



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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29TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

Rain does nothing to dampen competition

PAGES 10-11

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The Wyandotte Nation
64700 E Hwy 60
Wyandotte, OK 74370

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



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- 'Gathering' brings Tribe together
- Clinic celebrates 20 years on the hill
- Indigenous People's Day

Board of Directors

Chief.....Billy Friend
 Second Chief..... Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
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 Councilperson..... Juanita McQuiston
 Councilperson..... Eric Lofland

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
*Tribal Citizen
 Josh Garcia in
 the Men's Grass
 Dance.*
*Photo: William
 Swaim*

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

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

State of the Nation

NOTE: This is the 'State of the Nation' address delivered at the 2018 Annual Meeting.

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

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

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

Each year that we have visited about our progress, it has grown increasingly difficult to report to you how well we have done in such a short report. We simply cannot acknowledge every one of the Wyandotte Nation's accomplishments in the time allotted. Our progress in every area continues to excel, sometimes beyond our expecta-

**"Two are better than one;
 because they have a good
 reward for their labour."**

-- Ecclesiastes 4:9

tions. I feel grateful and honored by that progress.

Each year we set goals and objectives which are designed to serve the Wyandotte people. The key word is "serve." We, whom you have selected to serve, are honored to be of service. It is our goal to help every Wyandotte in every way possible.

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

With all of the success and progress of our tribe, we must remember that our entire future--

and that of our children-- depends on what we do, how we do it-- and why we do it.

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

We are a STRONG nation...Let's celebrate that strength today.

God bless the Wyandotte people and God bless the Wyandotte Nation!

It is with your support that these achievements have been possible. Tizameh to all!

**Sincerely,
 Chief Billy Friend**

From the Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Successful events bring tribal citizens together



Kweh
 The Wyandotte Nation had another successful Gathering, Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow. It was great to see all of our Tribal Citizens gather for fellowship and learning about our heritage. A big TIZAMEH to the Cultural Advisory Group for a fantastic Gathering, I want to also thank the Pow-Wow Committee, our maintenance staff and all the volunteers for another great pow-wow.

We had an election this year and I want to thank all of our Tribal Citizens for their support for taking time out of their busy schedules to vote for who they wanted to be their Second Chief. I especially want to thank Robert Nesvold for a clean campaign and his interest in wanting to get involved with Wyandotte Leadership. Rob called me the following Monday morning to congratulate me on my win and we had a nice conversation. A big

TIZAMEH to Rob -- you exhibited a lot of class.

In an earlier Turtle Talk I mentioned that I was asked to be a Humanities Scholar for a traveling exhibit on the Battle of the Wabash. Everything hinged on the grant that Ball State University had applied for and well, I am happy to announce that they were

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2018

HALLOWEEN PARTY & CARNIVAL (PRESCHOOL)

**OCT.
31**

9AM



WYANDOTTE NATION CHRISTMAS PARTY

**DEC.
8**

**10AM -
NOON**



CHRISTMAS DINNER (ELDERS)

**DEC.
13**

**11:30AM
- 1PM**



THANKSGIVING DINNER (ELDERS)

**Nov.
15**

**11:30AM
- 1PM**



SHOP WITH A COP

**DEC.
9**

TBD



CHRISTMAS PARTY (PRESCHOOL)

**DEC.
14**

9AM



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

awarded the grant in August. I will have input on the design, exhibit layout and script. This will be a fun project and I look forward to working with the rest of the project team.

Now for some history, a subject that has gotten a lot of air time you might say is Boarding Schools. Carlisle Indian Industrial School in Pennsylvania is probably the most infamous, there are close to 200 graves there that the government is trying to identify remains and returning them to their respective families and tribes. It formally opened in 1879 on the site of an abandoned military base in Pennsylvania, Carlisle was the first non-reservation boarding school established for the U.S.

government for the exclusive use of native children. Its first director was Capt. Richard Henry Pratt, an army officer who had experience in running an Indian prisoner-of-war camp in St. Augustine, Fla. Pratt convinced government officials and humanitarian reformers that education was the solution to the "Indian Problem."

By objective of Carlisle's curriculum was, in Pratt's words, to "Kill the Indian and save the man." The school set out to teach boys skills in mechanical and agricultural arts; girls were trained in sewing, cooking, laundry, and general housework. The English language was considered a strong "civiliz-

ing" force at Carlisle, and the use of native languages was strictly forbidden. Further attempts to break tribal ties included placing children with white families for the summer months, dressing students in military uniforms, and encouraging them to find permanent employment away from their home reservations.

By 1900, Carlisle had over twelve hundred students from seventy-nine tribes. Nevertheless, rising costs, resistance from parents, a preference for institutions closer to Indian populations, and World War I led to the decision to close the school in September 1918. The Indian Office returned the school

"Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children."

--Chief Sitting Bull

buildings to the army. A lot of these young Indian children died of various diseases because they would not keep the healthy students away from the sick, tuberculosis was the most common cause of death. They were buried on school grounds instead of allowing them to be taken back to their families. Our Juanita McQuiston's father was a student at Carlisle along with the legendary athlete Jim Thorpe. This is indeed a very dark part of the history in the plight of the American Indian.

I am very humbled to have the support of the Wyandotte Nation to allow me to serve them for four more years, I will do my very best to represent my fellow tribal citizens across Indian Country and the United States.

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



Annual Meeting



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation held its Annual Meeting Saturday morning, Sept. 8, at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. Tribal citizens voted in the election and heard the State of the Nation from Chief Billy Friend. The Nation also honored Family Services Director Dana Butterfield as its 'Honored Person for 2018' for all the work she has done for tribal citizens and the Tribe. (Clockwise from top left) Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand recognize Dana Butterfield as the 'Honored Person for 2018.' Tribal citizens pack the Fitness Center gym to hear the State of the Nation. Tribal citizens, including the Second Chief, wait in line to vote at the Annual Meeting.

WYANDOTTE NATION 2018 ELECTION

Election Results:



Hildebrand, Jr.



Nesvold

274 - 92

(366 Total Ballots)

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The 2018 Wyandotte Nation Election Results are in. In the only contested race, Norman Hildebrand, Jr., was elected as Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation at the Sept. 8 Election and Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. He beat out challenger Robert Nesvold.

(Pictured Right) Dee Killion, with the Wyandotte Nation Election Board, swears in Vivian Fink to the Board of Directors, Norman Hildebrand, Jr., as Second Chief, and Ann Marie Roper to the Grievance Committee Tuesday afternoon, Oct. 16, at the Tribal Administration building.



Healthcare Center celebrates 20 years

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center celebrated its 20th anniversary in its current location Sept. 13 with food, music and games. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Glenna Wallace, each discussed the importance of the center for healthcare and wellness, and later cut the anniversary cake. The food was catered by River Bend Casino & Hotel.

“Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center is continually growing,” said Director of Health Services Kelly Friend. “The wellness center addition came in 2011 and now a remodel is scheduled for this fall/winter of the original locker-room facilities. We are always wanting to adapt and approve upon amenities offered to our customers.”

Friend said the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma both have goals of providing a hand up to their citizens.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

Chief of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe Glenna Wallace and Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend cut the anniversary cake. (Pictured Right) Differing construction phases of the Healthcare & Wellness Center.

“Through these goals, housing, education, workforce and social services continue to increase,” Friend said. “This is no different with the Healthcare Center. The

Healthcare Center has seen an average of 700 more visits each year in the last three years.”

