



The Turtle Speaks

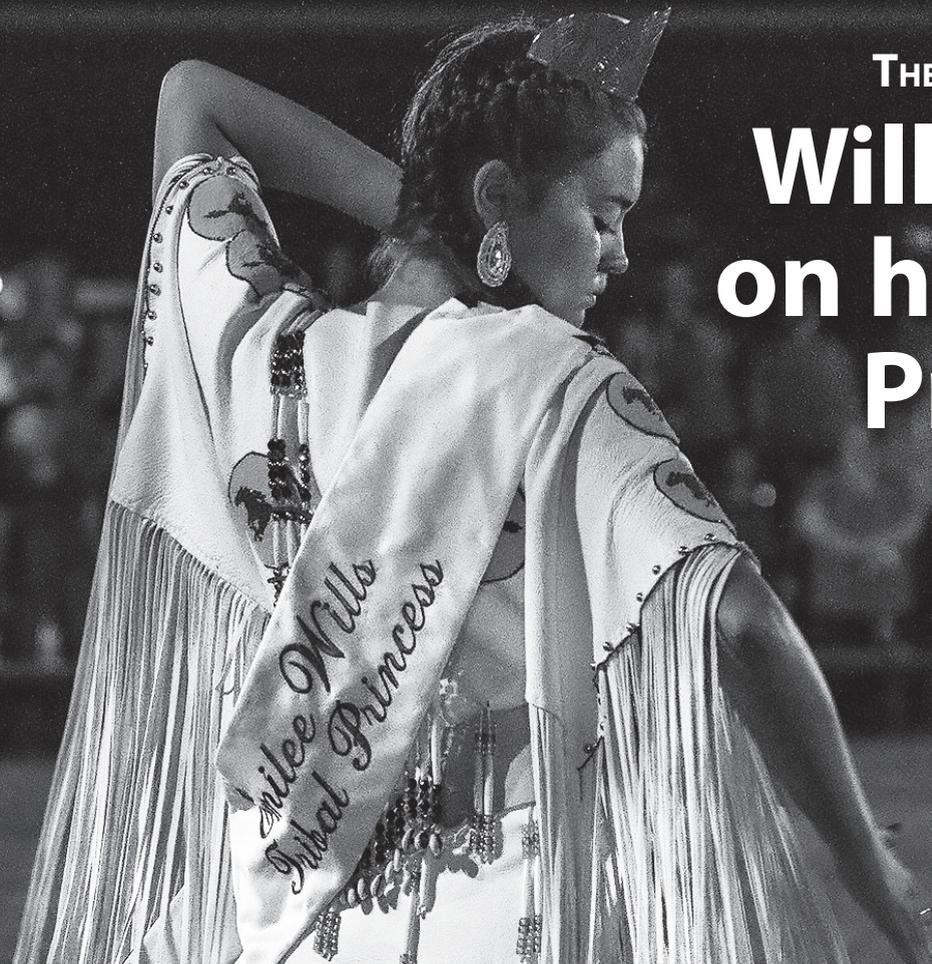
# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 21, Issue 3

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August 2017



THE PRINCESS DIARIES:

## Wills reflects on her time as Princess

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**Election Edition:** See Candidate Preview & Information You Need to Vote, Page 4

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### Inside:

- Gathering of Little Turtles growing
- Preschool Graduation
- Fireworks Display lights up sky

## Board of Directors

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

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**Editor/Design:** William Swaim



**Cover Photo:**  
*Princess Emilee Wills signing The Lord's Prayer.*  
 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 citizen 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 summer at Nation

Kweh,  
 I hope this quarter's Turtle Talk finds all doing well and enjoying their summer. As always, I would like to thank you for your support and to let you know that I consider it an honor and a privilege to serve you, as Chief of our great nation.

It has been a busy summer here in Wyandotte with our summer youth programs, intern program and with multiple projects being completed and even more under-way.

The intern participants traveled to Indiana at the end of July for the program's annual historical journey. The intent is to teach our youth more about their Wyandotte history. We have a great group of young men and women working with us this year and it makes me very confident that someday we will continue to be in great hands.

Construction has recently begun on the addition of more senior

**"Now the God of peace be with you all. Amen."**

--Romans 15:33

housing projects and should be completed by late fall or early winter. For more information about available housing, contact our Housing Department at the contact information located in this newsletter. In addition, we are in the process of completing improvement projects at our Heritage Acres Park, by adding an additional pavilion and more restrooms.

With a new administration assuming duties in Washington, D.C., it has been a very busy time for our staff here the last several months. Our Wyandotte Nation employees have done an excellent job of tracking all available funds through the current budget year and trying to prepare for some possible cuts in funding for the

2017-2018 fiscal year. We always pray for the best and prepare for the worst and fortunately we have a great group of people working for all of our citizens who are always prepared to do what it takes to get the job done.

In closing, I would like to encourage every tribal citizen that can attend to participate in our Annual Meeting, Cultural Gathering, and Pow-Wow coming up in September. Our Cultural Committee and Pow-Wow Committee have been working very hard on this year's events and have some great things in store for those who attend.

We will also be having an election this year. Be sure to exercise your right, as a Wyandotte citizen, and vote in this year's election.

For more information about these activities be sure to visit our website at [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) or our Wyandotte Nation citizens Facebook page.

## From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

# Unfilled positions at BIA could have impact on Indian Country



Kweh  
 I hope this article finds everyone well and enjoying the summer. For those who do not live here in Oklahoma, we are experiencing our hottest time of the year and with high humidity, 95 degrees feels like 105 degrees. Oh well, it is what it is.

I am the Alternate Vice-President of the Eastern Oklahoma Area in the National Congress of American Indians. They are an advocacy organization founded in 1944 that has a permanent presence in Washington, D.C. Every legislation that goes through Congress that concerns Native Americans, Alaska Natives, and Hawaiian Natives, this organization will either advocate for or against it depending on the purpose of the legislation and the affect it will have

on Indian Country.

In June we had the Mid-Year Conference of NCAI in Connecticut, since Congress was still in session there were not any Congressman present but there were a few representatives from some of the departments. Ryan Zinke, the newly appointed Secretary of the Interior, was present and gave a few remarks about plans for his department. They want to reorganize the Bureau of Indian Affairs; as of now your guess is as good as mine to what extent the reorganization will have when it comes to doing business with the BIA. Anybody that has ever been involved with the Federal Government knows that they do not get in a hurry to do anything, so time will tell.

There are about 200 positions

within the Federal Government that have not been filled yet and these are positions that must be appointed by the President and approved by Congress. There are key positions in the BIA such as Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs that has not been appointed yet. The 2018 Budget proposed at this time will definitely have a negative impact on Indian Country. Most of the cuts will affect our Tribal youth and elderly. What this administration needs to remember is that they have a trust responsibility to uphold.

The last week of June, I attended the Housing Conference in Nashville, Tenn. There is definitely a need for

See **Second Chief**, Page 3

## UPCOMING EVENTS

2017

## THE GATHERING

SEPT.  
6-8

## ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT.  
9

## SCARECROW RUN

OCT.  
14

## 28TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

SEPT.  
8-10

## WALK WITH EASE

OCT.  
12

## 16TH ANNUAL HEALTH FAIR

OCT.  
20

ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

## Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

housing and housing rehabilitation in Indian Country, but the reauthorization of NAHASDA and continuing Community Development Block Grants is vital to the future of housing programs.

There are several projects going on at the Wyandotte Nation. We are expanding the park at Heritage Acres and building two more elder duplexes as you will hear about in the Housing article. We will be widening the entrance and road just West of the new River Bend Hotel and Casino to accommodate large trucks making deliveries to the facility. We are also putting in a water line along Stateline Road at the border of Oklahoma and Missouri to provide good water to some of our Wyandotte Citizens living there to take the place of their wells that have gone bad. This project was made possible by an Indian Community Development Block Grant, which the new administration wants to eliminate. This would be devastating to Indian Country.

Now for some history, this letter was written May 8, 1810, to Gov.

