



The Turtle Speaks

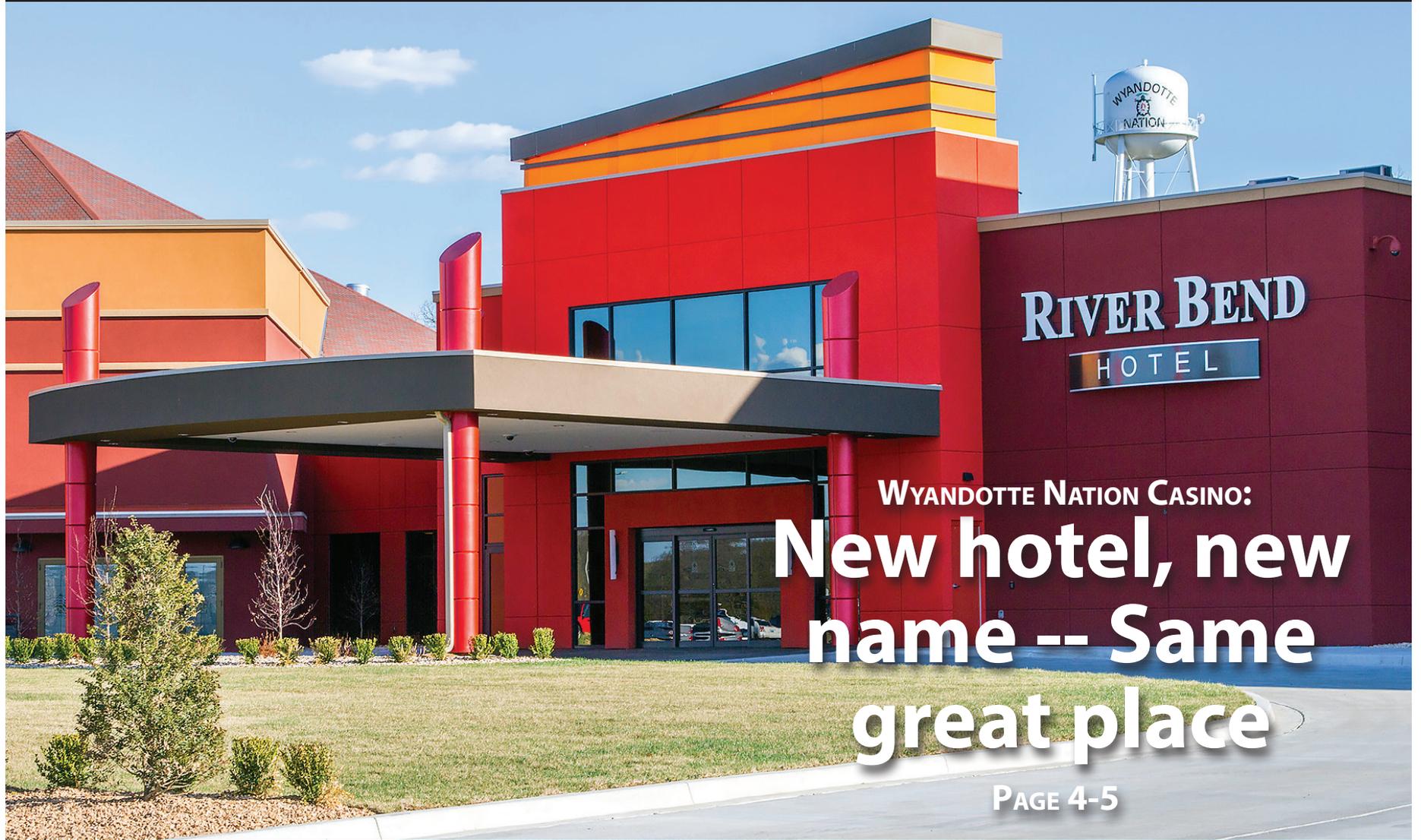
# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 21, Issue 2

[www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)

May 2017



WYANDOTTE NATION CASINO:  
**New hotel, new  
name -- Same  
great place**

PAGE 4-5

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

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## *Inside:*

- Heroes stand out at Strongman/5K
- Leaford Bearskin Preschool Pow-Wow
- 2017 Election Notice

## Board of Directors

Chief.....Billy Friend  
 Second Chief..... Norman Hildebrand, Jr.  
 Councilperson..... Ramona Reid  
 Councilperson..... Vivian Fink  
 Councilperson..... Juanita McQuiston  
 Councilperson..... Eric Lofland

## Content

Calendar of Events ..... 3  
 Election Notice ..... 3  
 River Bend Casino & Hotel opens... 4-5  
 Superhero 5K & Strongman event .. 6-7  
 Cultural Committee event details ..... 8  
 Preschool Pow-Wow ..... 9  
 Town Hall meetings wrap up ..... 9  
 Tribal Department Reports..... 10-15  
 Important Numbers ..... 14  
 Service Awards & retirements..... 15  
 Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow ..... 16

**Editor/Design:** William Swaim



**Cover Photo:**  
*The front  
 entrance of the  
 River Bend  
 Casino & Hotel.  
 Photo: William  
 Swaim*

## Contact Us

Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at [wswaim@wtok.org](mailto: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](mailto:wswaim@wtok.org)



From the Chief

Billy Friend

# Busy time for us

**“For the Lord giveth  
 wisdom: out of his mouth  
 cometh knowledge and  
 understanding.”**

--Proverbs 2:6

Once again, it is that time of year when we begin to see winter change to spring and spring to summer. It is at this time that we are reminded that change seems to be the one constant which we can consistently assume will occur. It is a time of growth of vibrant colors and vitality. The land around us awakens and everywhere plants and trees are in bloom. It should be an exciting time of year as we open our minds to the many possibilities before us and we give thanks for the blessings we have received.

It is a busy time for us here in Wyandotte as we begin to wrap up another school year, which will be highlighted by the graduation ceremony of our Turtle Tot students on May 8. We will then welcome over 150 children into our summer youth programs, which will offer fun activities for all of our youth throughout the summer.

In addition, May begins the 11th year of the summer intern program. We will welcome approximately 27 Wyandotte youth between the ages of 16-22 into

our workforce here at the tribal headquarters. It is an opportunity for our youth to not only work and earn an income, but also to learn about their Tribe and who we are, what we do and what is expected from them. It has been a great program for our youth and will benefit our nation for years to come.