The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center was originally



COURTESY PHOTOS

located at the Tribal Administration Headquarters before the new facility was built.



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

WNTPD Officer Faron Lee talks with citizens during the National Night Out event.

National Night Out

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal/Municipal Police Department (WNTPD) hosted its National Night Out community event Tuesday evening, Aug. 7.

The Community Block Party was held at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gym. It was an opportunity for the community to come together and visit with neighbors and local law enforcement to form stronger partnerships.

The event featured exhibitors, food, drinks, music, goodie bags, giveaways and much more.

The National Night Out event is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and generate support and participation in the local community.

National Night Out is celebrated each year. The introduction of National Night Out, “America’s Night Out Against Crime,” began in 1984 as an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. That first year, 2.5 million Americans took part across 400 communities in 23 states.

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

The Gathering

*A Commemoration,
without celebrating,
the 175th anniversary
of removal*

By LLOYD DIVINE

WYANDOTTE NATION CULTURAL
ADVISORY BOARD

September is always a fun and busy time in Wyandotte, Okla. The growing and relaxed little community explodes as Wyandotte Nation citizens, along with many honored guests, converge from all over the United States to participate in the annual 'Gathering.' For three days citizens study their traditional language, learn of their history, relax with take-home crafts, and if they so choose, do a little social or contest dancing at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow. It is truly a great time, friends are made, families are reunited, and when it's time to leave — no one wants to go home because they are already home.

This year's theme of the Annual Gathering centered upon the Wyandot Tribe's highly contested, reluctant, yet voluntary leaving of the states of Ohio and Michigan. The year of 2018 marks the 175th anniversary of the Wyandot Tribe leaving the chosen homeland of Ohio and Michigan for a new home west of the Mississippi River. Unfortunately, upon arrival at the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas rivers the tribe did not have the assurance of land as promised by the United States government in the 1842 treaty of removal. Unlike many of the other tribes who also felt the unjust betrayal of removal, the Wyandot's trail of tears was not littered with hardships and the unjustified death of many citizens. The Wyandots walked but a short distance, a little over one hundred and fifty miles, from Upper Sandusky to Cincinnati; however, with just about every



step they were often pillaged, taunted, and viewed as nothing less than circus animals on parade. Before leaving Ohio there are only three known deaths of Wyandot citizens. In Cincinnati the Wyandots employed the service of two steamboats and the trip to Indian Territory was comfortable in spite of insults and ill treatment from the captain and crew of the steamboat Nodaway. However, hardship came in great abundance and many Wyandots would soon die upon arrival to the French Bottoms. By this time measles, contracted before leaving the docks in Cincinnati, had time to incubate and take the lives of many young Wyandot children.

Matthew Walker, in a letter written to John Carey on October 22, 1843 stated, "Since our



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(Above) John Webb shows tribal citizens how to make arrows during the annual Gathering in early September. (Top) Tribal citizens 'gather' in their Gathering T-shirts for a photo at the end of the week.

GATHERING

Continued from Page 6

arrival here we have had much sickness. . . . Deaths since we left there is 49: this bill of mortality was confined principally to young children diseases I think contracted on the boat including the unhealthy situation of their encampment it being on a low bottom."¹ Our grandparents surrendered some of the best and most coveted land in Ohio only to find themselves now living on swampland condemned as unacceptable for human habitation. The sad thing is, our grandparent were then considered something a little less than human and it really did not matter to the United States government where the Wyandots lived. The Delaware Tribe honored an old, timeless friendship and provided some excellent land upon which to bury the dead and also as a new home to their struggling friends. After a lot of hard work was spent reestablishing the Wyandot Tribe on the Wyandot Purchase the Great Flood of 1844 again brought untold suffering in the early summer of 1844 as it nearly washed all hopes and dreams away.

"It's estimated that no fewer than one hundred tribal citizens eventually died from the diseases and their side effects: cholera, diarrhea, malaria, pneumonia, skin infections, oozing lesions, and fungal infections, all brought on by the flood of 1844. The mental stress of having to endure and watch so many people die was traumatic. In total, nearly one in six tribal citizens would



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Cultural Advisory Board honored Cathy Wright as their Honored Person this year. (Above) Pictured from left: Lloyd Divine, David Culver, Cathy Wright, Deryl Wright, Marilyn Young and Amanda Butcher. (Below) During the Gathering, tribal citizens learned a bit of history from Lloyd Divine, and also took part in a remembrance walk to the Wyandotte Nation Cemetery.

die in six short months."² On Sunday, July 9, 1843, six hundred sixty-four Wyandots departed Upper Sandusky, Ohio for their new, unassigned home in the West. Within one year's time the number of Wyandot citizen who had chosen to move west had been mercilessly reduced to about five hundred. The Wyandots had stood firm against the pestilence of people as the homelands were being invaded and they would equally stand firm and committed to defeating an unseen pestilence to which they were defenseless.

It's hard to imagine all of this year's participants, who came and celebrated Wyandotte culture at the Gathering of Little Turtles in June and the Annual Gathering in September, likely

represents the number of Wyandot citizen who died as a result of our removal west of the Mississippi River—approximately one hundred and fifty citizens, maybe a few more. Many today cannot appreciate what this truly represents when we are now strong with 6,425 Wyandotte Nation citizens on the tribal roll. In 1843-44 to have lost one hundred and fifty citizens was a staggering loss. To try and put this into perspective, what would happen if over the next year the Wyandotte Nation lost 1,500 citizens to death? The thought of this is ghastly and inconceivable yet this is what our grandparent endured as they endeavored to reestablish themselves after being removed from Michigan and Ohio to Indian Territory.

To commemorate, but not celebrate, the 175th anniversary of removal a wonderful history lesson featured revolving stations that detailed the many travelings of our grandparents. Starting with the 1651 dispersal from our traditional homeland in Canada, our grandparent's travelings were followed to Michilimackinac, Rock Island, Wisconsin, back to Michilimackinac and Michigan, and then down into the Ohio Country. From Upper Sandusky on July 9, 1843 the tribe first walked, and then rode two steamboats to Indian Territory that would become the state of Kansas. As we saw earlier a lot of challenges beset the tribe, which challenged and forever changed the tribe, yet the Wyandot Tribe survived. In 1867 the Wyandot Tribe became the Wyandotte Tribe after again moving to Indian Territory that would become the state of Oklahoma.

Along with the history stations many other great things happened at the 2018 Annual Gathering. Dr. John Steckley led some interesting and entertaining discussions regarding our traditional language while trying to explain the meaning of a few Wyandot clan names. In addition, Mr. Scott Bentley, Superintendent of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, addressed the participants and gave a wonderful and easy to understand history of the complex events leading to the Battle of River Raisin during the War of 1812. Cathy Wright was honored for her many selfless contribu-

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GATHERING

Continued from Page 7

tions in helping make the Gathering of Little Turtles and the Annual Gathering a success.