**"We are made wise not by the recollection of our past, but by the responsibility for our future."**

*--George Bernard Shaw*

Huntington of Ohio by the Wyandotte leaders at Upper Sandusky. Things were not good on the Wyandotte Reservation because the threat of war was in the air:

"His Excellency, Governor Huntington... Dear Sir, Father, we the Chiefs and warriors, your Children, salute you, and we take this opportunity to let you know that some of your people have encroached upon our lands. It is probable that you have heard nothing about it; they have been surveying and measuring out lands on this side of the line. Now Father, we apply to you for assistance. We understand that you are appointed to govern, rule and correct the people of this state. We have heard pious counsel and had this matter under consideration. You remember the treaty of peace concluded at Greenville that we

should consider the United States people as our Father, and we are to be considered by them as their Children. We hope that the Great Spirit will keep this good peace in our hearts. Our Father told us at the treaty that those of his people living near us should see and take care that no person or persons should meddle with or encroach upon our Lands. Our Father told us that his people are a very greedy people, and he said that a trader would come and sit down with you, and after a while perhaps he will be looking at the land, and a little after perhaps he will ask for a little to plant on. Our Father told us to tell them "No" and if any one came to trade without License we should let our Father know of it. The reasons we have written to you upon this matter, we understand that you are to take care of your people to the line and if they transgress you are to correct them. Father, we would wish to go in to see you ourselves, but we hear that the small pox is about, and we are afraid. This is the reason we write to you. Father, I am very sorry I could not go in. If I had went, I could have related the whole treaty to you, but I

have only sent these few lines to let you know these matters of importance and great concernment to us. We would wish you to send out two papers with orders upon them for those people not to encroach upon us, one for your Children at this place and one for your Children at Scioto to show and convince the people that it is contrary to law to meddle, settle or survey land over the line. Father, we your Children salute you with our compliments. May the great Spirit bless and assist our Father and we his Children that we may live together in peace."

The letter was signed by Chief Tarhe as well as Tanamaranak, Scoentiah, Yaraptajah, Tehiyanyah, Rshanah, Scolash, and Teizue. A very interesting letter and of course we all know what happened a couple of years later: The War of 1812.

There was a time when no one wanted to be Native American, and now everyone wants to be. That is due to the success achieved by so many tribes across this great land, to be a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation is not an entitlement but an honor that was passed down to us by our ancestors that should be cherished forever.

Tizameh!

**Submit your News:** Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at [wswaim@wtok.org](mailto:wswaim@wtok.org). Or mail to: The Wyandotte Nation, 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370, ATTN: TurtleTalk. We want to hear from you and give you a chance to share your news with other tribal citizens.

## Qualified Election Candidates

### CHIEF

Billy Friend

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Janice Wilmoth

Ramona Reid

Juanita McQuiston

Eric Lofland

### GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE

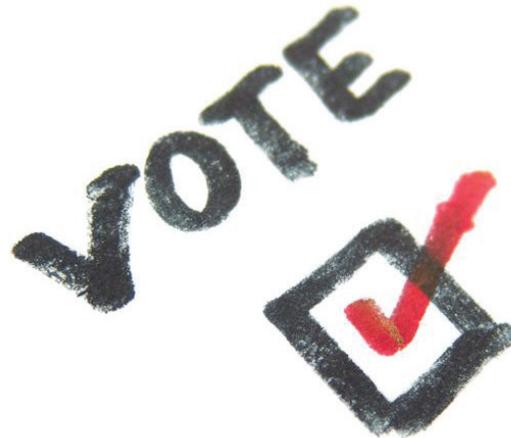
Catherine Hitchcock

Darlene Trimble

Derald Clemons

-- Rob Nesvold,  
Election Board Chairman,  
Wyandotte Nation

# Election Sept. 9 at Annual Meeting



The Wyandotte Nation will hold their Annual Meeting and Election on Saturday, Sept. 9, 2017. The Election will take place from 9am to 11am at the Bearskin Health Care and Wellness Center classroom. You must be in line by 11am in order to vote.

*Wyandotte Nation Citizens will be required to show their Membership/Citizenship card and a picture ID. If you have a Citizenship card with a photo this will meet both criteria.*

*The Annual Meeting will begin at 10am and be held in the gymnasium of the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center.*

## Eric Lofland

My name is Eric Lofland and I am a proud member of the Wyandotte Nation. I have served the people of the Wyandotte Nation for the past seven years on the Board of Directors. I am a graduate of Wyandotte



Lofland

High School, and have lived in Wyandotte my entire life. I have a Bachelor's Degree in Business and a Minor in Ag Economics from Oklahoma State University. I have worked the past 15 years as an Insurance and Financial Agent at Tristate Insurance.

When I was in high school I had the chance to work in the summer youth program. I got to see firsthand how great the Tribe was run and the great employees we have. The last seven years serving on the Board of Directors has been a great experience. I truly believe the Wyandotte Nation has the best tribal members and employees of any tribe. With my current employment as an Insurance and Financial Agent, it has allowed me to be free for any tribal business that is required of me. I have greatly enjoyed serving the people of the Wyandotte Nation, and hope you will give me the opportunity to continue serving on the Board of Directors.

## Ramona Reid

Born in 1935 in Quapaw, Oklahoma, I moved to California in 1941 with my dad's parents, when my mother died.



Reid

In 1947 dad remarried. I graduated from Huntington Beach, Calif., and in 1959 married a service man. Our son Rory was born in 1960, we moved to Seattle, Washington area in 1961, then to Oahu in 1962. In 1963 our daughter Rami was born. We moved to Tacoma, Wash., then to Washington D.C. in 1967-1969. After that, we moved back to Long Beach, Calif., then to Big Bear, Calif., in 1988, then to Wyandotte, Okla., in 1996. We bought property and built a log home, 4 miles south of town on Grand Lake.

I've really enjoyed getting to know my family, and more about my Wyandotte Nation.

## Janice Wilmoth

Hello, I am Janice Wilmoth. I am seeking a position on the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors. I have lived in the Fairland area most of my life. I am a retired schoolteacher of 37 years, and most of my teaching career was in the Fairland School System.

I was married for 50 years to David Wilmoth. He passed in January of 2016. We had three sons: Greg Wilmoth of Waco, Texas, and Rusty and Randy Wilmoth of Fairland. I have eight grandchildren and two great grandchildren. I also have three sisters and four brothers.

I previously served on the Tribal Board from 1990-2002. I welcome an opportunity to return to the Board and make a positive impact on our Tribal community.

My years as an educator have taught me to be a strong communicator, an effective facilitator and a life-long learner.

If elected, I will work diligently with the rest of the Board to ensure our Tribe continues to succeed and always strive to reach its potential.

## Juanita McQuiston

Born near Wyandotte, Okla., to Palma Mae (Ellison) and Grover E., Juanita's family moved to Pawnee, Oklahoma where Juanita grew up and attended school before moving to Wichita, Kansas. While in Wichita, Juanita went to work in an aircraft plant. Returning to Oklahoma, she met and



McQuiston

married Leon McQuiston. They were married over 70 years before his passing. They have four children, Carol Rentfrow, Oresa King, Leon McQuiston Jr and Anita Vandiver.

Juanita has served on the Board of Directors for many years, serving during the terms of Chiefs: Leonard Cotter, Mont Cotter, Sonny Peacock, Leaford Bearskin and Billy Friend. Juanita also served as the Tribal Historian, and volunteered at least two days per week towards researching and compiling Wyandotte Tribal historical information.

In addition to serving on the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors, Juanita has also served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Northeast Oklahoma Five Tribes Council, Grievance Committee for the Inter-Tribal Council, as well as Wyandotte Nation and completed interviews with Tribal citizens as a field interviewer.

Juanita was Instrumental in persuading the Tribe not to sell the Tribally-owned Huron Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas.

## Don't Forget:

- Membership/Citizenship Card
- Picture ID



## Fireworks Display

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual Fireworks Display Monday, July 3 at the Pow-Wow grounds. Those attending had a chance to enjoy delicious food and treats from area vendors, hear great music from The Diversity Band (Right), and enjoyed a fireworks show (Above, Left) to conclude the evening.



## IN BRIEF

### Tribal Artisan Showcase

**Three age divisions:** Golden years (ages 55 and over), Adult (20 to 54 years) and Youth (ages 19 and under). **Categories include:** Naturals, Textile, Art, Beading, Leather Items, Baskets, and Silver smith.

For more details on the Tribal Artisan Showcase, check out our Facebook page, [www.facebook.com/wyandottenation](http://www.facebook.com/wyandottenation) or website [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org).

### Honor Guard looking at starting Junior Warrior Program

The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard is exploring the opportunity to create a Junior Warrior Program.

Participants can be either male or female, ages 12-17. The program will focus on mentoring of youth by using discipline, respect, tradition and community service. Participants will be asked to participate in a weekend training event and then support the Honor Guard at Pow-Wows and other ceremonies.