On the political side of things, the election of President Trump has many of our tribal citizens across the nation concerned about the effect it will have on Native and especially Wyandotte people. As Wyandotte people, we have been down this road before. For over five centuries, we have survived numerous attacks on our homelands, persevered through two termination attempts, and withstood the assimilation and boarding school

policies of the federal government. In more recent times, we have fought past administrations', both democrat and republican, and their attacks on Indian country. We have been victorious through all! Since the new administration has not announced or taken any stance on Indian policies, we are looking forward to the opportunity to educate and labor together concerning Native rights.

Regardless of who is in office, we will continue to fight to protect our treaty rights and tribal sovereignty. Aside from politics or political persuasion, we are Wyandotte people who have the distinct privilege of being citizens of both the United States of America and the Wyandotte Nation - the two greatest nations in the world.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the tribal citizens in central and northern California and in Texas for attending our town hall meetings this year. We had a great turnout at each of the meetings and it is always great to see and hear from Wyandotte's across the country.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

# Town Hall meetings wrap up; A look back at our history



Kweh

Hello everyone I hope you are enjoying the spring weather. We have started mowing grass in March the earliest that I can ever remember. We had two town hall meetings this year, the first in Sacramento, Calif., and the second in Waco, Texas. There was a good crowd at each of the meetings. It is always a pleasure to see family and friends we have made at all the cities we visit, to bring news of what is going on at the Wyandotte Nation in our little corner of the state. Several of the tribal citizens I spoke with said they were

coming to the Wyandotte Nation in September for Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow, I will definitely be looking forward to seeing you then.

The new Cultural Center/Museum seems to be getting more visits all the time and the Senior Turtle Gift Shop is doing well also, be sure and check it out online for many bargains. All you Wyandotte Tribal Veterans please send us a picture of you in uniform and a description of what you did during your service to the country. "At this time I want to thank you all for your service." Without your sacrifice we would not

have the freedom we have today. Please send us those items so we can honor those that proudly served. If you haven't visited the museum, put it on your to-do-list when you visit the Wyandotte Nation, it's not only a unique design but the perfect medium to tell the history of our storied nation. Speaking of our history and the museum, there will be some exciting new things happening there, so that will be a good excuse to visit the museum in September during Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow.

See **Second Chief**, Page 3

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2017

## GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

JUNE  
23-25

## 28TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

SEPT.  
8-10

## THE GATHERING

SEPT.  
6-8

## ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT.  
9

ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## Notice of Annual Meeting &amp; Election

On Sept. 9, 2017 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting and Election at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The Election will begin at 9 a.m.

The purpose of the election is to elect the following positions:

**Chief****3 Board of Director members****3 Grievance Committee members**

The term of each position is four years. Current members shall hold their office until successors are duly elected and given their oath of office.

The opening date to file for candidacy is May 12, 2017 with the closing date June 12, 2017 at 4:30 p.m. All qualified members of the Wyandotte Nation who desire his or her name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Elective Office must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" in person with the Election Board Secretary or a designated representative at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office at any one time. All such filings of Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no sooner than May 12, 2017 and no later than June 12, 2017. No later than three days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board Secretary shall cause to be posted at the Tribal Complex a complete list of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy.

A filing fee of \$50 shall be assessed for each candidate filing for Chief and Board of Directors. \$10 will be assessed for Grievance Committee candidates. Each candidate for Elective Office shall be assessed these fees payable to the Wyandotte Nation by Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Money Order. These fees shall be used for election purposes. The filing fee shall be paid on the same date the prospective candidate submits his or her Declaration of Candidacy. Said filing fee is non-refundable.

**POLLING PLACE:** The official polling place for all Tribal Elections shall be the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Classroom, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The polling shall be opened from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. Any voter in line at the polling place but unable to cast a ballot before 11 a.m. will be allowed to finish voting. The polling place shall be staffed by at least two polling officials designated by the Election Board.

Each voter will be required to present a photo ID and Tribal Membership Card. If the Tribal Membership Card has a photo on it, this will satisfy both of these requirements.

**Rob Nesvold, Chairperson  
Wyandotte Nation Election Board**

## Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

Now for some history! Of native records, in the form of wampum belts, the Wyandots had a large store. The chief in speaking of this, as he remembered it before the division of the Tribe, affirmed that there were belts enough, if spread out, to cover the floor of a room 15 feet square. Peter Clarke makes special mention of them in his history, as contained in a large trunk, and as the object of peculiar solicitude. During the last decade of the 18th century they were placed in charge of a Wyandot chief, named Peter Brown, who was of purely English origin. He had been carried off by a Wyandot marauding party from a frontier settlement of Virginia, "on his way to school," at the age of eight years. He was brought to Michigan, adopted by a Wyandot woman, whom Clarke affirms to have been his own maternal grandmother.

"About this time," the king, or head-chief, of the Wyandots, Sut-staw-ra-tse [Sastaretsi] called a meeting at the house of Chief Adam Brown, who had charge of the archives, which consisted of wampum belts, parchments contained in a large trunk. One by one they were brought out and shown to the assembled chiefs and warriors. Chief

**"Develop success from failures. Discouragement and failure are two of the surest stepping stones to success." --Dale Carnegie**

Brown wrote on a piece of paper, and tacked it to each wampum belt, designating the compact or treaty it represented, after it had been explained from memory by the chiefs appointed for that purpose. Some of these belts recorded treaties of alliance or of peace with other tribes which were now residing in that region, and it might be of great importance for the Wyandots to be able to produce and refer to them. They also related to the title of the Indian lands in Canada, to the adoption of the Christian religion. Some of these belts recorded treaties of alliance or of peace with other tribes which were now residing in the region. I put this information in here for a reason, I mentioned earlier about exciting things happening at the museum visit us in June for The Gathering of Little Turtles or in September for The Gathering, Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow to see for yourself.

There is a lot of tension in Wash-

ington D.C. especially concerning Native Americans, when the government talks about cuts in the budget Native American programs are usually at the top of the list. "What happened to the trust obligation to the Tribes?"

We have two staunch advocates in Congress Tom Cole (Chickasaw) and Mark-Wayne Mullin (Cherokee) who have been big supporters in urging our government to keep their trust obligation to Native America. They are both Republican which will help in their cause. It would be good to see the political parties come together and work for the common good of the country, but I don't see that happening. I don't consider myself conservative or liberal, I am first and foremost an American and a proud Native American.