Loretta Combes and Teresa Wilson put a lot of planning into the event and David Culver was the ring leader keeping everything on time and in relative order. Marilyn Young taught participants how to make corn husk dolls; Amanda Butcher taught wampum beads; John Webb and Deryl Wright taught the art of making traditional Wyandot arrows; and Angie Morgan taught peyote beading. Participants visited the Bland Cemetery where biographies were given on Irvin Patton Long and Nancy Pipe Mudeater by Lloyd Divine. Many others helped with an unquestioned commitment to making every participant comfortable, entertained, and informed. A lot of great food was consumed. New friends were made and lost family members reunited. Two citizens even discovered their lost clan identities. To close the year's events Chief Friend and Second Chief Hildebrand led the Walk of Remembrance honoring all our ancestors who have gone before us allowing us the privilege and responsibility of being Wyandottes today.

See all that you missed by not attending? Start making plans today to join us for the 16th Annual Gathering to be held Sept. 11-13, 2019.

1. Walker, Matthew. "Personal Letter to John Carey 22 Oct. 1843."
2. Divine Jr., Lloyd Eldon. *On the Back of a Turtle: A Narrative of the Huron-Wyandot People*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press, 2019. 238.

Johnston named WNTPD Police Chief

The Wyandotte Nation selected Glenn Johnston to serve as the new Chief of Police for the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department. Johnston started in the role Oct. 14.

"Glenn brings a wealth of experience to the department, and as a longtime resident of Ottawa County, has a great knowledge of our community and its residents," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend.



JOHNSTON

his spare time he enjoys spend-

ing time riding motorcycles and visiting his daughter in Florida. Johnston has more than 25 years of experience in law enforcement and brings a wealth of knowledge to the department and the Tribe.

He is certified as a crime scene investigator. In

ing time riding motorcycles and visiting his daughter in Florida.

Ken Murphy resigned his position as Chief of Police of the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) in late September. Murphy served as Chief of Police for nine years.

WNTPD Officer Faron Lee served as Interim Police Chief while the Wyandotte Nation conducted its search to fill the position, hiring Johnston to replace Murphy.

WNTPD donates Toughbooks to Sheriff's Office

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) and Wyandotte Nation donated nine used Toughbooks to the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office Wednesday, Oct. 10.

Officers rely on the Toughbooks in their patrol cars and out in the field to receive and send emergency information, among other uses.

"It's a matter of one law enforcement agency helping out another -- these Toughbooks will allow the Ottawa County Deputies to get the information they need at their fingertips so they can better serve the residents of Ottawa County," said Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr. "It is a pleasure for the Wyandotte Nation to be able to donate these Toughbooks to the Ottawa County Sheriff's Office."

Jeremy Floyd, of the Ottawa County Sheriff's Department, said the Toughbooks will greatly benefit the deputies in the field.

"It's something we've been working on for a while," Sheriff Floyd said. "The cost is quite



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

WNTPD Officer Faron Lee, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Ottawa County Sheriff Jeremy Floyd, and WNTPD Officer Mike Smith with the donated Toughbooks.

expensive for these Toughbooks. With our limited resources and budgeting, it made it hard for us to go forward with that planning goal, but with this awesome donation, it is going to move mountains for us on the technology side of things."

The Toughbooks are valued around \$4,000-\$5,000 per laptop.

Along with Sheriff Floyd and Second Chief Hildebrand, on hand for the donation were WNTPD Officers Mike Smith and Faron Lee.

'Shop With a Cop' program seeking donations, volunteers

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) is looking for donations and/or volunteers to support its 'Shop With a Cop' program.

Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas.

The WNTPD's 'Shop With a Cop' program joins these underprivileged children with local police officers, providing the children with money to shop for Christmas presents for their families and themselves.

This event is made successful by individuals such as you.

If you choose to donate to this event, please return your contribution as soon as possible to help ensure the maximum number of children will be included according to the funding received. You can also volunteer your time to help with the shopping or wrapping presents.

The shop date has tentatively been set for Sunday, Dec. 9.

To donate or volunteer to help out the 'Shop With a Cop' program, contact Pat Wilson, (918) 678-6364 or pwilson@wntpd.com or send your donation to: 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370.

Indigenous People's Day celebration takes place in LA

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend joined tribal citizen and Los Angeles City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell to celebrate Indigenous People's Day, replacing Columbus Day Oct. 12.

O'Farrell was instrumental in implementing Indigenous People's Day in place of Columbus Day in the LA, as local city and state governments across the country increasingly are replacing the traditional holiday with an observance of Native American culture and its history instead.

O'Farrell is the grandson of the late Mont Cotter, who served the Wyandotte Nation as chief on two different occasions in the tribe's history. He was elected as a city councilman in 2013.

"It was an honor for me to be invited to speak at the inaugural celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day in Los Angeles," Chief Friend said. "Mitch has been a warrior in the fight for honoring our native people and hopefully this event in the second largest city in the United States will serve as a catalyst for the rest of our country to honor our people and correct the history that has been taught for the last 200 years."

Friend and O'Farrell spoke at the Sunrise Ceremony and took



(Above) Chief Billy Friend (middle) with tribal citizen and LA City Councilman Mitch O'Farrell (right) and leaders of the local Tongva Tribe at the Indigenous People's Day in LA. (Above right) Chief Friend during the processional. (Right) Friend and O'Farrell with the Indigenous People's Day resolution.

part in the parade of Nations. The local tribe, the Tongva Tribe, led the procession followed by Chief Friend and the other tribal nations. The event also featured a 5K run, led by O'Farrell, and an outdoor concert headlined by the Grammy-winning group Black Eyed Peas and the Native American rock band Redbone.

The idea of an Indigenous People's Day started to come to fruition in 1977 when the United Nations began discussing replac-

ing Columbus Day, established as a national holiday in 1937, with a celebration recognizing instead native people. Berkeley, Calif., was the first to symbolically rename Columbus Day with Indigenous People's Day in 1992.

While Columbus had long been credited with 'discovering America,' scholars have started to acknowledge more of the history erased from education and history books that essentially involved the genocide of native peoples.



The Los Angeles City Council voted last year to eliminate Columbus Day from the city calendar and replace it with Indigenous People's Day. The vote wasn't a smooth one as Italian-American groups objected to the change. Still, O'Farrell was able to garner the support of fellow councilpersons to pass the vote 14-1 in the U.S.'s second largest city.

Wyandotte Nation donates \$100,000 to local school district

In a time when schools and education in the state of Oklahoma are facing a lack of funding, the Wyandotte Nation stepped up to help the local Wyandotte School District.

The Tribe donated \$100,000 to the school district with the hope of alleviating some of the stress placed on local schools.

"We were very fortunate again this year to be able to provide the Wyandotte schools with a \$100,000 donation to help them in areas that they may be experiencing cuts," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "The Wyandotte Nation realizes that these are very challenging and difficult times for school administrators, school boards and teachers



COURTESY PHOTO

trying to provide our students with a quality education that will enable them to compete in a very complex

world. The last thing they should worry about is lack of funding due to things beyond their control."

The Nation has donated to the school district the past three years and lets the district decide how to best use the donation to provide quality education in the area.

For Chief Friend, the donation is all part of the bigger picture with the Tribe in building a strong community here in Wyandotte. It's an investment in education and the future of our children.

"Our strategic planning for our Nation centers around building a strong and vibrant community here in Wyandotte, and having a quality school system such as we do here goes a long way in helping us achieve this goal," Chief Friend said.