Members will be required to participate in quarterly community service events. Ribbon shirts and other items will be supplied at no cost to the participants.

We are looking for young people who have a strong desire to give back to the Nation and who will be good role models for their fellow youths.

For more information or to volunteer contact Dave Culver at [dculver1740@yahoo.com](mailto:dculver1740@yahoo.com).



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# Gathering of Little Turtles seeing continual growth

**BY WYANDOTTE NATION  
CULTURAL COMMITTEE**

The 4th annual Gathering of Little Turtles was held the weekend of June 23-25 at the Cultural Center. This event continues to grow each year. This year we almost doubled attendance from the first Gathering. We had 48 youth attend over the three days. Add in parents, the cultural committee, and helpers, and we had a full house. Five different states were represented: Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Arkansas, and Texas.

The weekend was full of activities, learning, and visiting. On the agenda: language, environment, lacrosse, dance, crafts, tradition, history, and special presentations. The weekend was packed with activities that it would take the entire Turtle Talk to tell and share pictures.

The weekend started with welcoming everyone. The Lord's Prayer was spoken in Wawatwam by Kim Garcia. The activities started off with Chief Billy Friend speaking about smudging. Chief spoke about what smudging is, why we smudge, and how to smudge. A smoke ceremony took place as three of our female citizens came in their traditional regalia to have smoke. Regalia should be smoked to be blessed before using. Viki Meader-Keffer and Brenda Lamb came in their traditional dress and Allison Benson in her new Fancy Shawl regalia. All three were beautiful. After Chief smoked their regalia, everyone was welcome to come forward and smudge. For many of our little turtles, this was their first experience in smudging.

Dr. John Steckley traveled from Canada and wowed the kids each day with his special talents for teaching our native language. Watching the kids' eyes and facial expressions, you knew they were having fun. Several, when asked 'what is your favorite part of coming to Little Turtles,' they answered, 'language.' You know when you see a Facebook post after the Gathering of three young brothers reviewing and practicing



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
**Allison Benson shows the Fancy Shawl dance during the Gathering of Little Turtles. (Pictured Right) Pinch pots were one of many crafts the youth worked on during the weekend.**

their words and its summer time, someone inspired them.

You can't have a Gathering of Little Turtles without lacrosse. Tyler Foote came to help with the Turtles Lacrosse Camp and stayed to work with those attending Little Turtles. Many of these kids are not of age to attend the camp and can't get enough of lacrosse. Throughout the weekend, anytime there was a brief break in activities you could find them grabbing a stick and out they went.

On Saturday, Jacey Holcomb, Allison Benson, and Caleb Garcia demonstrated their pow-wow dancing talents. Jacey is a jingle dancer and this is her 2nd year of competing. Jacey spoke about the dance, her dress, and gave a short presentation of the jingle



style dance.

Next came Allison, our newest Wyandotte dancer, who does Fancy Shawl. Sara Wright, who is also a fancy shawl dancer, assisted Allison by telling about Allison's regalia. Allison also gave

a dance presentation where she twirled and twirled around the room so quickly, it makes you wonder how she didn't fall down.

Finally up was the ever-popular

# Area youth enjoy the Creator's Game at camp

By **LLOYD DIVINE**  
CULTURAL COMMITTEE

Anticipation was high for the 3rd Annual Turtles Lacrosse Camp. More than 40 youth registered for the four day camp and turnout was good with about 27 athletes attending each day. As usual, the coaches from the Eastern Michigan University lacrosse team were full of energy and anticipation even after driving nearly the whole of a day from Ypsilanti, Mich. Tyler, Brian, Alec, Travis, Andrew, Luke, and Matt, known by our Wyandotte kids as the coaches, were just as entertaining to watch as the kids who came to play and learn lacrosse.

This year the girls outnumbered the boys and their skills, not to mention their competitiveness, was impressive and deserving of praise. The coaches were very impressed and Brian stated,

“Some of these kids are just as skilled at playing lacrosse as our team players back at EMU.” Tyler went on to say if our Wyandotte kids were to continue playing lacrosse the game could take them to college. Many local universities are actively expanding their lacrosse programs and are looking for kids with talent and experience, with scholarships as their reward.

Moms and Dads, we encourage you to encourage your kids to play the Creator's Game – lacrosse. There are hopes and plans to bring a new lacrosse league to Northeast Oklahoma. Where better to have a lacrosse league than in the heart of Indian Country with nine resident tribes in Ottawa County? Look for news of the league in coming months.

The Turtles Lacrosse Camp ended Friday morning with a spirited game between the Green



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Lacrosse camp participants close the camp out with an intense scrimmage.

and White teams. As is typical in Oklahoma, rain and thunderstorms were everywhere except in Wyandotte. The rain skirted the field and game play was exciting from the beginning to end. Only one point separated the two teams when the final quarter ended.

It was a great week of lacrosse, brown bag lunches, and enduring friendships. We can hardly wait for next year and another great week of playing lacrosse at the Turtles Lacrosse Camp. A big *tižameh* to everyone who made the camp a huge success.

## Little Turtles

Continued from Page 6

Caleb, our fancy bustle dancer. Caleb spoke about his style and regalia, then showed off his fancy footwork. After catching his breath, Caleb spoke briefly about gourd dancing - giving the Little Turtles and the adults insight about gourd dancing and protocol.

After the dance presentations Shawn King arrived and had everyone up on their feet for some social dancing. Dances included round, buffalo, snake, two-step, and friendship. It's always lots of laughter, smiles, and fun when Shawn comes to the Gathering. The snake and two-step appeared to be the favorites.

Protecting and respecting the Earth is how our ancestors lived and a tradition that should never be altered or lost. Kim Garcia discussed with the youth various ways to protect the Earth including not only recycling paper and plastics but how many things can be repurposed and still be useful

rather than throwing it away.

What better way to inspire our youth than to give them a task of presenting to a group. Family Services Summer Intern Jennifer Goodman took on the task of presenting the Family Services Safe Talks to the adults and teenagers attending while the younger youth discussed the importance of talking sticks and created their own.

The Safe Talks was about human trafficking. It is not just in poor areas of large cities. It is happening everywhere, even in small country towns. Jennifer not only provided statistics and many tips on what to look for, but ways to help keep family and friends safe. If you want information about this growing problem, need assistance or know someone who may be in potential danger, please contact Family Services.

Addison Butcher, who is just going into high school, also accepted the challenge and took on the task of telling how Wy-

andottes started in Canada and ended in Oklahoma. Addison picked out a few Chiefs that are not often talked about and spoke of their importance to our history. As many of us know, our history is not the easiest to understand, so to do a history presentation takes a lot of studying.

Both of these young women did a superb job and no doubt will be called upon in the future to use their skills.

In addition to the talking sticks, other crafts the Little Turtles got to do was beading and pinch pots. Kim Garcia and Brenda Lamb, both excellent beaders, assisted the kids in making necklaces. Lloyd Divine took on a different role than normal and taught the kids how to make a pinch pot.

As you can see it was a full packed weekend and this didn't cover everything. Other activities included a cook out, time at the splash pad with pizza, a fabulous breakfast, local pow-wows,

and just hanging out visiting old friends and making new friends.

The Gathering of Little Turtles gives our youth a chance to build friendships that will last a lifetime, a chance to learn about the great Nation they are a part of, to know they are Wyandotte and, like their ancestors, they can overcome any downfalls life throws their way. Gathering of Little Turtles is another path to preserving the future of our past.

To attempt to acknowledge and thank every person it took to put on the Gathering of Little Turtles is next to impossible as it takes a Nation to make this weekend event happen. It is not just the Cultural Committee, but many of the Nation's employees, our Chiefs, Board of Directors, volunteers, tribal citizens, and even spouses. Without the additional help, and most of all the parents who were able to bring their Little Turtles, this annual event would not be possible.

*Tižameh* to all.

# Our rich history:

## *The Wyandots — well assimilated — were sadly victims of Indian Removal Act*

By **STEVE PRESTON**

SPECIAL TO NKYTRIBUNE, REPRINTED  
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In 1843, Cincinnati's public landing was a bustling place of business and human interaction. These 10 acres of land were at the heart of the business district in the 1840s. Shopkeepers and their customers shared the landing with those loading or unloading cargo from docked boats. Other citizens embarked and disembarked from the boats as passengers. Over 5,000 steamboats moored here during a season. Two of those steamboats, the Nodaway and the Republic, were docked for a special purpose.