The confirmation of Judge Gorsuch as Supreme Court Justice and Ryan Zinke as Secretary of the Interior was good for Indian Country, especially with their background concerning Native Americans.

It will give us a strong voice on the Supreme Court in Judge Gorsuch, which Native Americans have never had before.

It is indeed an honor to serve the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation.

**Submit your News:** Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at

wswwaim@wtok.org. Or mail to: The Wyandotte Nation, 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370, ATTN: TurtleTalk

# River Bend Casino & Hotel opens

*New hotel addition,  
rebranding transform  
Wyandotte Nation Casino*

**By MELINDA STOTTS**  
*THE GROVE SUN*

*(Article used with permission  
and edited for this publication)*

If you think you've seen it or experienced it, go again. Sitting at the edge of Wyandotte on Highway 60, the Wyandotte Nation River Bend Casino has been renovated, renamed and expanded to include a new hotel.

Since April of 2007 when the doors first opened as the Wyandotte Nation Casino, the tribe has offered gaming, entertainment, and great food. Now with the addition of a new luxurious three story 92-room hotel with 6,000 square feet of conference space and meeting rooms and amenities, the River Bend Casino and Hotel offers a resort style getaway or business conference destination.

The \$10 to \$12 million hotel project will employ 25 people, according to Marketing Manager Casey Ellet.

What awaits inside are 92 beautifully decorated hotel rooms including six suites furnished with Sleep Number beds, full baths with double sinks and rain shower heads, bars and kitchenettes and a half bath in the living area.

A small fitness center on site offers workout equipment, or guests can shuttle to the nearby Bearskin Fitness Center.

The inviting lobby features a free-standing fireplace, reception and reservation desk area adjoining the casino.

The hotel is an ideal location for business meetings, conferences, conventions or workshops with the capability of offering four different configurations of spaces equipped with audio-visual equipment. The conference center rooms can seat 90 people



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(Above) The Turtle logo was the last addition to the hotel exterior during the construction phase. The three story, 92-room hotel also features 6,000 square feet of conference space and meeting rooms. (Below) Images from early on in the construction of the hotel to the nearly finished work on the exterior.





# River Bend

Continued from Page 4

with tables or can merge into a larger room that seats 180, without tables the conference space can accommodate up to 540 people.

The addition of the hotel situated to the west of the casino allows River Bend Casino to accommodate the many travelers who come to play, eat and enjoy live entertainment. The earthy color scheme, reminiscent of a brilliant Oklahoma sunset, is sleekly modern and fits with the scenic landscape of the area.

With all of these renovations, a name change had been considered for a few years to make the move to a more commercial rebranding. The River Bend naming honors the Wyandotte Tribe's removal and relocation to lands near the St. Lawrence River, then on to the Ohio River and the Sandusky River before settling in Wyandotte, Ok. Where the Spring River and Neosho River converge and flow into Grand Lake at Twin Bridges.

The hotel meeting rooms are named for the rivers the tribe has migrated through, according to General Manager Gary Johnson.

The River Bend Casino received



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
 (Top Left) The River Bend Casino & Hotel unveiling as well as the new sign. (Top Right) The lobby area, and furniture and art in one of the suites. (Above) The king room. (Right) Furniture and bar area in the suites, as well as the lighted mirror in the standard king and queen rooms.

a \$30 million recent expansion and dazzling makeover with an enlarged casino and added amenities including the Twin Bridges Restaurant, an entertainment venue and Club 60 West, and a bowling alley.

Live music is performed by local bands and singers onstage at Club 60 West such as the Big Smitty Band, Lickitty Split

and the StoneHorse Band with a variety of musical styles.

Slots, progressive video games, poker and blackjack tables are offered on River Bend's gaming floor.

The Twin Bridges Restaurant has expanded hours for breakfast and lunch to accommodate overnight guests. The restaurant also serves conferences, holiday

parties, and special events.

(THE ORIGINAL ARTICLE CAN BE FOUND ON GRANDLAKENEWS.COM)

[WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG/ONLINE-GIFT-STORE/](http://WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG/ONLINE-GIFT-STORE/)

## ONLINE GIFT STORE

Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!

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

Check it out!

**Convenient:**

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

**Secure:**

- When shopping online you will never have to give your credit card number to us.
- 100% protection against any unauthorized payments sent from your account.
- All of your purchases are confirmed with an email receipt.

# Strength. Resilience. Justice.

*Superhero 5K, Bearskin Strongman events held to help raise awareness during National Crime Victims Rights Week*

In a combined effort with the Wyandotte Nation Police Department and the Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center hosted the annual Superhero 5K and fun run.

This year's race theme was - Strength. Resilience. Justice - in observance of National Crime Victims' Rights Week (NCVRW) April 2-8. Kristi Johnston, Crime Victim Advocate for the Wyandotte Nation, spearheaded the event with great success. Not only was the turn out great, but Kristi had Lisa Arnold, a crime victim herself, speak about her specific situation.

In addition to the Superhero Run, Bearskin Fitness Center hosted the annual strongman/strongwoman competition. With more participants than ever, the day proved to be challenging for competitors in not only strength, but also stamina.

Events included hoisting 100-pound dumbbells overhead dozens of times, pushing 5,000-pound trucks up to 100 feet, deadlifting a police car 27 times, and a medley that included running with 400-pound wheelbarrows and carrying tractor tires.



Photos by William Swaim

## Strongman Results

### MALE

#### Heavyweight

- 1st Cody Watkins
- 2nd Chaston Brown
- 3rd Dusty Earl
- 4th Brendan Ragsdale
- 5th Brandon Halbach
- 6th Brad Rich
- 7th Scott Sullivan
- 8th Ryan McMullin
- 9th Jacob Bardt

#### Lightweight

- 1st Zeke Douthit
- 2nd DJ Burleson
- 3rd Scott Sullivan (Tie)
- 3rd Brandon Raple
- 3rd Derek Nichols
- 4th Terrence Rushing
- 5th Colton Stewert