29th Annual Pow-Wow

Photos by
William Swaim

The Wyandotte Nation's 29th Annual Pow-Wow was forced to move from the Pow-Wow grounds to the Wyandotte High School gym Friday evening, Sept. 7, due to weather, but the rain couldn't dampen a fantastic evening of dancing, and despite a little more rain, the Pow-Wow wrapped up Saturday and Sunday at the Pow-Wow Grounds. The Head Singer was Gene Sovo and the Northern Drum Redscout. The Head Gourd Dancer was Murry Rhoads, Jr., and the Head Man Dancer was Chuck Bread, and Nicole Ponkilla was the Head Lady Dancer. The Arena Director was Dude Blalock, Jay Blalock was Head Judge and Steve Kinder was Master of Ceremonies.



To see more photos from the 29th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow, visit our Facebook page and 'Like' us.



www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation





TRIBAL CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Tribal elders honored by AARP

Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens Tom Keffer and Larry Hamilton were honored in October at the 2018 AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors.

It's one of AARP Oklahoma's most prestigious and visible awards, given to recognize outstanding Native American elders who are making a powerful difference in their communities, and Indian Country, in ways that are consistent with AARP's mission and vision, and who inspire others to service.

As an elder of the Wyandotte Nation, Keffer is a retired archaeologist who has spent many years digging into the histories and 'footprint' left by the various cultures. Keffer said he has always been struck by the notion that a grave marker is many times the only physical reminder of a person. This realization is what inspired him to take on the task of cleaning, repairing and preserv-



ing the many grave markers in the cemeteries of the Wyandotte Nation. Keffer started with a tribal cemetery in Wyandotte and then progressed to three other area cemeteries. He is now working on the grave markers of Wyandotte peoples interred in the



COURTESY PHOTOS

Huron/Wyandotte Cemetery in Kansas City, Kansas. More than three years into his mission, Keffer has donated countless hours to ensuring the many hundreds of the Wyandotte ancestors' grave markers are fresh and preserved for years to come. He

is an aspiring, self-appointed steward of the Wyandotte tribal past and its future to come.

Hamilton served and protected the nation for 17 years as a member of the U.S. Air Force. Additionally, Hamilton served as the former commander of the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard. He also served the Wyandotte Nation as the Workforce Investment Act director and later joined the Wyandotte Nation maintenance department as a facilities technician, where he still continues this role. He is well-known throughout the community as a person that is always willing to lend a helping hand. Hamilton has been married to his wife, Karen, for 40 years, and they have three daughters, one son and two granddaughters.

The 10th Annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honors was held at the National Cowboy and Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City.

Shelton receives OTGRA scholarship



The Oklahoma Tribal Gaming Regulators Association (OTGRA) selected Kimberly Shelton as a recipient of the Jess Green OTGRA Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship acknowledges those emerging

tribal gaming regulators who have demonstrated leadership, initiative and dedication to their tribal gaming commissions. Shelton is the daughter of tribal citizen and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma employee Rhonda Klindworth.



Tribal Artisan Showcase

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Artisan Showcase had 48 entries from 20 tribal citizens, an increase from previous years as the showcase continues to grow. Youth participants were Gracie Blake, Caleb Garcia, Gabe Garcia, Alexis Harwood, Cora Lee Rice, Michaela Rice, and Hailey Streetter. Adult category entries were received from Candace Dees, Kim Garcia,

Josh Garcia, Jennifer Goodman, Ashley Harwood, Melani Lyman, and Angela Morgan. Tribal citizens Linda Blake, Janie Cole, Mike Hamilton, David Keffer, Brenda Lamb and Deryl Wright each showcased items in the Golden Years division. Tribal Heritage Director Sherri Clemons has agreed to recognize a "Best of Show" award for the contest in 2019 in conjunction with the 30th Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.



Wyandotte Nation recognizes October for Domestic Violence Awareness

By AUTUMN BRACEY
FOUR STATES / KODE

The Wyandotte Nation recognized the issue of domestic violence and is working to combat the issue.

Chief Billy Friend signed a proclamation declaring October as Domestic Violence Awareness Month

for Wyandotte Nation. The signing of the proclamation Monday Oct. 1 has evoked emotion for many in the Wyandotte Nation.

"These people have just been systematically placed in a position to where they feel alone. They've been isolated by their abuser, and so to know that they have somebody to trust to speak to that can help them

get back on their feet and know that they can take care of things on their own again is huge," said Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Victims Educator for the Wyandotte Nation.

Wyandotte has a place for people to come and get support thanks to their domestic violence program. There grant allows them to help Na-

tive Americans or anyone in need.

Some of the services offered within the Domestic Violence Program includes helping victims find a place to live, counseling, and seek legal services.

If you are in need of help you can call Wyandotte Nation at (918) 678-2297.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

**Submitted by Deana Howard,
HR Director**

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Glenn Johnston as the new Police Chief. Glenn has over 25 years of experience in Law Enforcement. He is certified as a crime scene investigator. In his spare time he enjoys spending time riding motorcycles and visiting his daughter in Florida. We are very excited to transfer Glenn into his new position and wish him much success.



JOHNSTON

The Accounting Department is happy to welcome Ben Schwarting. Ben will serve as the Accounting Director for the Wyandotte Nation. Ben transferred from River Bend Casino after serving 6 years as staff accountant and Assistant Controller. Ben graduated from Joplin High School and has his bachelor's degree in Accounting from MSSU. He brings a wealth of experience in Accounting. His spare time includes spending many hours at the ballpark supporting his son's baseball. He loves tacos! We are very fortunate to have Ben on our team and wish him much success in his new position.



SCHWARTING

The Wyandotte Nation Courts Department is proud to welcome Tribal Member Jan Grant as our Court Administrator for the Wyandotte Nation District Tribal Court, and John Koch as our new Court Bailiff.

Jan has her BS in Criminal Justice Administration, AS in Law Enforcement and just completed her Masters of Legal Studies of Indigenous Peoples Law. In her spare time she enjoys photography, shopping and travel. She enjoys spending time with her



GRANT

daughter, family and friends. Jan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her. We are very fortunate to have Jan and wish her much success in this new position.



KOCH

John is an Ottawa County/Wyandotte native. He graduated from Seneca High School, spent 4 years in the Navy as an Aircraft Mechanic and attended NEO A&M College. John has a wealth of experience in Law Enforcement and retired from the Miami Police Department after 25 years. He brings extensive courtroom knowledge with him from his years working with Ottawa County District Court. In his spare time he enjoys fishing and traveling to the mountains. He also enjoys playing guitar and he likes to ride motorcycles. We are very fortunate to have John and wish him much success in his new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is happy to welcome Katelin Stepp as an Afterschool Childcare Assistant, Kayla Collins in her new position as Afterschool Program Lead, Victoria Sloan back as an afterschool Teacher's Assistant, Robyn Beaty as an Early Childhood Food Service Cook, Samantha Butterfield to her new position as Education Specialist, and Abby Friend as a Substitute.



STEPP



COLLINS

Katelin Stepp enjoys working with children, singing, photography, acting, running, and spending time with her friends and youth group. We are very fortunate to have Katelin work with the afterschool program.

Kayla Collins is a Wyandotte Nation Citizen and has several years' experience working as a teacher and in the classroom. She received her Bachelor's Degree from Pittsburg State University. She enjoys reading, watching movies, and attending con-

certs in her spare time. Kayla also likes spending time with her family attending church, and doing activities with Kids/Teens. We are happy to have Kayla on our team.