In 1830, the United States government passed the Indian Removal Act. The landscape east of the Mississippi was no longer wild. Manifest Destiny was starting to pull the nation farther west. Any Native-American tribes still east of the Mississippi were facing forced relocation to lands on the other side of the river. The Shawnee, Seneca, Ottawa, and Wyandots of Ohio were no exception.

Many Shawnee had migrated out of Ohio during the American Revolution. In 1832, little more than 500 Shawnee remained in Ohio. The population was mostly split between Black Hoof's Town, near Wapakoneta, and Quatawapea's or Colonel Lewis's, group in Lewistown. Colonel Lewis favored resettlement, while Black Hoof preferred accommodation and adapting to white culture. In the end, neither faction had control over their situation. They were both forced to settle on lands in present-day Kansas and Oklahoma. The remnant members of the Ottawa and Seneca accompanied the Shawnee westward.

By 1843, the Wyandot were the only tribe to remain within the boundaries of Ohio. To say the Wyandot successfully assimilated is an understatement. The tribe had grown prosperous in



The Cincinnati Public Landing. From: Charles Cist, Cincinnati in 1841. Wyandot Mission.

agricultural activities. Some were among the wealthiest landowners in and around their reservation in Upper Sandusky.

The Wyandot reservation on the Upper Sandusky was lined with over a hundred log homes. A grist mill also operated on the property. They had embraced Christianity, allowing for a Methodist mission to be built on their land. Names were changed to Christian names. Many began to dress in accordance with the white man's fashion. A Federal Inspector to the reservation even touted them as a success in civilizing the tribes. Women of Steubenville, Ohio had gone so far as to use the only means at their disposal, the right of petition, to voice their displeasure with the federal government's policy of removal. Yet all of these attempts were for naught, as the Wyandot lands were deemed, "too good for Indians."

The Wyandot managed to stave off removal from 1831 to 1843 by outright refusal, by negotiat-

ing with the federal government for a better price for their land, and also by deliberating for their resettlement site west of the Mississippi. The final straw came in late 1841 with the murder of their beloved chief, Summunde-wat. The chief and his immediate family were murdered by whites while off reservation land.

Further, it became painfully obvious to the Wyandot that the federal government would not protect them on reservation land. In fact, after the murder, a government representative showed up and asked them to consider relocation once again. Timing was of the essence.

For the next 11 months of 1842, the Wyandot and the federal government went back and forth to try and reach an agreement for terms of relocation. In the end, the Wyandot agreed to leave their 100,000-acre reservation in Upper Sandusky. In return, the tribe received almost the going rate for land in Ohio, unheard of for "Indian land." The

Wyandot also received money to upgrade their new reservation land in the West, and an annuity of over \$17,000 annually. Through their persistence and business acumen, the Wyandot received the largest removal package of any Ohio tribe.

Over 100 wagons and some 300 horses were collected so more than 600 Wyandots could begin their journey west. Plagued by alcohol peddlers morning, noon and night, and by unsatisfactory weather conditions, it took the tribe one week to reach Cincinnati. As they made their way, whites turned out in every town to behold the spectacle of the long line of Wyandots passing through. Despite the crowds and the weather, the Wyandots successfully reached Cincinnati.

At the Cincinnati public landing, the Nodaway and Republic awaited them, as did curious whites who had to be escorted

# History

Continued from Page 8

off the boats so that the Wyandot could come aboard. The steamboats' captains removed all refinements on ship and put them in storage, out of fear that the Wyandot would ruin them. Almost immediately upon boarding, a young child and a 103-year-old Wyandot died. On the last night at the landing, an inebriated Wyandot fell off one of the boats and drowned. These were not the harbingers of a peaceful journey ahead.

On July 21, 1843, the steamboats pulled from their moorings for the Wyandots' journey west. As they reached North Bend and the tomb of William Henry Harrison, the engines were cut, the Wyandot lined the decks, and the Nodaway's cannon fired a salute. The Wyandot chief, Henry Jacques shouted; "Farewell Ohio and her brave." The boats' engines started and the steamboats churned west, as the Wyandots caught the last glimpse of what had been their home for over 100 years.

The story of Native-American removal from Ohio is one that is often overshadowed by the Cherokee and their "Trail of Tears." The removal of the Ohio tribes, however, was just as tragic. Poor logistical planning, shortages of supplies, lack of suitable land in the West, and conflicts with the tribes native to the resettlement area, all proved deadly and disastrous for tribes removed westward.

Heritage Village Museum and Public History students of Xavier University, have partnered to tell this sad story. "Exiled: Ohio's Indian Removal," is an exhibit that recounts the story of the Ohio's tribes' forced relocation west of the Mississippi River. The Village and exhibit are open Wednesday-Saturday, 10am-5pm. and Sundays, 1-4pm.

**-- Steve Preston is the Education Director and a Curator of History at Heritage Village Museum. He received his MA in Public History from Northern Kentucky University.**

## Youth take part in their first graduation



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
The Wyandotte Nation Preschool students celebrated graduation back in May. (Pictured Below) Nevaeh Cooper, a Wyandotte Tribal Citizen, was honored as the top Kumon Honor Student.

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool held its Graduation Monday evening, May 8, at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gym. The evening featured 86 students, including 17 Kumon Honor Students. The evening began with the Processional and closed with the students receiving certificates, diplomas and their Kumon awards.

"The teaching staff and children did an outstanding job," said Tammy Charles, Education Director. "I wish all of the families and children much luck as they leave our facility and move on to other educational programs. We are blessed to be entrusted with their care for the year."

Nevaeh Cooper, a Wyandotte Tribal Citizen, was honored as the top Kumon Honor Student. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented the awards and diplomas to the



students. Friend and Hildebrand also presented Shawn King with a hand-carved knife, honoring him for his work with preschoolers the last several years in helping them prepare

for the Preschool Pow-Wow.

Charles said they are excited to add the new toddler/2-year old program to the facility to further meet new needs in the community.

# The Princess Diaries

*Wills reflects on her time as Princess -- going from self doubt to confident*

**By WILLIAM SWAIM**  
WYANDOTTE NATION

When Princess Emilee Wills stepped out into the Wyandotte Nation's Pow-Wow arena to do 'The Lord's Prayer' back in 2012, she was terrified. She was stepping out of her comfort zone and into an arena filled with bright lights and a big crowd with all eyes on her.

"My first time going out and doing the prayer by myself, I was freaking out," she said. "The only thing going through my head was, 'what am I doing here and why did I decide to do this?' I remember being so scared."

Those steps into the arena, however, were the biggest steps on her journey to where she is now. And come September at the 28th Annual Pow-Wow, her term as Princess will come to an end.

"Looking back, it was the first time I had stepped out and done something on my own as Princess -- it was a huge accomplishment for me at the time," she said. "Nothing compared to what I have done the last couple of years, but that was a great first



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

**Wyandotte Nation Princess Emilee Wills will be taking her final steps into the Pow-Wow arena in September as Princess. She has been Princess since 2012.**

step into my role as Princess."

Wills said it's a role she had dreamed about since she was 3 or 4 years old. "When I was little, my cousin Mollie (DeWeese, now Leek) was Princess and I thought that was the coolest thing ever. I mean, what little girl doesn't like princesses? My interest was sparked at that point."

Wills story as Princess is one of personal growth.

At the beginning of 2012, she received a Turtle Talk in the mail listing the opening for the Princess position.

She discussed the position and her interest in it with Chief Billy Friend before filling out an application, writing an essay and turning it into Tribal Heritage Director Sherri Clemons.

She said at that point, she was wondering what the heck she just did and was immediately doubting herself. However, she received a call from Clemons and went in for the interview. "One of the questions she (Sherri) asked me was, 'what does being Wyandotte mean to you?' I don't remember what I answered, but I know now that it means something completely different today.

"What it means now is being a part of something bigger than yourself. It means family, it means support and it means success," said Wills, who is a descendant of the Brown family,

which traces back to one of the great chiefs, Adam Brown. Chief Friend is also her cousin.

Wills' personal growth came from gaining confidence and the learning experience the role of Princess has provided. It's something that has had a lasting impact on where she is now and where she is going.

"When I first became Princess, I didn't have a whole lot of confidence in myself or what I knew about the Tribe, but now I have confidence in the history and culture of the Tribe, so when I travel I am more confident with the answers I give," she said. "I've learned a lot about the culture and history of the Tribe."