### FEMALE

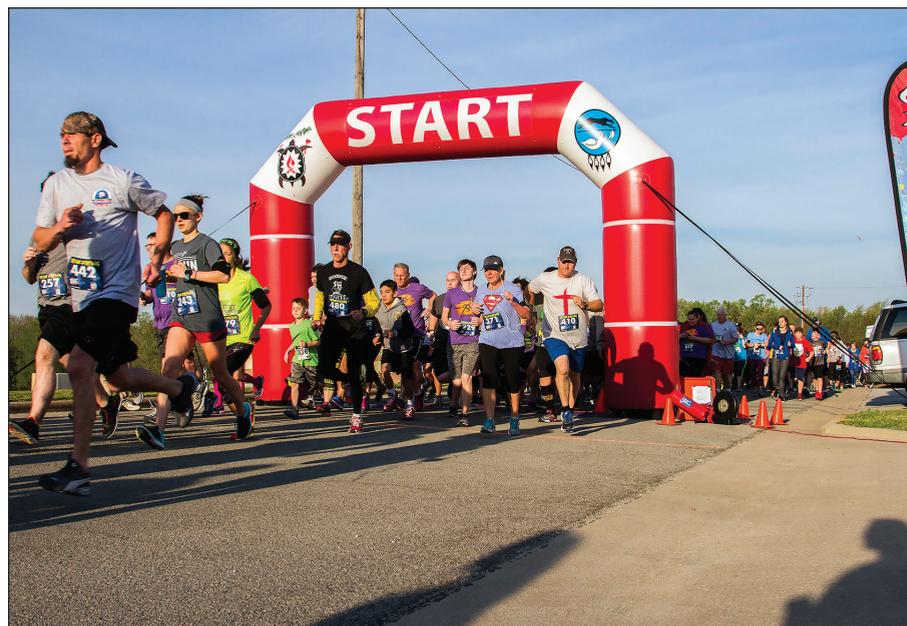
#### Heavyweight

- 1st Kristina Ockert
- 2nd Jes Williams
- 3rd Kristin Willey
- 4th Lacey Hickey

#### Lightweight

- 1st Jessica Brinkley
- 2nd Vicki Fleming





WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(Above Left) 5K runners sprint to the finish line after a large number of participants (above right) make their way through the bunched start.

## Race Results

**RANK / ATHLETE**      **TIME**

### Overall Male

1 **JOSE GARCIA**      0:18:30

### Male 1-4

1 BRODY JUDD      0:28:52

### Male 5-9

1 CLAYTON WEST      0:21:45  
2 OWEN HORTON      0:26:08  
3 ELIAH RIZO      0:31:04

### Male 10-14

1 IVAN GARCIA      0:20:39  
2 PEYTON SEBASTIAN      0:27:38  
3 DRAKE ROBERTS      0:28:03

### Male 15-19

1 JOSE GARCIA      0:18:30  
2 MATTHEW MENSINK      0:19:19  
3 WYLIE HUDSON      0:24:58

### Male 20-24

1 NATHAN RILEY      0:19:38  
2 VANCE WHITE      0:22:50  
3 MICHAEL CROCKETT      0:27:14

### Male 25-29

1 JEFFERY JUDD      0:28:50  
2 NICK BARON      0:35:05  
3 BEAU ETTESTAD      0:49:03

### Male 30-34

1 JOHN OCKERT      0:19:08  
2 NATHAN TAYLOR      0:21:47  
3 MICHAEL HART      0:30:32

### Male 35-39

1 ADAM PULLEY      0:23:11  
2 HUNG JEROME      0:26:11  
3 JOHNATHAN ANDERSON      0:27:49

### Male 40-44

1 DUSTIN SCHERTZ      0:23:24  
2 BRENT MCBRIAN      0:28:09  
3 PHILLIP SHAMBLIN      0:36:55

### Male 45-49

1 ROBERT BERRY      0:21:47  
2 MATTHEW ROBERTS      0:45:24  
3 TIM STONE      0:51:59

### Male 50-54

1 HERB YOUNG      0:26:43

### Male 55-59

1 GARY RHODES      0:28:42  
2 TOM PRUSATOR      0:30:40  
3 JOHN GOURD      0:32:28

### Male 60-64

1 JIM CREECH      0:26:31

### Male 65-69

1 RUSS RITCHHART      0:23:27

### Male 70-98

1 DON GOETTEL      0:39:31

**RANK / ATHLETE**      **TIME**

### Overall Female

1 **VICTORIA KLINE**      0:19:34

### Female 1-4

1 KEZLEE JUDD      0:29:40  
2 KATIE WEST      0:50:14

### Female 5-9

1 LYDIA RIZO      0:30:54  
2 SYDNEY DAYLIGHT      0:31:57  
3 AVA HORTON      0:36:47

### Female 10-14

1 JACI CLINTON      0:21:43  
2 KATHLEEN SCHERTZ      0:22:09  
3 KAYLEE JOHNSON      0:23:09

### Female 15-19

1 KENSY DAYLIGHT      0:24:47  
2 ANNA SMITH      0:27:02  
3 MALARIE THOMPSON      0:29:33

### Female 20-24

1 ELICIA BUNCE      0:22:52  
2 MOLLY CAUDILL      0:29:13  
3 REBEKAH GRANT      0:29:35

### Female 25-29

1 VICTORIA KLINE      0:19:34  
2 KELLY WIECZOREK      0:25:56  
3 AMANDA STILES      0:27:35

### Female 30-34

1 EMILIE GOULD      0:28:23  
2 CANDICE BROWN      0:28:24  
3 LISA BELL      0:29:04

### Female 35-39

1 KELLI CLINTON      0:28:40  
2 KRISTA WAKEFIELD      0:35:19  
3 JACKIE RIZO      0:40:43

### Female 40-44

1 KELSEY LEE      0:32:44  
2 ANDREA BERRY      0:33:03  
3 VICKY BROWN      0:35:06

### Female 45-49

1 ANGIE DOUTHIT      0:26:37  
2 SHARON HINES-ICE      0:29:42  
3 REBECCA SWINDELL      0:35:22

### Female 50-54

1 ARRAHWANNA LEAKE      0:40:50  
2 THERESA WORLEY      0:52:45  
3 DEBBIE BURKS      0:54:33

### Female 55-59

1 KATHY RITCHHART      0:22:44  
2 CONNIE GOODNIGHT      0:36:07  
3 MARY ELLEN FRITCHEY      0:43:41

### Female 60-64

1 PAT CREECH      0:34:12  
2 TRICIA JONES      0:58:28

### Female 65-69

N/A

### Female 70-98

1 CAROL CLAPP      0:37:44  
2 DONNA GARDNER      0:40:50  
3 TESSIE ROBERTS      1:03:49

## 2017 Gathering of Little Turtles Cultural Center

The following agenda is tentative and subject to change:

### Friday, June 23

12 – 12:30pm	Early set up at gym for those spending the weekend at lock-in
12:30 – 1pm	Check in at Cultural Center
1 – 1:30pm	<b>Welcome and introductions</b>
1:30 – 2pm	Tradition – Chief Billy Friend - Smudge
2 – 3pm	Environmental - TBA
3 – 4pm	Lacrosse
4 – 4:15pm	<b>Break</b>
4:15 – 5:15pm	Language with Dr. Steckley
5:15 – 5:45pm	Tradition – TBA
5:45 – 6pm	Evening Events Announcements and Q&A
6 – 6:15pm	Travel to Community Center. Those who are staying at lock in but have not set up can do so at this time.