SLOAN

Victoria Sloan received her High School Diploma and has two years of college behind her and is currently enrolled at VO-Tech LPN School. In her spare she enjoys swimming and baking. She also loves spending time with her family, and also enjoys hanging out with friends. We are very fortunate to have Victoria join our Education Team again.



BEATY

Robyn Beaty comes to us with previous food service experience and loves working with children. Robyn enjoys spending time with her family. She also enjoys cooking, crafts, fishing and gardening in her spare time. We are very fortunate to have Robyn on our team and wish her the best of luck in her position.

Samantha Butterfield graduated from NEO in 2008, and attended NSU pursuing a degree in Human and Family Sciences. She brings several years' experience in this field.



BUTTERFIELD



FRIEND

She enjoys doing beadwork, reading, and finding new creative projects in her spare time. Samantha also likes spending time with her son and family, traveling and exploring new places, going to amusement parks and visiting friends on the east coast. We are happy to have Samantha on our team.

Abby Friend loves children and has previous experience from participating in our tribal summer youth intern program. Abby is a Wyandotte Tribal

Citizen and is in her senior year at Wyandotte High School. She enjoys spending time with her family. We are pleased to have Abby and wish her much success in her new position.

The Bearskin Fitness Center is happy to welcome tribal citizens Ryan Cooper and Coy Vowels as Front Desk Assistants and Lynnea Cox to her new position as Fitness Supervisor.



COX

Lynnea Cox transferred from our Summer Youth Program and has fitness and childcare experience. Lynnea is in her 2nd year of college at NEO and was a 2017 Wyandotte High School Graduate. Lynnea enjoys spending time with family and friends. We are very fortunate to have Lynnea on our team.



COOPER

Ryan Cooper is a 2018 Graduate from Wyandotte High School and is currently enrolled in CNC Classes at VO-Tech. Ryan transferred from the Wyandotte Nation Summer Youth Intern Program. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family and friends. He likes playing sports and video games. We are very fortunate to have Ryan on our team and wish him much success in this position.



VOWELS

Coy will serve as the Fitness Front Desk Assistant. Coy is a graduate of Poteau High School and a scholar for the National Native American Association of American Indian Physicians; but is originally from Wyandotte, Okla. In his spare time he enjoys spending time rock climbing, running and anything outside period. We are very fortunate to have Coy on our team and wish him much success in this new position.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,
Family Services Director*

It was great to see so many of our tribal citizens at the Gathering, Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow this year! Even though the Friday night session of the Pow-Wow had to be moved indoors, due to weather, it was still a wonderful weekend for friends and family to enjoy. Each of these events continue to grow as we have more and more tribal citizens come to participate.

I would like to thank Chief Friend, 2nd Chief Hildebrand, Sherri Clemmons, the Pow-Wow Committee, and anyone else who had a hand in selecting me to be the Honored Person for 2018. This was a complete surprise and I feel extremely humbled by this award. When I began working for the Tribe in 1996, I never would have dreamed how much the Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens and employees would come to mean to me. I feel so very privileged to be able to come to work every day at the Nation. I also want to thank Ron Kaiser, who gave me a chance, Kate Randall, who showed me love and compassion, the Family Services staff for being my support system, and the Wyandotte people across the country for allowing me to do this job that I love!

The Family Services Department has many programs and services to offer tribal citizens. In the remainder of this article you will find highlights of those programs. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us: Dana Butterfield, Director, (918) 678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, (918) 678-6355; Leeanna Radabaugh, Family Services Assistant, (918) 678-6329; Tiffany Garner, ICW Social Worker, (918) 678-6353; and Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator, (918) 678-6324. Be sure to visit the Wyandotte Nation website www.wyandotte-nation.org and follow the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page to stay up-to-date on events and program announcements that will be posted in between issues of the newsletters.

Upcoming Winter Programs:

Children's Christmas Party – The party will be held Saturday,

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card)

During a recent audit of the Supplemental Health/Benny accounts it has been determined that there has been fraudulent activity and misuse of these funds. Please keep in mind that the Benny card is to be used only for approved medical/health related expenditures. Due to these issues, we have asked CoreSource to monitor the accounts more closely and they will be asking for receipts on questionable items. If citizens do not respond to their requests or are unable to provide appropriate documentation then accounts will be suspended until the issue can be cleared.

If you have questions about allowable expenses please refer to the flyer provided by CoreSource annually in December or call CoreSource directly at the number listed below. You can also obtain information based on an Internet search for "Flexible Spending Accounts". Keep in mind there are certain expenditures that will only be allowable if

approved and accompanied by a Doctors statement of need/letter of necessity. Some of these items include vitamins, massages and gym memberships.

This has been an amazing program for many of our citizens and continues to grow each year. The estimated expenditure for 2018 will be nearly 4 million dollars. Please help us to continue to make this benefit successful and be mindful of the program guidelines.

Citizens have until Feb. 28, 2019 to file claims for 2018 funds. You will not be able to swipe your Benny card after Dec. 31 for 2018 expenditures. You will need to pay those expenses out of pocket then file for a reimbursement. If you need assistance with filing a claim you can contact a member of the Family Services staff or CoreSource.

Contact information:

Family Services – (918) 678-6319 or (918) 678-6329
CoreSource – (800) 990-9058 x42086.

Dec. 8 from 10am to Noon at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gym. Doors will open at approximately 9:45, depending on the weather of the day and you will need to enter through the gym doors. Each Wyandotte child ages birth to 12 will receive a gift from Santa and tribal parents who are present with their eligible children will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card (1 per household). This year the theme of the party will be "Polar Express" and there will be fun activities around this theme. Children are encouraged to wear their pajamas to the party! As always, Grandparents, aunts, uncles, siblings, etc. are all welcome to attend and share in the joy of Christmas!

Winter Clothing – Starts Nov. 1 and ends Feb. 28 for pre-K (must be enrolled in a structured learning program and be at least 3 years old) through grade 12. OK, MO, AR, KS residents. Reimbursement program or Walmart gift card for \$100 per student. Applications, along with guidelines, will be available on the home page of the Tribe's website. Please note there are separate

applications for the gift card and reimbursement program. If you did not return your receipts for either the School Supplies or last year's Winter Clothing gift cards, you will be required to use the reimbursement program this year. Incomplete applications will be returned to the sender.

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

APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE PROGRAMS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POST MARKED BY Feb. 28 TO BE ELIGIBLE AND BILLS/ RECEIPTS MUST BE DATED BETWEEN OCT. 1, 2018 AND FEB. 28, 2019, NO EXCEPTIONS.

LIHEAP – LIHEAP is a federal grant program and if funding is received, funds will be available beginning Dec. 1 for tribal citizen residing in Oklahoma. This program is income based and proof of income is required.

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

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

Extra-Expense/Extracurricular Activities – One-time payment of \$100 per student aged pre – K (at least 3 years of age) through 12th grade.

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

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 threatening, terminal, etc. not chronic medical issues) that require multiple trips outside of the local area. Program provides fuel vouchers through the Turtle Stop convenience store for local tribal citizens or tribal citizens who travel to the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center.

