions for the Planning/Development Dept. you can contact: Ron Kaiser, Planning Director, (918) 678-6325 Robby Graham, Land Management Technician, (918) 678-6357

Continued from Page 11

The Education Department is privileged to offer the following benefits for enrolled tribal members: Concurrent high school courses are covered for tuition or fees only; Vocational assistance is for programs that are not degree seeking and funding is dependent on intensity and duration of coursework; Undergraduate scholarships currently fund up to $2,250 per semester for up to 8 semesters if all requirements are met; Masters level and beyond programs have a maximum of four semesters of funding at $1,500 per term.

Please take time to like the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page as information that is received in our offices for scholarship, internship and various other opportunities are shared there. A visit to Haskell Indian Nations University is scheduled in April. If your student is interested in other schools, please contact the office so that we can see about a visit/tour.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act continues to serve Native American citizens from the Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri area. Please contact the office to see if you may be eligible for assistance with educational endeavors.

The staff of the education program is eager to assist Tribal citizens with available resources in the areas of educational funding, child care and the tribal library. Please contact us if we can be of service to you.
Housing
Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

Last year was a very productive year. A new senior duplex was completed, and two new senior families joined us. This year, two senior duplexes will be built. The addition to the Heritage Park has been a great asset. The pavilion was used for family reunions, birthdays, as well as tribal functions. An addition of a smaller pavilion is in the planning stages, and hopefully will be available this summer.

An Indian Community Development Block Grant was received for home improvement. There are currently 19 homes that will be receiving rehabilitation, including energy efficient upgrades. If you are in need of home improvements, complete an application. All applications must be on file when a grant is applied for.

All Housing applications are now online. Those include Rental/Homeownership, Home Improvement, Down Payment Assistance, and Well & Septic. At this time, the Indian Health Service well and septic money has been expended. Additional funding will not be available until the Fall of 2017. If you are interested in housing or any of the other programs offered, please send in a completed application with all proper documentation. Incomplete applications will be returned.

The Community Center is open daily from 8 am - 4:30 pm. Pool tables, a ping pong table, air hockey, and a variety of board and card games are available for use. The cost of renting the center after hours and on weekends is $50 for tribal members, and $75 for non-tribal, with a $25 cleaning deposit. Several dates have already been reserved. If you are interested in renting the facility, please contact the housing office.

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

Health
Submitted by Kelly Friend, Director of Health Services

Bearskin Fitness Center
January is the month full of promise -- promise of a new year, promise of dreams anew and hopes arising. January is a month of resolutions beginning. Bearskin Fitness Center is ready to assist you in meeting your fitness resolutions, goals and dreams.

New classes have been added, personal training is available and childcare is free to assist you in meeting your goals. Distance is not a problem either. Work with our staff to design a workout that you can do at your home to start your year off on the right track. Our objective is to eliminate any barrier you might have in meeting those desires!

The schedule is filling up, not only with classes, birthday parties and training, but a basketball league, swim lessons and a softball/baseball clinic is in the final stages of planning. On March 28, the Oklahoma Blood Institute will be on site in their mobile unit for a blood drive. In addition, tribal dance classes are still being held on Thursday evenings. Be sure to watch the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Facebook page for details on all events.

The Bearskin Superhero 5K, Fun Run and Strongman event date has been set. April 8 will be the day to enjoy family fun. After a morning 1-mile fun run or 5K, the strongman and woman contest will begin. In addition, informational booths on domestic violence awareness, substance abuse and a crime victims advocate booth will be on site.

The 5K and fun run are free events sponsored in conjunction with the Wyandotte Nation Police Department and The Wyandotte Nation Domestic Violence Awareness programs. This year’s theme is — Strength.

Bearskin Health Clinic
The Bearskin Health Clinic is seeing patients daily. The winter season is always a busy time with all of the sickness that comes with the season. With three practitioners on staff, the phones are very busy, as well as the waiting room. It may be required that voicemails be left and calls returned due to peak times of appointment need. Please be patient, as the staff is working diligently to meet the needs of everyone. In addition, be courteous to others and wear a mask in common areas where you or others may be sick. In addition, patients may not be called back in the exam rooms in the order of which they arrive.

Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) is a federally funded program by the Department of Health and Human Services to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from Bearskin Healthcare. Because the PRC program is not fully funded, the PRC program must rely on specific regulations relating to eligibility, notification, residency, and a medical priority rating system.

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

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

Payments for healthcare can only be authorized by a PRC ordering official. No one else can authorize payments. PRC payments are authorized through a process using federal guidelines and eligibility criteria. Additionally, the program provides quality, cost-effective/efficient services that preserve the rights of the clients. Eligibility for services are limited to those individuals who are enrolled members of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; reside within one of the twelve counties (Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, etc.).