COURTESY PHOTO

# Princess Diaries

Continued from Page 10

“Becoming Princess was probably one of the best things I could have done for myself personally -- I have a lot more confidence. I don't feel like I can say enough, I can't really put into words how I feel now about myself and my time as Princess because it has done so much good for me.”

When she took over the role, Wills said she got to pick her own theme for her dress and said the dress serves as a visual of who she is.

“I chose horses to represent me because they are strong and beautiful creatures. And that's who I wanted to be as the Wyandotte Princess, I wanted to be a strong and beautiful role model for the Wyandotte youth,” she said.

As Princess, Wills represents the Tribe at various meetings and conferences across the U.S. as well as traveling to elementary schools with Chief Friend as they speak about the Tribe, the history of the Tribe, and where the Tribe is headed. Plus she performs ‘The Lord's Prayer’ in sign language before any meeting.

“The most important job I have as Princess is making the Chiefs look good,” she said jokingly, laughing.

Clemons said as an Ambassador for the Wyandotte Nation, Wills has been an ideal representative.

“I feel she carries herself very positive, respectful and strong. Emilee has set a great example for younger girls as well as with her peers in the Indian World,” Clemons said.

Wills role has required a lot of traveling and speaking, something she wasn't immediately comfortable with.

“The most difficult part about being Princess was learning how to step outside of my comfort zone and being comfortable there. I've always been a shy person. I don't like talking in front of people, I don't like being in front of a lot of people, it's just not my personality,” she said. “But I have had to learn to be OK with that. I knew going into this

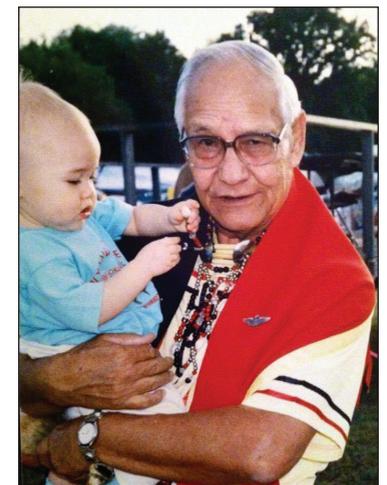


(Clockwise from top) Wyandotte Nation Princess Emilee Wills takes time during a Town Hall meeting to talk to youth (Photo: William Swaim).

The back of her dress (Photo: Courtesy).

A young Wills with Chief Leaford Bearskin (Photo: Courtesy).

Wills has a little fun trying to keep her dress clean while eating during a Town Hall Meeting (Photo: William Swaim).



position that it took a lot of confidence, and that was something I didn't have, so I took that as a challenge to better myself while I was serving the Tribe.”

Clemons too has seen how much Wills has grown over the years. “The changes I see in this young lady are amazing; watching her grow up from a teenager to the beautiful young adult I see now.

“When Emilee first started her term as Princess, she was so shy. I am talking shaking so bad her fringe was moving. She would not talk to very many strangers. Now she greets people from all over the country,” Clemons added.

Ironically enough, Wills said one of the things she will miss most about being Princess is the traveling and the opportunity to meet all the different people. Wills said she even met family members she didn't know ex-

isted.

“During my time as Princess, I have met a lot of different people, and any time I run into anyone I have met before, they always talk about how much I've grown as a person,” she said. “That's something that I want the Wyandottes to remember me by, the steps I took to become the person I am today.”

In September at the 28th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow, Wills will take her final steps into the arena as Princess as new Princess Sara Wright takes her first steps on her journey.

“I first met Sarah when she was 8 or 9 years old, I was working at Turtle Tots during the summer internship program, I just remember thinking this little girl was full of energy and personality,” Wills said. “She was one of those people, even though she was so young, she knew

where she was going in life.”

As for Wills, there is a lot she is going to miss about being Princess, but probably none more so than the bonds she has formed over the years.

“I'm going to miss everything. There's not any part of this journey I'm going to miss more or less, I'm going to miss everything,” she said.

“I've made some of the best relationships with the people that make this all happen, that make Wyandotte happen, over the last couple years. Whether they are blood related or not, these people are my family. They have supported me through everything during my time as Princess, and I can never thank them enough for what they have done for me personally.”

Clemons said Wills has been a joy to work with. “I am proud of the path in life she chose to follow. She will be missed.”

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

# POW-WOW CONTEST SCHEDULE

Friday, September 8  
Evening

Jr. Boys Fancy  
Womens Fancy Shawl  
Mens Straight  
Jr. Girls Jingle  
Womens Golden Age

49 Contest - Jay Blalock

ALL SPECIALS  
HELD SATURDAY  
AFTERNOON  
CONTACT THE ARENA  
DIRECTOR FOR  
ADDITIONAL  
INFORMATION

Saturday, September 9  
Afternoon

Jr. Boys Grass  
Womens Buckskin  
Mens Traditional  
Jr. Girls Cloth  
Tiny Tots

Saturday, September 9  
Evening

Mens Fancy  
Jr. Girls Fancy Shawl  
Womens Jingle  
Jr. Boys Straight

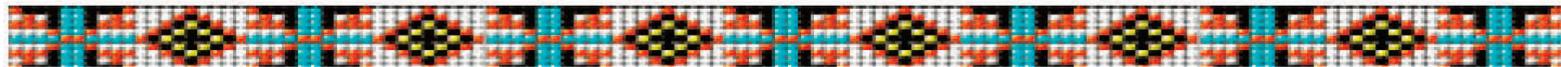
Stomp Dance - Bruce Marin

Sunday, September 10  
Afternoon

Mens Golden Age  
Womens Cloth  
Jr. Boys Traditional  
Jr. Girls Buckskin  
Mens Grass

Special Grandparents Day  
Honor Dance  
Prizes for the Oldest  
Grandmother and Grandfather  
present

Gourd Dancing  
1 hour prior to all sessions.



**Must Be Registered and Participate In Two Grand Entries and Two Exhibitions  
To Qualify For Contests.**



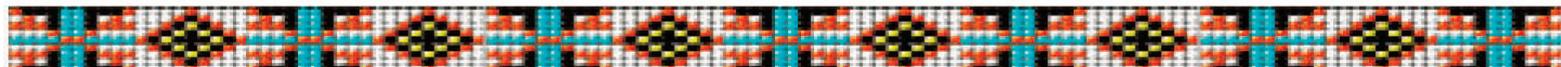
**Must Be Registered In Only One Category.**

**Must Be In Full Dress To Receive Contest Monies.**



**All Decisions by the Committee are Final!**

The above schedule is intended as a guide only, and is subject to change at the discretion  
of the Pow-Wow committee!



**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:**

**SHERRI CLEMONS  
WYANDOTTE NATION  
64700 E Hwy 60  
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370  
918-678-6344**

***NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFTS  
OR ACCIDENTS. ABSOLUTELY NO  
FIREARMS, DRUGS, OR  
ALCOHOL ALLOWED!***

**Everyone welcome! Bring your cameras and lawn chairs! No personal shades setup  
before Friday afternoon. (NO PETS ALLOWED NEAR ARENA)**

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard,  
HR Director*

The Accounting Department is very happy to welcome Kirsten Weisinger. Kirsten will serve as the Accounts

Receivable Specialist and will be responsible for accounts receivable and other accounting duties for Wyandotte Nation. Kirsten graduated from Wyandotte High School and has her bachelor's degree. She has taught middle and high school stu-



**Weisinger**

dents at Wyandotte Public Schools. Her hobbies include softball, golf, and reading. She enjoys spending time with her family; she is married and has two children. We are very fortunate to have Kirsten on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,  
Family Services Director*

The Family Services staff is extremely excited to offer assistance for school supplies to all enrolled Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide who are in pre-K through grade 12 programs. Now, every child will be able to receive up to \$100 for school supplies and/or clothing. Specific program instructions can be found on the website or by calling a member of the Family Services staff.

Applications for enrolling new Wyandotte Nation citizens must be received in the office or postmarked by Aug. 15. Each application must be accompanied by an original state certified birth certificate. The birth certificate will be returned. Applications received prior to a child's first birthday will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card and a special blanket.

Annual Meeting, Pow-Wow, and the Gathering are just around the corner and we hope to see many of you at these events. This is always a wonderful time of year for tribal citizens to build and renew friendships, for families to come together, for learning and celebrating our tribal heritage and culture. Family

Services staff will be available this week to answer questions or provide assistance as needed.