Other Programs provided by the Family Services Department:

Continued on Page 15

TAG REMINDERS:

- Must be an enrolled citizen of the Wyandotte Nation, an Oklahoma resident AND the car must be principally garaged in Oklahoma Indian country.
 - Oklahoma Insurance Verification must accompany renewals (except for RV's and Travel Trailers).
 - If you are purchasing a new/used vehicle, the Tribal citizen's name MUST be on the Title at the time of assignment. Wyandotte Nation Tax Commission staff CAN NOT add or delete names.
- For questions, please call (918) 678-6329 or (918) 678-6319

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Child Safety Seats – Each child is eligible for 3 seats in different sizes and can be picked up at the tribal office. Staff try to keep all sizes on hand, but if you are traveling from a distance please call in advanced to ensure the correct seat is available.

Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare – 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 that federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is first and foremost. If your family is in a situation where the state is involved, please contact either of the ICW Social Workers. The Tribe is continually seeking foster families. If you're interested in sharing your home with a child in need, please contact Tara or Tiffany at the numbers listed above.

Enrollment – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate. Applications can be submitted at any during the year and birth certificates will be returned within 10-14 business days.

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

Tribal Tags – Available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma.

Passenger, RV, Motorcycle and Handicap tags are available. Please call the office for prices and additional information. All new requests must be accompanied by the original title and proof of insurance. Renewals require a proof of insurance. Incomplete requests will be returned to the tribal citizen.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card) – This program has been renewed and accounts will be re-loaded Jan. 1, 2019. The benefits will be the same as previous years with a \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Individuals who were voted into citizenship at the Annual Meeting will receive their account information in December and accounts will be active Jan. 1, 2019. Quarterly statements are mailed by CoreSource to show remaining balances, but account balances can be obtained at any time via www.mycourcesource.com or by calling (800) 990-9058 ext 42086.

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

Family Violence Prevention Program – The Wyandotte Nation is pleased to announce that it has been funded again through the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW). The Nation has also received funding

from the Administration for Children and Families. Both of these grants will be used to provide advocacy to individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. Services for victims include shelter, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, court accompaniment, counseling, etc and can be provided to any victim who resides within a 25-mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation. Victims do not have to be Wyandotte or Native to reserve services. There will also be awareness campaigns, events and cultural activities to educate the community regarding these issues.

Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House,
Elder Services Director*

Wow! It is hard to believe that the holidays are almost upon us.

We will be hosting a Medicare Part D Enrollment Clinic at the Artie Nesvold Community Center Nov. 5. There will be a trained Medicare Counselor here from 10am to 2pm with Medicare packets and will be able to assist anyone that needs help filling out the forms or just needs information.

We will be traveling to Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, Okla., to see the horse races on Nov. 9. The coach will be leaving at 11am. The cost is \$25 and includes the lunch buffet, racing program and transportation. Everyone will also receive a \$5 free play for the casino. Please come and play with us!

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be Thursday, Nov. 15. Staff and volunteers will serve the elders so they will not have to stand in line. We will have turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings.

Our Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, Dec. 13. Staff and volunteers will also be serving the elders at this event. We will have brisket, baked potatoes and sides. We are planning on a visit from Santa. We will be giving every attendee one of our delicious homemade candy trays. We will also be giving away a recliner.

Caregiver

The Caregiver Support Group will hold their annual Christmas luncheon and meeting at the Twin Bridges Restaurant. Inside the River Bend Casino at 10:30am. There will be a \$10 gift exchange. The group is

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Wyandotte Nation Family Services Programs Dates to Remember

- Elder's Assistance: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30
- Senior Energy: Winter: Oct. 1 – Feb. 28
- Senior Energy: Summer: July 1 – Sept. 30
- LIHEAP: (if available) Winter: Dec. 1 – Feb. 28
- LIHEAP: (if available) Summer: July 1 – Sept. 30
- School Supplies: July 1 – Sept. 30
- Children's Winter Clothing: Nov. 1 – Feb. 28
- Extracurricular Activities: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30
- Jr./Sr. High School Assist.: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30
- Children's Christmas Party: Dec. 8
- Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting: Sept. 14
(Second Saturday of September each year)

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

Start your journey today

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

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 15

open to all current and past Care-givers. Please contact Brenda for information.

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

Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from your Wyandotte Nation family.

Department Contacts:

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

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

Seth Higginbotham, Chris Rhodes and Twylia Stone Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328.

Menu, (918) 678-6326.

Education

Submitted by Tammy Charles, Education Director

It was a pleasure to meet so many tribal citizens during the 'Gathering.' I do hope those that were in attendance enjoyed the time and those that were unable to be here can make plans to join us next September.

With the arrival of October we witness a change of seasons, experience the closing of program years, and begin new projects.

The early education program classrooms are filled with new faces that are adjusting nicely to new routines. There are five classrooms with nearly 100 children in them daily! Classes have enjoyed family night events, field trips to the pumpkin patch and plans are underway for Halloween events and programs.

The facility will be getting a facelift in the coming weeks inside and out. New carpeting will be installed and part of the front playground will be covered with artificial turf. Before and after school care has taken on a new format this year and we are including regular time in the library and computer lab for those participants. The program is thriving and growing!

Fall scholarships continue to be processed and it is time for high school seniors to start working on FASFA applications and start planning for life after graduation. High school seniors need to complete the FASFA application process as soon as

"Education is the key to unlock the golden door of freedom."

--George Washington Carver



COURTESY PHOTO

possible. Many scholarships request information regarding PELL eligibility as the student completes the application. Proof of filing is required for the Wyandotte Nation scholarship but the citizen need not be deemed eligible for funds to receive the Wyandotte Scholarship. The increase of funds for the undergraduate scholarship was well received! Many students have called and emailed to express their gratitude.

It is always a pleasure to visit with tribal citizens on matters regarding educational pursuits. I had the opportunity to travel to Tulsa and meet with a first generation college student and assist her with the application process. I am eternally grateful to Carla Culver for the time she gave to me and taught me the college processes. I want to be of assistance to the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation and remove any barriers that I may.

Please keep in mind the funds available from the Education Department for your high school students. We assist with the expenses related to vocational schools, college concurrent course work, and advanced placement exams. We also fund adult vocational programs and GED testing expenses.

The Master's program has several new students this fall. A few of them recently completed their undergraduate degrees and are moving to advanced degrees. The Wyandotte Nation wishes them the best!

When the semester ends, re-

member to send an updated official transcript to apply for spring funds. If you are planning to graduate with a post-secondary degree, please send proof of filing for graduation to me so that I can send Wyandotte Nation graduation stole for you to wear at commencement.

The Child Care and Development Program is busy doing recertification of families and planning for the submission of annual reports. The increase in payment rates was welcomed in our early childhood facility and with the providers we subsidize. The CCDF program is a valuable resource to aid with the child care expenses of our families. We are accepting applications for families in need of assistance. Parents must be working or attending school to apply. To be eligible for Wyandotte Nation CCDF, you must reside within 100 miles of our tribal headquarters. I am always available to help you locate assistance in your area with another grantee if you do not reside in our service area.

The WIOA grant application was approved for funding by the Department of Labor. The

program will make some changes in protocol as a result of the "measured outcomes" regulations. We are accepting applications and are eager to assist students. A quick reminder that these funds are available to assist members of federally recognized tribes in the Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri area.

The Tribal library has received several new items in the past month and Ms. Deb invites all to stop by and look at them. It was a pleasure for myself and Deb Haynes to be invited to speak about the enhancement grant "Gateway to the World" at the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries and Museum Conference.

The Education Department staff is available to assist citizens with resources in the areas of educational funding, childcare, workforce and the tribal library.