**6:15 – 7:30pm** **Dinner** - Cook Out at Community Center  
**7:30pm – ???** Free Time -

**Suggestions:** Attending Peoria or Miami Pow-Wows. This will give you a chance to see some of our dancers in action. Splash Pad and swimming at fitness center (a parent must accompany those under 18) will also be available. The Gazebo by the community center and Pavilion by Splash Pad is available for those wishing to sit back and visit.

### Saturday, June 24

8:15 – 9am	<b>Breakfast</b>
9 – 9:15am	Morning Announcements
9:15 – 9:30am	Group Picture
9:30 – 10:30am	Dance Presentations
10:30 – 10:45am	<b>Break</b>
10:45 – 12:15pm	Social Dancing – Shawn King
12:30 – 1:30pm	<b>Lunch</b>
1:30 – 2pm	Family Services Presentation & Craft – Safe Talks
2 – 3pm	Language with Dr. Steckley
3 – 3:15pm	<b>Break</b>
3:15 – 4:45pm	The Arts – Pinch Pots/Medallion using clay
4:45 – 5pm	Evening Events Announcements and Q&A
5:15 – 5:30pm	Travel to Pavilion by Splash Pad
5:30 – 6pm	Splash Pad fun
6 – 7pm	<b>Dinner</b>
7pm – ???	Free Time -

**Suggestions:** Attending Pow-Wow. There will be two, Peoria & Miami. This will give you a chance to see some of our dancers in action. List of who and where will be provided that day. Splash Pad, Swimming at Fitness Center (a parent must accompany those under 18) Pavilion is available for those wishing to sit back and visit. The Community Center is closed due to a private event

### Sunday, June 25

8:15 – 9am	<b>Breakfast</b>
9 – 9:15am	Morning Announcements
9:15 – 10:15am	Language with Dr. John Steckley
10:15 – 10:30am	<b>Break</b>
10:30 – 12pm	The Arts – Beading
12 – 12:30pm	Tradition - TBA
12:30 – 1pm	<b>Closing/Goodbye</b>



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

At last year's Little Turtles event, youth painted tiles that were showcased at the new Cultural Center.

## 4th Annual Gathering of Little Turtles set for June 23-25

By DEBBIE DRY

CULTURE COMMITTEE CHAIR

The Culture Committee is gearing up for the 4th Annual Gathering of Little Turtles to be held June 23-25 in Wyandotte, Okla. Watch for upcoming information on the Nation's website ([www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)) or Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation)), for the Lacrosse camp to be held the week leading up to Little Turtles.

### 4th Annual Gathering of Little Turtles

Families, grandparents, aunts, uncles and elders, plan now to attend the 4th Annual Gathering of Little Turtles Friday through Sunday, June 23 – 25, starting at 1 p.m. Friday and ending at approximately 1 p.m. on Sunday.

The Gathering of Little Turtles is for all citizens with activities geared toward our youth, and will be held at the Cultural Center (located on the Southwest side of the Bearskin Gym).

Activities will start with welcome and introductions at 1 p.m. Friday, and will be a fun-filled weekend for all. Dr. Steckley and his wife Angie are returning to teach our language

and of course their animated stories. Many activities are planned, including, Lacrosse, pinch pots, beading and social dancing, to name a few. We will have a lock-in available for families to stay overnight Friday and Saturday nights.

Friday night we will once again have a cookout. Meals during the event will be provided to those attending the Gathering of Little Turtles, as well as T-shirts for all registered youth attending. This is a free event, open to citizens and their families of the Wyandotte Nation.

Registration is required to allow sufficient supplies and food for the weekend event. Registration will start May 1, on the [wyandotte-nation.org](http://wyandotte-nation.org) website. Register no later than June 3 to ensure T-shirts for youth and to be enrolled in all crafts classes. Those registering after the June 3, may not receive T-shirts, or some crafts may be limited. Please watch the Nation website for registration and the final agenda, starting May 1. If you have any questions, please email Marilyn Young at [Marilyn.S.Young57@gmail.com](mailto:Marilyn.S.Young57@gmail.com) or you may call Debbie Dry at (918) 678-6315 or Loretta Combes at (918) 678-6318.



## Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow

The Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow took place Monday evening, April 17, at the Wyandotte HS gym. The evening kicked off with Princess Emilee Wills signing 'The Lord's Prayer.' That was followed by the Grand Entry and introduction of Tribes. The Colors were presented by the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard. Mr. Michael Killer was the Host Drum. The kids performed the 'Tizameh' song, did Wyandotte 'Numbers' and then took part in a Round Dance as well as the Snake Dance and Buffalo Dance. The evening wrapped up with an Intertribal Dance where families came down from the stands to participate with the kids.



## Town Hall meetings wrap up California, Texas

In 2013, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend wanted to find a way to better reach tribal citizens outside of Oklahoma and bring information presented at the Annual Meeting to those unable to attend the Wyandotte, Okla., meeting.

The Wyandotte Nation then 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. The meetings continued in 2017.

This year the two meetings were held in Sacramento, Calif., Saturday, March 4 at the Hilton Sacramento Arden West and the second meeting was held in Waco, Texas, Saturday, April 1, at the Hilton Waco.

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

In addition, tribal citizens were also able to see the Pow-Wow dancing of Joshua Garcia and Sara Wright during a dance exhibition.

The 2018 meeting locations and details will be announced at a later date. Keep up with the latest information on these meetings as well as other Wyandotte Nation information on our website, [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) and/or our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](https://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation).



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Joshua Garcia, Princess Emilee Wills, Chief Billy Friend take time for a photo with tribal citizen Viola Tanner, 93, at the Sacramento Town Hall.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard,  
HR Director*

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is happy to welcome Rebecca Wright.