There will also be an election this year, which means you will be required to show your tribal membership or citizenship card to the Election Committee to receive your ballot. If your tribal card doesn't include a photo then you will also be asked to present a photo ID (such as a driver's license). If you are in need of a new card, please call or stop by the office and we can assist you.

The summer months have been busy with many activities for the staff who participated in such events as the Inter-Tribal Children's Pow-Wow, Kids Culture Program, ASSIST training, and the Gathering of Little Turtles. Tara continues to work diligently with our tribal families to alleviate crisis and promote safe and stable families. She manages our Indian Child Welfare (ICW) cases across the country and does an amazing job with keeping connected to the families and their caseworkers. Tiffany also works ICW cases as

well as functioning as an advocate for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and dating violence. The Family Violence Prevention Program is new to the Tribe, but we are finding there is a great need for this service in our community. As an advocate, Tiffany has assisted her clients with transportation, relocation, and court accompaniment, along with other services allowable under our Office of Violence Against Women Grant.

There are several programs that began July 1. Those programs and the details for each are listed below. Please note that all of the Family Service programs (with the exception of the Supplemental Health Program/Benny card) end on Sept. 30. No applications for this fiscal year will be accepted after that date. Most program applications can be found here on the tribe's website: <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/community/family-services/>.

If you have a need for any Family Services program please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here

to assist you. Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, 918-678-6355; Leeanna Radabaugh, Family Services Assistant, 918-678-6329; and Tiffany Webb, ICW Social Worker/DV Advocate, 918-678-6324.

### **Summer Programs July 1-September 30:**

**LIHEAP –LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)** is available, as funding allows, for tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma and is based on income.

**School Supplies** – Pre-K through grade 12. OK, MO, AR, KS residents can use either reimbursement program or Walmart gift card for \$100 per student. Citizens who reside outside of the four states will be required to utilize the reimbursement program. Applications are available on the homepage of the website or one can be mailed/faxed/emailed to

## Teal named 'Employee of the Year'



The Wyandotte Nation held a week of events for our 2017 Employee Appreciation and announced this year's 'Employee of the Year.' Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented the honor to Clinic Administrative Assistant Lisa Teal. During the events, employees learned about the history of the Tribe, visited various historical locations, took part in arts and crafts, and wrapped it up Friday, May 5, with day long activities at the River Bend Casino & Hotel Event Center. The day started with Chief Friend discussing the perseverance of the Wyandottes. Shawn King led employees in various social dances and the day concluded with special guest Supaman, who brought his unique blend of comedy and song. (Photos by William Swaim)



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 14

you. If receipts for last year's school supply purchases were not submitted then you will be required to use the reimbursement program. New requirement for 2017: All applications and receipts MUST be originals. We will not accept applications or receipts via email or fax.

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

**Programs that run throughout the year for residents in OK, MO, AR, KS. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30:**

**Elders Assistance** - \$250 available for personal expenses for tribal elders aged 55 and over. Can be paid directly to the vendor or be reimbursed.

**Extra-Expense/Extracurricular Activities** - \$100 per student aged pre - K through 12th grade.

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

**Fuel Assistance** - There are a few programs for fuel assistance: Hardship - personal hardships, travel for work/job interviews, etc; Medical - travel to/from doctor/dental appointments and to 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.

**Other Programs provided by the Family Services Department:**

**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** - This 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 their 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 put first and foremost. The Tribe is actively seeking foster families. If you are interested in becoming a foster family please contact Tara for additional information.

**Tribal Tags** - Available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma. Passenger, RV, Motorcycle and Handicap tags are available. Please



### Knowing When It's Okay to Leave a Child Home Alone

For parents with full-time jobs outside the home, extended summer breaks from school are often anxiety-producing times as they must either secure child care for younger children or ponder whether older children are mature enough to be left home alone. Summer vacation marks an end to the reliable safety net of the school day and the beginning of the home-alone period for thousands of children and youth. There are no consistent laws or standards describing at what age—or when—it's okay to leave a child home alone, making it difficult to advise families who face this dilemma. Child Welfare Information Gateway addresses some of the issues that parents and guardians may ask surrounding this perennial question in [Leaving Your Child Home Alone](#), a bulletin in the Factsheets for Families series.

Some States recommend that no child under 8 years old should be left alone, while others use ages 10, 12, or 14 as the suggested cutoff. In our factsheet, you will find information on factors to consider before making the highly subjective decision to leave a child home alone, including a child's age and maturity level, safety skills, individual circumstances, and varying legal guidelines that apply in different States. There are pointers for parents on how to prepare a child to stay home alone safely, and steps that parents can take to feel more comfortable about leaving their child home. Finally, the factsheet contains a list of resources to help parents and guardians make this important determination, including some State-specific guidelines.

Your feedback is important. Be sure to let us know how we're doing by [taking our survey!](#) For more information, visit our [website](#), email us at [info@childwelfare.gov](mailto:info@childwelfare.gov), or call us toll-free at 1.800.394.3366.



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Administration for Children and Families  
Administration on Children, Youth and Families  
Children's Bureau




call the office for prices and additional information. Renewal notices are mailed as a courtesy by the 15th of the month prior to the expiration month. However, it is the tribal citizen's responsibility to be cognizant of the expiration date and renew in a timely manner. If you have moved please let the office know so we can keep your records up-to-date. It is also beneficial to notify the office if you no longer own a vehicle.

**Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card) Nationwide** - \$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 be obtained at any time via [www.mycourcesource.com](http://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. Please remem-

ber that this benefit is for enrolled Wyandotte Nation citizens only (no spouses, step-children, etc.). CoreSource has notified us that nearly 2,900 Benny cards will be expiring at the end of 2017. The replacements for those cards should be received near the second week of December.

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

**Domestic Violence Advocacy** - A broad array of services are available to victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Dating Violence and Stalking. Please contact Tiffany if you are need of services to see how we can best assist you.

**Winter Clothing (OK, MO, KS, AR residents)** - \$100 per student aged pre-K through grade 12 will be available either through a Walmart gift card or reimbursement. Receipts for reimbursement must be dated between Oct. 1, 2017 and Feb. 28, 2018. However, gift cards and reimbursements will not be available

until Nov. 1, 2017. Applications MUST be received or post marked no later than Feb. 28, 2018.

**Senior Energy (OK, MO, KS, AR residents)** - Winter energy assistance will begin Oct. 1, 2017 and the service bill must be dated after Oct. 1. Program will end Feb. 28, 2018, applications must be received or postmarked by this date.

## Elder Services

**Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director**

Greetings everyone! The dog days of summer are upon us!

The Wyandotte Nation will host the next Oklahoma Indian Council on Aging Meeting at our new hotel Aug. 25.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again at the Gathering, Annual Meeting, and Pow-Wow in September. We will have the Hog Fry in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI) following the Annual Meeting.

Our Annual Elders Picnic in the Park will be held Tuesday, Sept. 19, at the Twin Bridges State Park in Wyandotte. Duke Mason will provide his awesome Elvis music again. We will have line dancing, the train, and the chicken dance. We will have many prizes and certified trainers with information on Medicare Part D.

We are in the process of planning another trip to Branson, Mo., in October 2017. We are planning to go see the show, 'Moses.'

Our Annual Health Fair will be held at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center in the gym Oct. 20. Duke Mason will also be there providing our entertainment. We will be giving away two recliners, many prizes, and have booths with giveaways. Brunch and lunch will be provided. The Lions Club will provide a mobile unit and will be checking blood pressures and blood sugars. They will also be providing bone density testing along with many other tests.

Our beading class has grown to as many as 15 now. It is held every Thursday morning at 9am in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI).

The Bearskin Health and Wellness Center provides free blood pressure

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 15

and blood sugar screenings the third Thursday of each month beginning at 10:30am 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. Our meetings are held in the safe room in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI) at 10:30am. The group is open to all current and past Caregivers. Please contact Brenda for information.

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

### Department 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

## Education

### Submitted by Tammy Charles, Education Director

As Chief Friend says, "It is a great day to be a part of the Wyandotte Nation!" Many exciting things are happening in the Education Department. New scholarship applications are arriving daily in the mail, summer program participants are busy every day of the week with opportunities on and off site, and we are delighted to welcome our summer interns. The opportunities for our tribal citizens and program attendees are abundant!