If you have any questions or if we may assist you in the application process for any of our programs, please do not hesitate to reach out! The Tribal Citizen is our primary focus and we want to deliver the services that you need!

Department Contacts:

Tammy R Charles- Director of Education (918) 678-6330 office; (918) 944-0394 cell

Cristi Hudson- Child Care Resource Referral (918) 678-6334
Sami Butterfield- Education Specialist- WIOA (918) 678-6331



COURTESY PHOTO

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Environmental

**Submitted by Kathy Welch,
Environmental Program Manager**

Seems like we've had an accelerated summer. Fourth of July is one of my favorite holidays, with the fireworks and family get togethers, it's like the official kick off of summer. Then boom! It's the beginning of a new school year, county fairs, pow-wows, and football season.

July is always a good month for performing Septic Assessments for our EPA 319 Grant. I, along with our Certified ODEQ Assessor/Contractor, performed five assessments. We were happy to report all five systems were in good working condition.

On July 16, I attended the NATURE Meeting hosted by the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma.

During this month Braulio Ramirez attended the ITEC (Inter Tribal Environmental Council) Conference that was held in Catoosa, Okla., July 24-26.

August found us saying goodbye to our Tribal Member/Summer Youth Worker, Devon Rutledge. This year was the third year that Devon has worked in our department. Devon is a valuable asset and we so enjoy having him work with us. His enthusiasm about the environment and protecting it is refreshing. Devon is a Senior at Wyandotte High School and we look forward to seeing him



(Pictured Left) The Environmental Department and Communities Unlimited co-hosted a Decentralized Wastewater Training at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. (Pictured Right) Janice Wilson and Braulio Ramirez had an education booth at the Eastern Shawnee Water Festival.

achieve many goals through out his years to come. The picture below shows Devon helping the Environmental Department Staff with a Bio-Assessment on Mason Valley Spring Creek.

Aug. 11 was the Shoal Creek Water Festival. Janice Wilson and Christen Lee provided an educational booth at this event that talked to the public about the importance of protecting our waters and the surrounding watershed.

During the week of Aug. 13-17, Jon Quick and Braulio Ramirez traveled to Spokane, Wash., for the 2018 Tribal Lands Forum. During this Forum they both attended field trips and breakout

sessions that pertained to Recycling and Water Education.

This month also found Kathleen Welch performing five additional Septic Assessments, with one of the five to be found failing. We are working with our Certified Contractor to install a new system to replace the existing failing system and were hoping to have installed in September.

September is always a busy month with Cultural Week and Pow-Wow.

On Sept. 7, Janice Wilson and Braulio Ramirez had an education booth at the Eastern Shawnee Water Festival. Their booth provided environmental information about water quality to over 600 students from several local area schools.

Our water technicians were busy with end of the summer season

ecoli-sampling on our seven sampling sites. Our departments water technicians continue to sample seven monthly monitoring sites on a regular basis throughout the month. These sites include Spring and Neosho Rivers, Sycamore Creek and Lost Creek.

On Sept. 25, our department and Communities Unlimited co-hosted a Decentralized Wastewater Training/Class at the Bearskin Health & Wellness Center. This training taught valuable information about the proper maintenance of private as well as municipal septic systems.

Services Provided

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

Department Contacts:

Kathleen Welch (Env. Department Manager) (918) 678-6335
 Janice Wilson (Env. Technician) (918) 678-6345
 Jon Quick (Recycling) (918) 678-6352
 Braulio Ramirez (Env. Technician) (918) 678-6396



COURTESY PHOTOS
 (Pictured Left) Summer intern Devon Rutledge works with Kathy Welch and Braulio Ramirez on a bio-assessment on Mason Valley Creek.

(Pictured Right) Janice Wilson and Christen Lee provided an educational booth at the Shoal Creek Water Festival.



COURTESY PHOTOS

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Important Numbers

Police Department

Faron Lee (918) 678-3100x12
flee@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/Educator, Lisa Arnold, 918-678-6324, lisaarnold@wyandotte-nation.org

Tribal Social Workers

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

Human Resources

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

Nutrition & Caregiver Services

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

Education / Library / Child Care

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

Historical

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

Environmental / Planning / Development

Christen Lee (918) 678-6341
cleec@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

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



PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SWAIM

(Pictured Above) Vendors discuss various health issues with citizens. (Below) Duke Mason provides the entertainment.



17th Annual Health Fair

The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center hosted its annual Health Fair Friday, Oct. 19, in the Fitness Center gym. Those attending the event were treated to food, FREE health screenings, flu shots, door prizes, vendors, and special entertainment from Duke Mason. In addition, a fun walk was held and the first 50 finishers received a T-shirt.

The health screenings addressed: Cholesterol, glucose, basic pulmonary functioning, bone density, visual acuity, glaucoma, and blood pressure.

Sponsors of the event include: Wyandotte Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Quapaw Nation, Ottawa Tribe, Peoria Tribe, Senior Companions, Grand Gateway, Cherokee Nation, Quaker Hill, Good Shepherd Hospice, Oklahoma Lions Service Foundation, and the Alzheimer's Association.

Tribal Heritage

**Submitted by Sherri Clemons,
Tribal Heritage Director**

September is a busy but wonderful time at the Wyandotte Nation, and this year was just as exciting as ever. 'Gathering' is always fun. The Committee had several new projects for everyone to work on and even work on projects from the past.

The weather played a factor in all

of the outside events but it held off for the cemetery tours and memorial walk, which was nice. This may have been the first trip to Wyandotte for some citizens and we hope you and your family enjoyed your visit. Maybe you went to a place you had always heard about while growing up around your grandparents. Maybe you found a grave of a loved one and told your children about them. Whatever your path crossed I hope you felt welcomed.

Pow-Wow was a reminder we can't control the weather. We did move inside Friday evening for contest and social dancing. It worked out well. Saturday we were back out to the grounds. We dealt with some misty weather through the day but not enough to stop the dance. The temperatures were not bad. Next year will be the 30th, and the prize money will be \$50,000 so it should be a great Pow-Wow. Hope to see everyone there.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Housing

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Heritage Acres Community continues to grow. There are 16 senior duplexes, as well as four family duplexes, and 12 three-bedroom homes located here. A new senior duplex will be built this year.

If you are looking to purchase a home within a 50-mile radius of our tribal headquarters, are a first time homebuyer and qualify for a conventional loan, check out our down payment assistance. Applicants must qualify by federal income guidelines. This is a first come first serve program.

All housing applications are

now on the website. If you are interested in rental units, please submit an application. Proof of income, and a copy of your tribal card will need to be submitted with the application. Federal income guidelines are followed.

The Community Center is open daily from 8am - 4:30pm. Pool tables, a ping pong table, and air hockey are available for use. The cost of renting the center on evenings and weekends is \$50 for tribal citizens, and \$75 for non-tribal, with a \$25 cleaning deposit. Several dates have already been booked.

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

The Indian Health Service well

and septic program is available on a first come first serve basis. If you are in need of a well or septic and live within our Oklahoma service area, contact our office for more information. We look forward to hearing from you.