Wright

Rebecca will serve as an on-call Pharmacy Technician. Rebecca is a rehire for Wyandotte Nation and is a licensed LPN and currently pursuing her Bachelor's in Nursing. She has worked in clinics, hospitals, and LTC facilities and comes to us with 5 years' experience. In her spare time she enjoys camping, riding horses, reading, writing, sketching, dancing and Pow-Wows. She also enjoys spending time with her husband and children, and attending her kid's ball games and activities. We are very fortunate to have Rebecca on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Bearskin Fitness Center is happy to welcome back tribal citizen



Thomas

Stephanie Thomas. Stephanie will serve as the Fitness Center Youth Program Assistant in a seasonal position for her second summer. Stephanie has worked with Grove Public Schools for a total of 16 years. She loves spending time with her two daughters, family and friends. Teaching is exciting and being a positive role model is important to Stephanie. We are very fortunate to have Stephanie on our team and wish her much success in this position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is very happy to welcome Katelin Stepp as a Substitute. Katelin is currently attending Seneca



Stepp

High School and enjoys working with children. She enjoys show choir, singing, photography, acting, running, and spending time with her friends and youth group. Katelin likes to make people laugh or smile. We

are very fortunate to have Katelin to help out when needed.

Patricia Munson has joined our team as a Substitute for Title VI and Education. Patricia has previous experience working with children. Patricia enjoys spending time with her grandchildren. We are pleased to have Patricia and wish her much success in her new position.



Munson

The Facilities Department has a new seasonal staff member, Andrew Shyers. Andrew is from the Wyandotte area and enjoys coaching his nephews in sports. During his spare time, he enjoys fishing. We are very fortunate to have Andrew join us this year.



Shyers

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,  
Family Services Director*

The beautiful Redbuds and Dogwoods, as well as the sound of a lawnmower, are reminders that spring is in full bloom here in Northeast Oklahoma. With spring comes the time for planning of many events: The Gathering of Little Turtles, The Gathering, The Annual Meeting and Election, and of course, Pow-Wow! We are also gearing up for the Summer Intern program, the Summer Youth Culture program and Lacrosse camp.

Please be sure to watch the website and the Nation's Facebook page for additional details about these and other programs/events available.

An exciting announcement was made during the 2017 Town Hall Meetings. **Beginning July 1, 2017, the School Supply program will be available NATIONWIDE!** The expansion of this program will allow for every Wyandotte Nation enrolled child pre-K through grade 12 to be eligible for a \$100 reimbursement for school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. (See below for additional

## Assessing the danger of your relationship

Domestic Violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

It can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person.



### Assessing the Danger of Your Relationship

The following questions may help you examine how dangerous your situation is and how it is affecting your life. The number of "yes" answers does not necessarily indicate greater or lesser danger, but answering these questions can alert you to what you may already suspect about the danger of your situation. Remember: domestic violence can lead to death.

- Has your partner ever injured you so badly you needed medical attention?
- Does he seem preoccupied

or obsessed with you? (following you, monitoring your whereabouts, stalking)

- Have his assaults or abuse become more violent or brutal?
- Do you believe he may seriously hurt or kill you?
- Has he killed or hurt a family pet?
- Was your partner's last relationship abusive?
- Has your partner ever been charged with domestic assault?
- Have you separated or tried to separate from your partner in the last 12 months?
- Have you sought outside help because of the abuse during the past 12 months? (Order for Protection, shelter, police, counseling, support groups, alcohol or drug treatment)
- Do you feel isolated from sources of help? (no phone, family or friends)
- Does he have access to a gun?
- Has he ever threatened your life?
- Has he threatened violent retaliation if you leave?

If you feel you are in immediate danger call 911.

If you would like to speak with an advocate you can call the National Domestic Hotline at 800-799-7233 or the Wyandotte Nation Family Violence Prevention Program at 918-678-6324.

program guidelines). There will be some changes to the program for the 4-state area as well, so please be sure to read the application thoroughly. Feel free to contact a member of the Family Services staff if you have any questions.

In accordance with the Wyandotte Nation Constitution, the Annual Meeting will be held the second Saturday in September, which for 2017 will be Sept. 9. This is also an election year so tribal citizens will need to be sure to bring either their Membership card or Citizenship card to the meeting to be able to vote. Both of these cards include your roll number; the CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) card/certificate is NOT sufficient for voting, as it

does not provide proof of enrollment.

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 Rada-baugh, Family Services Assistant, 918-678-6329; and Tiffany Garner, ICW Social Worker/DV Advocate, 918-678-6324.

**LIHEAP** – Summer LIHEAP will be available July 1 for tribal citizens

Continued on Page 11

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House,  
Elder Services Director*

Greetings everyone! It looks like spring has finally arrived at last. We had a very good turnout this year for our Health Fair/Caregiver Spring Conference. We had 268 participants. We gave away two recliners and many nice door prizes.

Our beading class continues to grow. They meet every Thursday morning at 9 am.

We had a fun time at our Easter Party! Winners of the Easter bonnet contest were Katherine Foust and Iris Coons. April Jones found the prize egg. Judy Chancellor found the most eggs, and Charles Lofland and Fred Chancellor won the men's sexy leg contest.

We will be going to Branson, Mo., May 25, to the Grand Junction



(Above Left) Elders enjoy the Easter Party. (Middle) April Jones found the prize egg and Judy Chancellor found the most eggs. (Above Right) Charles Lofland and Fred Chancellor won the men's sexy leg contest.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Country Jamboree. Cost for the trip is \$27. Transportation and meals

will be provided.

We will be traveling to Rogers,

Continued on Page 12

### Continued from Page 10

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 NOTE THERE ARE CHANGES TO THIS PROGRAM: Applications will be available beginning July 1 on the Wyandotte Nation website, 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 and 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, 2017, no exceptions. **NEW REQUIREMENT FOR 2017:** 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** – Beginning July 1 applications will be available for \$100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Eligibility require-

ments: Age 55 or older, OK, MO, AR, KS resident. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30.

**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, 2017 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 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, 2017.

**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 can be picked up at the tribal office.

**Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare** – This program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families. 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.

**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 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. Keep in mind when purchasing vehicles that a tribal citizen's name MUST be on the title at the time of sale. Tax Commission staff cannot add or delete names.