The Preschool program concluded another successful year with many graduating and moving on to Kindergarten. Nevaeh Cooper, Wyandotte Nation Tribal citizen, received recognition for being our program's top excellent Kumon Math student. An exciting announcement for our early childhood program is the opening of a Toddler Program that will begin when school resumes August 2017. The program will accommodate 10 children and will have two full-time staff members. We are accepting

applications for the fall session of preschool that will begin Aug. 17, 2017.

I recently had an opportunity to attend a one-day meeting in Oklahoma City conducted by the largest charitable non-profits in the region. The gathering focused on the latest in brain development. A catchy take away phrase was "children need a lap, not an app." In this day of technology, recent studies indicate that more exposure to electronic devices has dramatically influenced language development and social skills.

The Wyandotte youth who are assisting with Summer Program this year are Kaylee Arment, Devon Baker, Kirsten Burt, Ciara Cotter, Susanne Divine, Trace Friend, Cymon Hibbard, Carlena Holton, Airiana Johnson, Katelyn King, and Elizabeth Tanner.

We are accepting applications for families in need of childcare subsidies. The program assists with childcare expense while the parents are in school or working. You must reside within 100 miles of our tribal headquarters to apply. I am more than willing to help you locate assistance in your area with another grantee if you do not live in our "service area." If you are interested in more information, please contact the education staff.

Returning scholarship students need to submit an up-to-date transcript that reflects previous coursework and enrolled course information as well. Funds will start being processed the first week of August for disbursement to the colleges and universities. Undergraduate scholarship is \$2.250 per semester for up to eight semesters if all the requirements are met. The master's program can fund 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.

Have a great summer and enjoy each day.

## Environmental

### Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental Director

Wow! What happened? We blinked and spring was gone and summer is in full swing, with fall just around the corner.

During the week of April 3-6, Kathleen Welch attended the Region Tribal Operations Committee Meeting in Dallas as a representative for Wyandotte Nation. Along with the Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting, the Tribal Caucus, and the EPA Environmental Summit took place this week also. It was a busy week and provided many opportunities to meet with Regional EPA Project Officers and other tribal citizens. Throughout the month our staff was involved with various other environmental meetings and workshops.

On April 13, Janice Wilson and Kathleen Welch hosted another Rain Barrel Education Class. This was our 8th Class and has become a very popular event. We have had participants from the surrounding communities within the Tri-State area.



Our big showcase was the '10th Annual Environmental Festival,' which was held at the Bearskin Health and Fitness Center Gymnasium. Each year continues to get bigger and better, and this year was no exception. We had 15 booths from various tribal, state, and community organizations. The Wyandotte Public Schools system supports our event well and this year there were 470 students and 27 teachers that attended the event, with a grand total of 577 participants. Thank you to our department employees that start months in advance and work hard to make this event an enjoyable time for all. Also, a BIG Thank you to all the Wyandotte Nation Employees who volunteer their time and efforts to help make this event such a huge success.

Also during this week, the Lost Creek Recycle Center held a tire and

e-waste collection with a total of 308 tires collected. If you missed out, we will be holding another event in the upcoming fall.

The rains of April continued into May, and with widespread flooding, we were not able to perform many of our regular monthly sampling duties in the creeks and lake because of the rapid and deep moving water. However, during this month, our private well samples increased and we found ourselves replacing surface water sampling with ground water sampling.



The Week of May 23-25, Kathleen Welch participated in a Tribal Natural Resource Conference in Catoosa, Okla. On May 23, Chief Billy Friend gave the Opening Ceremonies Prayer, and Princess Emilee Wills performed the Lord's Prayer in sign language. During this time there was complete reverence given by all. Kathleen received so many well-spoken compliments towards the Wyandotte Nation Chief and Princess. What an honor it is to work for such a fine Tribal Nation.

On Friday of this week, the NE Oklahoma Tribes were able to give a tour of Tar Creek Superfund site to staff from various Federal Agencies. Wyandotte Nation Summer Youth employee and tribal citizen, Devon Rutledge, attended the tour along with Kathleen Welch. Devon is working in the Environmental Department and has been a valuable asset to us.



June has arrived and given way to high humidity. The heavy rains

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Housing

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director*



If you have driven by the Heritage Acres Housing Community, you have noticed a lot of construction taking place. In the park area, a new pavilion and bathrooms are in the process of being completed. The area of Deer and Hawk road are currently under construction for infrastructure. This will allow for more duplexes to be built.

The Splashpad is open from 9am – 9pm, 7 days a week, and will be open through Labor Day weekend.

All Housing applications are now online. Those include Rental/Homeownership, Home Improvement, Down Payment Assistance, and Well & Septic. 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 8am - 4:30pm. 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

## 10th Annual Environmental Festival



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its 10th Annual Environmental Festival April 28 at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center, featuring several educational booths where students and the general public were free to observe and learn about easy ways they can conserve. The event is a good opportunity to teach kids the importance of preserving our environment. This year's theme focused on environmental awareness and animal protection.

### Continued from Page 16

have slowed a bit and we are finally able to get out into the water again and resume our regular monthly water monitoring and sampling sites. We have also taken opportunity of the weather to perform our Habitat Assessments, Macro Invertebrate Counts, and Bio-assessments on our four wadeable sights.

This month is usually a time when we have education events and trips with the Summer Kids Program. On June 6, we held two classes for this program. In the morning, we held a class with the 7 – 9 year olds, and

in the afternoon, we had the 10 – 12 year olds. Each group was shown two videos on water conservation and water pollution; this was then followed up with a hands on activity. Each participant in the morning class made a terrarium, and the afternoon class each made and decorated a bird feeder.

During the last week of June, we had two shipments of recyclable materials sent to the paper mill in Sapulpa, Okla. We shipped a total of 60,197 lbs. of material.

### Meetings attended by staff:

RTOC, NATURE, TECO, TCTC, and Spring River WRAPS

### 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

## 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

## Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Sherri Clemons,  
Tribal Heritage Director*

Kwe kwe!

I hope everyone is having a great summer and staying cool. Things have been busy at the Cultural Center this summer! Gathering of Little Turtles and Lacrosse camp was amazing.

With around 40 some kids, it was a packed house. They did crafts, making pinch pots, talking sticks and beading, it was a great learning experience for all. Dr. Steckely was on board teaching language to all with lots of interaction.

Everyone also enjoyed a wonderful presentation by Ms. Addison Butcher on the history of the Wyandotte. Thank you, Addison. Plans are already being made for next year's event.

The Cultural Committee is now hard at work getting plans together for the Gathering. Dates will be Sept. 6-8. Watch for agenda and registration information on the website.

I would like to recognize the Cultural Committee members, so everyone knows what they do for our history and traditions: Debbie Dry, Lloyd Divine, Deryl Wright, Marilyn Young, Loretta Combes, David Culver, and Kim Garcia. They work very hard on telling the true story of our history, spend many hours making decisions on what to teach; ideas that will interest members who attend events throughout the year and work with the Cultural Center and Museum staff.

They all share a great passion for what they do, and I would like to thank them for all the hard work they put in to every project.

Pow-Wow is just around the corner. Hard to believe it's been going for 28 years. It is an exciting time and I really hope everyone makes it out.



## Consider Quebec, Wendake when making travel plans

The weekend of June 30, 2017, I travelled to visit our extended tribal family in Wendake, Quebec, Canada. I was met at the airport by Ms. Linda Sioui, who greeted me and served as guide, translator, and, more importantly, a friend. I attended their annual Pow-Wow and was invited to dance with Canadian military veterans in a place of honor.

Chief Sioui was a gracious host and I presented him with greetings from the Wyandotte Nation and presented a Wyandotte Nation flag to him as a gift of friendship. He told me we are the same, we are all Wyandotte, and we are all family. I was able to tour their reserve, see their wonderful culture museum, and impressive traditional longhouse. I met many of their

citizens, who were all gracious and welcoming.

On the last day of the Pow-Wow, Chief Sioui presented me a gift of their tribal flag flown during the Pow-Wow. He explained the meaning of the design of the flag, folded it carefully, and told me it was my flag.

The trip was capped with a wonderful home cooked meal by Linda Sioui who gifted me a traditional pipe made by her father. I encourage all Wyandotte citizens to consider Quebec and Wendake when making travel plans, you will be treated like family. Just another reason I'm so proud to be a Wyandotte citizen!

**Dave Culver**  
**Wyandotte Nation Cultural Committee**

## Wandat Language

Kweh qmateru?! At the beginning of summer I began working with the Summer Program on the Wandat language.