Continued on Page 14
Important Numbers

Police Department
Ken Murphy (918) 678-3100x12
kmurphy@wmpd.com

Family Services / Enrollment / Tags
Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

School Supplies/Winter Clothing
Leeanna Radabaugh, 918-678-6329, lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org

Domestic Violence Advocate, Tiffany Webb,
twebb@wyandotte-nation.org

Tribal Social Worker
Tara Glegg (918) 678-6355
tgllegg@wyandotte-nation.org

Human Resources
Deana Howard (918) 678-6320
Dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org

Nutrition & Caregiver Services
Brenda House (918) 678-6327
bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

Education / Library / Child Care
Tammy Charles (918) 678-6330
tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org

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

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

Planning / Development
Ron Kaiser (918) 678-6325
rkaiser@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
Kelly Friend (918) 678-3259
Kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org

Clinic Appointments
Linda Coatney (918) 678-3228
Lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org

Elaine Didler (918) 678-3230
Didler@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
Bridge Burleson (918) 678-3227
Bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org

Diabetes Clinic
Donna Spaulding (918) 678-3258
Dspaulding@wyandotte-nation.org

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Continued from Page 13
Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Washington) which comprise the Service Delivery Area (CHSDA).

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

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

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

Specialty Care
Each patient must be referred by a Bearskin provider to a specialist due to medical necessity. The patient cannot self-refer to a specialist.

A written referral or any other pertinent information is required and must be submitted to the PRC office prior to scheduling the appointment. Once obtained, information will be reviewed so that a decision can be made on approval, deferment or denial of referred services.

Requirements for eligibility are:
1. Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe. Patient must also have an established medical health record at Bearskin Clinic.
2. Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian’s child through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian’s household who resides within the CHS service area is eligible for CHS if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an acute infectious disease;
3. Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county CHS service area within Oklahoma. Out-Of-State residents are not eligible for CHS funds.

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

Documents required to be presented for service include:
- Social Security Card
- Oklahoma Driver’s License or Oklahoma State issued Identification Card
- Tribal Membership Card

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Optometry
Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic.

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years.

Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider.

AS FUNDING ALLOWS

$75 for single vision – includes exam and one pair of glasses or contact lenses.

$225 for multi-focus vision – includes exam and one pair of glasses or contact lenses.

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Audiology
Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic.

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years.

Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider.

AS FUNDING ALLOWS

$1000 per year.

$75 per hearing exam. (Hearing aids will only be replaced every five years. If they are lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed before reaching the five year mark, it will be the tribal member’s responsibility to replace these appliances).

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Pharmacy
Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare.

Fills prescriptions written by Bearskin providers.

Prescriptions from practitioners outside of Bearskin Healthcare are only filled if approved and re-written by a Bearskin Healthcare physician under his/her authority. Call (918) 678-3246 for more details.
Want to be a true “Indian Princess?”

It is with great sadness Princess Emilee Wills is retiring. She will be missed. But now we are looking for a new princess. All young ladies interested in applying for the position must be between the ages of 14-17. Be enrolled in school and carry at least a ‘C’ average. You will need to submit an essay in your own words, “What it means to be the Wyandotte Princess.” You will need to submit your essay before Feb. 28.

Mail to:
Sherri Clemons
66700 E. Hwy 60
Wyandotte, OK 74370

Stories of the friendships formed so many years ago...

Kweh! Happy New Year everyone! What a year. Everything happened in such a whirlwind the last few months.

We are finally getting settled into the new Cultural Center. The gift shop has done well after the move. We would like to thank all the Senior Turtle Ladies for their hard work and patience with us getting it moved and set up. They are all so wonderful. There has been many visitors to the Center. Several who attended or worked at the old Seneca Indian School. They bring many stories to share of their experiences and this year’s Gathering. Lots of fun to look forward to.

Check it out!

ONLINE GIFT STORE

Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!

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

Convenient:
• Speed through checkout whenever you shop online.
• Pay with your credit card, debit card, or bank account. Your choice.
• No need to have or establish a PayPal account to purchase any of our products.
• No need to retype your financial information.

Secure:
• When shopping online you will never have to give your credit card number to us.
• 100% protection against any unauthorized payments sent from your account.
• All of your purchases are confirmed with an email receipt.
Superhero 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run

Celebrate our Superheroes that have been victims of crime during National Crime Victims’ Rights Week

**Date:** 04/08/2017  
**Time:** 8:00 AM  

**FREE REGISTRATION**

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/super-hero-5k-fun-walk-registration-31328978819

Wear your capes, tights, masks and costumes! Dress up as your favorite superhero or dress up as your own. Prizes awarded!

For more information or to register call:

**Contact person:** 918-678-2070