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

**Burial Assistance** - \$1,500 to be paid to the funeral home or to the family representative if the funeral is paid 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 not limited to Wyandotte Nation citizens. Please contact Tiffany if you are in need of these services.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Education

**Submitted by Tammy Charles,  
Education Director**

Happy spring! As this issue of the Turtle Talk arrives in your mailbox, Wyandotte tribal citizens will be ending another year of their educational endeavors. Some will participate in year-end programs and be recognized for academic or athletic achievement, others will graduate from their grade level of instruction. Please remember that Wyandotte citizens have access to some very nice benefits to assist with their schooling.

The Preschool program will recognize another group of young children May 8. Nearly 40 children will graduate from preschool and transition to Kindergarten in the fall. The other students will be recognized for completing a year of instruction. Prior to wrapping up the end of the school year, we will participate in Week of the Young Child events and the Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow (see photos in this issue). We are accepting applications for the fall session of preschool that will begin Aug. 17, 2017. We are happy to announce that beginning in fall 2017, the preschool program will have a partner program with the addition of a 2-year-old class. Ten children will be admitted to this program.

We are also accepting clients on the childcare subsidy program. The program assists with childcare expense while the parents are in school or working. If you are interested in more information, please contact any of the education staff.

Our fast paced and event packed summer program will begin May 15. Now is the time to enroll your child/children in this program.

Scholarship deadline is May 1 for fall funding in 2017. Please submit the application in a timely manner



The preschool celebrates Easter with an egg hunt, decorating and opening goodies.

COURTESY PHOTOS



to allow administration to budget for the needs of tribal students. Undergraduate scholarship is \$2,250 per semester for up to eight semesters if all requirements are met. The master's program funds up to four semesters at \$1,500. Vocational funding is based on length and intensity of the course and the fees

associated. For high school students, we assist with college concurrent course expenses as well as AP exam fees.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act continues to serve Native American citizens from the Southeast Kansas or 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.

### Continued from Page 11

Ark., June 9 to the museum. The cost for this trip is still to be determined.

The Ottawa County Senior Day will be held June 21 at the Buffalo Run Casino. This year's theme is Renaissance. There will be a fashion show and crowning of a King and Queen. There will be many nice door prizes including two recliners and lots of games. There will also be health

screenings.

We, along with other area tribes, are planning a Senior Prom July 14 at the Seneca/Cayuga Complex.

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).

Music parties are still the second and fourth Thursday of each month.

Come out and play with us!

### Caregiver

The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month. Our meetings 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.

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

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

Seth Higginbotham, Teresa Wilson and Christopher Rhodes, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328 Menu, (918) 678-6326

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Housing

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director*

Spring is finally here, and with it is the use of the Heritage Acres Park. It is wonderful to see and hear the children playing in the park.

The plan is to open the Splashpad by May 15, weather permitting. Also, in the coming weeks you will see more construction taking place in the park. A smaller pavilion will be added as well as bathroom facilities.

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 in 2017 have already been reserved.

If you are interested in renting the facility, please contact the housing office.

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.

### 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

## Wright named new tribal princess



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Pictured from left, newly named Princess Sara Wright with current Princess Emilee Wills. Wills will be continuing in her role until September when Wright will be crowned at the annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.

## Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director*

Spring has sprung in Wyandotte, Okla.! All things new and bright.

We have a new Princess. Sara Wright has been chosen to fill the job since Emilee has retired.

Sara has been dancing most of 15 years of her life. Sara is the daughter of Tracy and Rebecca (Big Heart) Wright. She is enrolled at Wyandotte. Sara has traveled to several Town Hall Meetings and does dance

performances for the tribal citizens, always explaining her outfit and the meaning of her chosen dance (Fancy Shawl.) She will be crowned Saturday afternoon at this year's Pow-Wow.

I hope you will all support her in this new and exciting time in her life. We here at the Nation feel she will be a wonderful ambassador.

The year is moving along fast. Soon it will be time for "Little Turtles" so be watching for the schedule on the Nation's Facebook ([www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation)) and website ([www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)).

## Environmental

*Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental Director*

### January

This month has met us with unseasonably warm temperatures and has us with concerns of an abundance of ticks and mosquitoes this year.

The Natural Resources Damages activities concerning Tar Creek and The Tri-State Mining District have increased substantially and has found myself and Kathleen Welch devoting even more of their time to phone calls and meetings with other tribes, government and state officials.

On Jan. 17th they attended an EPA Stakeholders meeting at the Miami Civic Center to learn about the cleanup and reclamation activities that have been taking place. The Quapaw Tribe has been overseeing and performing the reclamation work within the Superfund site as is within their historic land boundaries. Wyandotte Nation is a stakeholder as we are a downstream tribe that have impacts of heavy metals from the superfund site.

Many local tribal residents may have been wondering what in the world is in the parameter fence on the corner across from the Turtle Stop Convenience store? On Jan. 19, the Inter Tribal Environmental Coalition (ITEC) delivered a mobile air monitor. This mobile air station is on loan to us for a year and is used to monitor the particulate matter in the air. We have wondered for some time, what kind of emissions from vehicles (semi-trucks, pickups, cars, etc) are being emitted into the air in our area. ITEC employees are taking care of the technical aspects of the project, and the information is uploaded to a data-base that we can access at any time.



COURTESY PHOTO

ITEC Mobile Air Station.

Continued on Page 14

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Important Numbers

### Police Department

Ken Murphy (918) 678-3100x12  
kmmurphy@wntpd.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, 918-678-6324, twebb@wyandotte-nation.org

### Tribal Social Worker

Tara Gragg (918) 678-6355  
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

### Human Resources

Deana Howard (918) 678-6320  
dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org

### Nutrition & Caregiver Services

Brenda House (918) 678-6327  
bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

### Education / Library / Child Care

Tammy Charles (918) 678-6330  
tcharles@wyandotte-nation.org

### Environmental

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

### Historical

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

### Planning / Development

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

### Housing

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

### Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

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

### Clinic Appointments

Linda Coatney (918) 678-3228  
lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org

Elaine Fidler (918) 678-3230  
efidler@wyandotte-nation.org

### Dental / Vision

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

### Pharmacy (call-in only)

(918) 678-3244

### Fitness Center

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

### Contract Health

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

### Diabetes Clinic

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

## Health

--Submitted by Kelly Friend,  
Director of Health Services

On March 30, I had the opportunity to take seven Native American youth to the N7 Youth Movement Field Day at Oklahoma State University. This event was a partnership between the Oklahoma State Student Athlete Advisory Committee and Nike's N7 Youth Movement.