We have met for 3 weeks now and have been working on greetings, names, and ages. We meet twice a week and test on the second day of that week. They are re-

taining the language and incorporating in their daily conversations. I am very impressed with the level of engagement and enthusiasm! By the end of summer they will have learned 28 words/phrases. The program will not end there! I will begin a language class for the afterschool program.

Plans are being discussed on classes for local citizens as well as online classes/programs for distance learners. I will keep you updated on those plans.

Tizameh!

**Loretta Combes**  
**Wyandotte Nation**  
**Tribal Heritage Specialist**

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Health

--Submitted by Kelly Friend,  
Director of Health Services

Planning to visit for the Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting and/or Pow-Wow? Make your appointments now for well visits or to establish yourself or family at Bearskin Healthcare. As of Oct. 1, 2017, all patients will be required to be seen by a Bearskin Healthcare provider once every three years to be eligible for services. This includes dental, optometry and audiology services.

To establish a medical record at Bearskin Healthcare, the patient must present:

- Current ID such as Driver's License or Picture ID for adult patients
- Tribal Membership Card (Including infants after enrolled or a letter from tribal office until enrolled)
- Social Security Card

- Name Change documentation such as marriage license, court order, divorce papers
- Insurance card, if applicable

### Policy Updates: Children's Dental Services

A Bearskin contracted provider must provide all services, if the patient does not have primary insurance. If the patient has primary insurance and Bearskin Healthcare is considered secondary, the patient may see the provider of their choice, covered by their insurance plan.

### Dental Services

Excluded services include: orthodontics, whitening, IV sedation, conscious sedation, and general anesthesia.

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**Congratulations** to Bearskin Fitness Center employee, Timothy Harnar. Timothy graduated from Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College with his degree in nursing.

Classes begin Oct. 12. For more information, contact Sharon Bartley at Bearskin Fitness Center.

## Walk with Ease

Walk with Ease was developed as a walking program to encourage people with and without arthritis to get started walking and stay motivated to keep active. It can be adapted to the needs and abilities of participants because of the freedom to make your own walking plan, tailor your exercises and walking times to your needs, and go at your own pace. The program is specifically designed to be done either on your own, or by participating with a group of walkers.

The recommended Walk with Ease model is set up as a six-week program. During that time, participants will work up to walking at least three times a week. The idea is to start at a reasonable amount of time and at a reasonable pace and build up to 30 minutes or more of walking each day you walk.

Walking is not the only part of the Walk with Ease program model. The program also includes three other very important components: health information, stretching and strengthening exercise, and motivational tips and tools. Online tools are available to support participants that include: a movement tracker, video instruction, a message board, and an automated e-mail service alerting participants when milestones are reached.

Formal group classes are also available. Group classes are organized in the same way as the individual program. Trained leaders organize 6-week programs where participants meet three times a week in groups of up to 15. They begin each class with a health education session on an arthritis- or exercise-related topic, followed by stretching activities and a 10-35 minute walk.

### Components of Walk with Ease include:

- Manage arthritis pain and stiffness
- Stretching and strengthening activities to support the walking program
- Self-monitor for physical problems while walking
- Anticipate and overcoming barriers to being physically active
- Get and stay motivated to exercise
- Develop a walking plan that will meet your needs
- Learn how to exercise safely and comfortably



## Wear Your Bear Wear!!!



Going on vacation?

Tag us in a picture of yourself wearing your  
Bearskin Fitness Center t-shirt and tell us where you  
went!



#bearskinhealthcareandwellnesscenter



**Congratulations** to Brittany Watkins, Bearskin Fitness Center employee and Wyandotte Nation citizen, on her marriage to Jacob Wood. We wish you a lifetime of happiness!

### Upcoming Events at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center:

Aug. 31 – Wyandotte Cross Country Meet  
Oct. 5 – Wyandotte CC Meet  
Oct. 12 – 6 week 'Walk with Ease' program begins  
Oct. 14 – Domestic Violence Awareness Scarecrow Run  
Oct. 20 – 16th Annual Health Fair

### Participant benefits include:

- Reduce the pain and discomfort of arthritis
- Increase balance, strength, and walking pace
- Build confidence in your ability to be physically active
- Improve overall health

### Criteria for a Walk with Ease Group Class Leader

The Walk with Ease formal group sessions are lead by Arthritis Foundation certified trained leaders. Qualified instructors are also CPR certified. First aid certification is recommended.

### Leader Training:

Walk with Ease leaders supervise every discussions and walking session. Leaders must complete a 3-4 hour online or in-person training workshop.

### Leader Expectations:

- Organize walking schedule and location
- Help market and promote the program
- Lead at least two class series annually
- Lead classes in accordance with program guidelines
- Maintain attendance records, complete participation evaluation according to the program guidelines, and provide participant information to sponsoring agency

### Program Sites:

Walk with Ease can be implemented any place people gather such as:

- Worksites
- Churches
- Senior Centers
- Hospitals
- Fitness Facilities

### Rewards and Recognition

- Help others learn to take control of a chronic disease and improve their quality of life
- Provide a valuable and educational program in the community
- Form new and lasting relationships

### For more information on Walk with Ease contact:

#### Arthritis Foundation Heartland Region Offices:

##### Wichita Office

1999 N. Amidon, Suite 105  
Wichita, KS 67203  
316-263-0116  
Or 1-800-362-1108

##### Kansas City

Johnson and Wyandotte Counties  
1900 West 75th Street, Suite 200  
Prairie Village, KS 66208  
913-262-2233

##### Kansas Arthritis Program

1000 SW Jackson, Suite 230  
Topeka, KS 66612  
785-296-1917  
www.kdheks.gov/arthritis

For more information or to register for the free self-directed program  
visit our website at: [www.kdheks.gov/arthritis/wwe-overview.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/arthritis/wwe-overview.htm)



Arthritis Foundation  
Walk With Ease Program™



# COMMUNITY NEWS

## Obituary

### Ramon "Bud" Grant

Jan. 13, 1930 – April 11, 2017

Ramon "Bud" Grant, age 87, of Saline, Louisiana was born to Nell (Brown) and Amon Grant on January 13, 1930 and passed into eternal rest on April 11, 2017. Bud is survived by his wife Bobbie Grant of the home; a daughter, Rhonda Hittle and husband Roger of Asbury, MO; two sons, Randall Grant of Readhimer, LA and wife Amy of Marshall, TX and Roger Grant and wife Letha of Bixby, OK; two sisters, Edna Silva of Phoenix, AZ and Margie Copeland and husband Glen of El Dorado Hills, CA; four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. He is also survived by two very special friends and caretakers, Lisa Murphy and Sharon Sanders.

Mr. Grant was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers, Jack and Billy Grant and two sisters, Mary and Carolyn.

Services were held at Briarwood Baptist Church on April 15, 2017 with Bro. Trey Etheridge and Pastor Sandra Toms Sandford officiating. Concluding services were held at the Briarwood Cemetery in Readhimer, Louisiana.



### 'The Gathering' 2017

Mark your calendar for The Gathering (Culture Days) 2017, Wednesday, Sept. 6 through Friday, Sept. 8. Check in will start at 8am with activities starting at 9am. Wednesday, 8:30am Thursday, and 8am Friday. Come see history come alive with another cemetery tour. Dr. Steckley will present the Wyandotte Language. Many art projects will be offered this year over the three days. The Gathering is a time for all to come learn, socialize, and bring our culture into the future. Watch for registration and the schedule of events to be posted on the website, [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org).

## In Brief



### Memorial Day

Thank you to everyone who came out to the Memorial Day service honoring Frank Hildebrand. Chief Billy Friend spoke briefly about the meaning and importance of the day and 2nd Chief Hildebrand spoke about Frank's service to his country.



### Tribal citizen named 'Nurse of the Year'

Congratulations Sarah Kyser, a Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen and the INTEGRIS Miami Hospital Nurse of the Year! Not only is she an exceptional nurse, she is compassionate, kind and dedicated.



### Collinsworth graduates Magna Cum Laude

Congratulations to Debra Collinsworth! Debra, a Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen, is a Contracts Administrator for W TOK. She graduated Missouri Southern State University (MSSU) in May with Bachelor of Science Business Administration degrees (Magna Cum Laude) in Management and Human Resource Management, and a minor in Total Quality Management.



## SAVE THE DATE

October 20, 2017  
9:00am – 1:00pm

### Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

### 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Health Fair

Medicare Part D/Diabetic Screening Project



Mark your calendar and plan to attend this fun filled day!  
For more information or on exhibitor registration, call 918-678-3231