This event was the third educational and active day for Native American students around the state of Oklahoma in the third through eighth grades.

Continued on Page 15



COURTESY PHOTO  
The students who took part in the N7 Youth Movement Field Day at Oklahoma State University recently, pose for a photo at OSU's football stadium.

Continued from Page 13

On Jan. 24, Janice Wilson attended the Grand Lake Watershed Alliance Council. Our department has been a member of the council for the past four years. The council meets on a regular basis to discuss projects and activities taking place within the Grand Lake Watershed, that could possibly impact our waterways.

### February

On Feb. 1 Janice attended a Water Data Exchange Meeting at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe Environmental Offices. There are five NE Oklahoma Tribes that share a data exchange mode in which water data and other information that is uploaded regularly. The water data is then uploaded to the EPA Data base.

On Feb. 16 Janice and Kathleen held an Environmental Education Class with the Turtle Tots Program. The topic of discussion was the effects of pollution has on our water. Kathleen found a recipe in a newspaper on how to make fake snow using baking soda and shaving cream. The recipe consists of 2 boxes of baking soda and 1 can of shaving cream, mix it together in a large bowl, let set for about 10 minutes and presto, snow! We used the fake snow to show the children the effects of pollution runoff from snow melting and flowing into our streams and waterbodies.

The children absolutely loved it!

### March

Ah, Spring is here! The leaves



COURTESY PHOTO

### Environmental Education Class.

are popping out on the trees, the dogwoods and redbud are in bloom. We've received several very nice much needed rain events. On March 16, Kathleen and Janice held a Rain Barrel Education Class at the Bearskin Health Center Storm Shelter. We had a good number of attendants and each received a 40 gallon rain barrel for attending the class.

On March 23, The Wyandotte Nation hosted a NAWMA & Water Operators Training at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center classroom. The training was given by Karen Conrad of Communities Unlimited, and was for water and waste-water operators as a recertifi-

cation for their Class "D" Operators License. There were 27 participants from tribes and local city municipalities that attended the training. Three employees from our department were in attendance, which were Kathleen, Janice and Scott Mills.

Our department continues to stay extremely busy with our regular scheduled duties such as seven monthly water monitoring sites, private well drinking water testing, septic assessments, and the daily operation of the Lost Creek Recycle Center.

### Meetings attended by staff:

NATURE, TECO, TCTC, Spring River WRAPS, and Grand Lake Watershed Alliance.

### Events

10th Annual Environmental Festival  
April 28  
Heritage Acres Park

### Tire Collection Event

April 24 - 28  
Lost Creek Recycle Center

### Services provided:

- Private Water Well Tests
- Septic Assessments
- Recycling Center

### Department Contacts

Christen Lee - 918-678-6341  
Kathleen Welch - 918-678-6335  
Janice Wilson - 918-678-634  
Jon Quick - 918-678-6352  
Scott Mills - 918-678-6386  
Lost Creek Recycle Center - 918-678-4001

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Kaiser retires after 25 years with Tribe

The Wyandotte Nation held a retirement party for Senior Advisor Ron Kaiser recently at the newly renamed River Bend Casino & Hotel.

Kaiser served 25 years with the Tribe and was key in helping the Wyandotte Nation develop its infrastructure in the area.

Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented Kaiser with an engraved knife as a retirement gift from the Tribe.



(Above) Chief Billy Friend, Board Member Ramona Reid, Ron Kaiser and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand at Kaiser's retirement party at the River Bend Casino & Hotel. (Right) Kaiser and his wife with the engraved knife presented to him by Chief Friend and Second Chief Hildebrand.



## Wyandotte Nation Service Awards

COURTESY PHOTO  
The Wyandotte Nation recognized employees Monday for their service: Dana Butterfield -- 20 years, Tammy Charles -- 15 years, Kim Harnar -- 15 years (Not pictured), Jan Graham -- 10 years, Tara Gragg - 5 years, Larry Hamilton - 5 years, and Herb McQueen - 5 years.



## Fidler retires after 10 years

COURTESY PHOTO  
Wyandotte Nation employee Roger Fidler retired after 10 years with the Tribe, serving as a Facilities Tech. A retirement reception was held in his honor. Roger was a very hard and dedicated worker and always had a smile on his face. Roger is looking forward to spending his retirement fishing and enjoying the outdoors.



### Continued from Page 14

The day consisted of field day stations that encouraged movement, play and fun. Special guest speakers included Burns Hargis, Oklahoma State University President, and Johnny Hendricks. Hendricks is an American mixed martial artist and

an accomplished former collegiate wrestler at Oklahoma State. He currently fights in the Ultimate Fighting Championship's middleweight division and is the former UFC Welterweight Champion.

The mission of the movement is: "To ignite a generation to be active, educated and connected with the power of community." N7 believes

that when a generation realizes their potential, future generations can feel the impact and be much stronger for it.

Events included football, basketball, wrestling, stickball, fancy dancing, soccer and Eagle Adventures.

According to the website, The Eagle Adventure program strives to improve the health and nutrition of

youth who are increasingly at risk of developing type 2 diabetes. Using the CDC's popular Eagle Books as a central theme and embracing traditions of Native American storytelling we aim to provide youth and their families with a vision of hope that diabetes can be prevented through dietary and physical activity changes.

28th Annual

# WYANDOTTE POW-WOW

September 8-10, 2017

## \$35,000



**In Prize Money**

Contests in all Categories

**Friday**  
8:00 p.m.

**Grand Entries**

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

**Sunday**  
1:30 p.m.



**16th Annual Veterans Honor Program**  
All Veterans Welcomed



## HEAD STAFF

Head Singer  
Head Man Dancer  
Head Lady Dancer  
Head Gourd Dancer  
Honor Guard  
Arena Director  
Head Judge  
Master of Ceremonies  
Northern Drum  
Wyandotte Nation Princess

Yellow Hammer  
Ricky Eaves  
Judy Fields  
Dude Blalock  
Wyandotte Honor Guard  
Sam Howell  
Jay Blalock  
Steve Kinder  
Red Land  
Emilee Wills

**Location: Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds**  
**5.2 miles East of Wyandotte, OK on Highway 60**

Host Motel: TBA