Department Staff:

Kathy DeWeese - Housing Director

Valari Richards - Housing Specialist

Don Graham - Residential

Maintenance Technician

Drew Lankford - Housing Facilities Technician

Levi Griffin - Project Coordinator

Paul Parker - Project Coordinator

Planning & Development

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

The department is currently working on surveying the Pow-Wow grounds and collecting other information to put the fee to trust package together to submit to the BIA. The Bureau of Land Management is reviewing the survey. The 81-acre property known as William Bearskin Tract 1 was awarded Trust land status this quarter. This property is located off South Highway 10. It contains one small rental house, four farm ponds and several acres of woods and fenced grazing lands. Staff continue to update all trust land leases. The Properties Manager continues to update the rental houses.

The Department is currently working on seven construction projects for the Wyandotte Nation. The Tribal road and Storm water improvement on Rd 645 next to the casino was bid out and awarded to Kings Construction. This project will start soon and have a four-month completion timeframe.

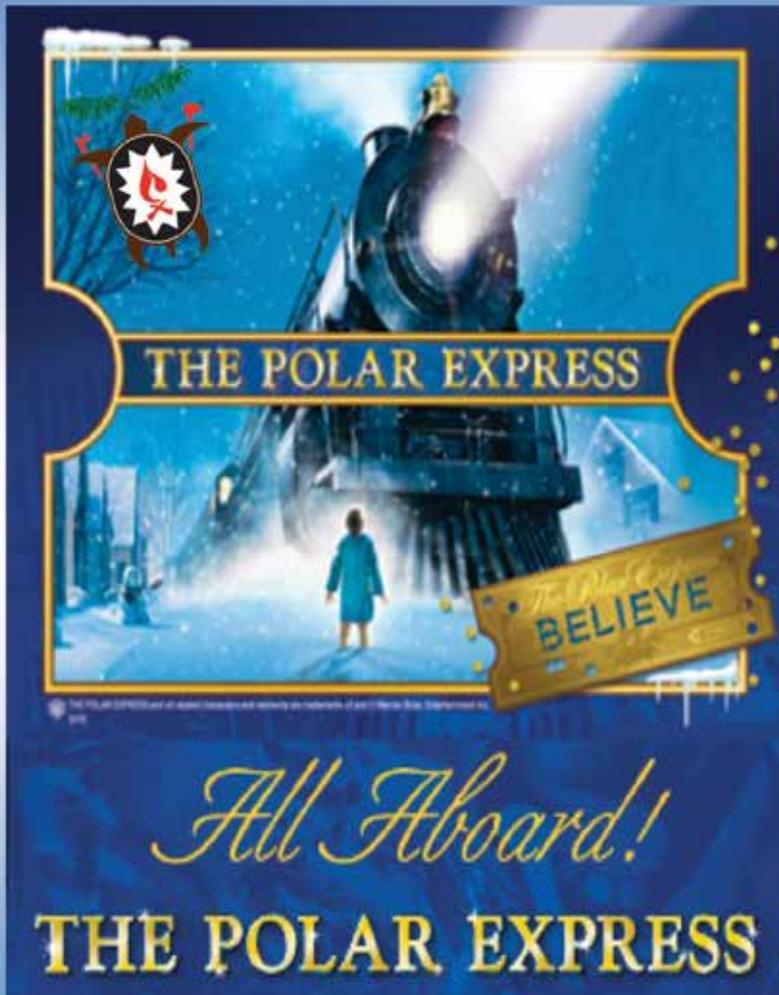
The water line project on State line road continues. The Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was filed in September. The Tribe has received no comments on this document yet. The public has until Oct. 9 to reply, then we will file for a release of funds.

Work continues to complete the last three leases/Right of ways for this project. The Engineer has submitted the permit request to ODEQ for this project.

The Environmental Department is currently working on the EA for the Bearskin Fitness Center remodel. This process normally takes 30 days. The Engineer is working on the ODEQ/EPA permit to remodel the well house for this project.

The Tribe has two projects on 137 Rd: the first is the Housing Departments and we are working on the Environmental Assessment at this time. The second is housing that will be open to the public. The Tribe is also working on building rental units on the 35 acres next to the casino. Both of these projects are still in the Planning stages.

The last project we are working on is parking for Heritage Acres Park. A closed bid took place in late September/early October. We hope to start this project at the same time as the 645 Rd project.



*Departure Date: Saturday,
December 8th*

Travel Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

*Location: Bearskin Healthcare and
Wellness Center Gymnasium*

*Wear your pajamas for a fun filled
Polar Express themed morning with
Santa!*

*Children ages birth to 12 and must be enrolled citizens of the
Wyandotte Nation or eligible for enrollment*



(There will not be an actual train ride)

New Tribal Citizen Enrollment

Almaraz, Juan James
Ballard Jr., Michael Lloyd
Barkley, Audrey Grace
Beck, Hunter Thomas
Beesley, Joshua Cole
Birchfield, Axel Gray
Bitter, Keara Rose
Boomer, Wilder Tate
Botts, Carter Wade
Botts, Dek'Lynn Grace
Bowman, Rennyson Volz
Boyles, Elliot Van
Boyles, Sophie Lyn
Boynton, Harley Ahn
Brewer, Coldyn Michael Wayne
Brown, Kapri Livianna
Brumble, Lynnlee Dawn
Bunch, Sienna Marie
Burnette, Flynn Allan
Butler, Aubree Leah
Buzzard, Thea Annabelle
Campbell, Dahlyiah Faith
Campbell, Gage Matthew
Campbell, Shileigh Echo
Cardwell, Khloe Brooke
Chartrand, Henry Esco
Chernick, Danielle Kaia
Chernick, Rachel Mariel
Chittum, Karter Jacob
Clark, Orion Paul
Clubb, Jaxton Phoenix
Clubb, Jayden Scott
Clubb, Juliette Ann-Marie
Colbert, Leonia Denise
Conrow, Aaliyah Renee Rose
Cookinham, Eleanor June
Cooper, Gabriel Paul
Cooper, Matthew Woodrow
Cox, Ashley Marissa
Cox, Brittany Alexandria
Cox, Primrose Eve
Crawford, Jaron Paul
Crawford, Marcus Daniel
Cuevas, Jacob Alexander
Delo, Keira Kathleen
Delo, Kyle Stephen

Delo, Nancy Maureen
Dennis, Odin Kane
Duffy, Lana Mae
Eckhart, Evan John
Eckhart, Zane Jason
Ediger, Rose EllieSue
Edwards, Kynleigh Faith
Enyart, Jalin Keith
Enyart, Keith Edward
Enyart, Kyah Lynn
Evans, Parker Maverick
Fallis, Ettalyn Rose
Frame Jr., William Joseph
Friberg, Hudson George
Friend, Dyani Hurit
Garner, Caroline Rose
Gibbs, Amanda Bailey
Gibbs, Colin Michael
Goddard, Seira Darline
Graham, Brayden David
Graham, Olivia Mae
Greenhaw, Xaedee Inez
Handley, Magenta Sunrise Melinda
Handley, Veronica Elyse
Hankins, Jack Harrison
Hankins, Katherine Rose
Harris III, John James
Harris, Harley Keith
Hart, Gemma Quinn
Haverty, Caprice Dianne
Hinds, Addison Adele
Hoag, Carter Ryan
Huerta, Emma Marie
Isaia-Maggio, Lesley Diane
Jackson, Jason Allen
Jackson, Ty Rae
Jeans, Addyson Grey
Johnson, Raiden David
Jones, Adalyn Elise
Jones, IndieRose
Jumper, Bradley Kenton
Karr, Peyton John
King, Harrison Tyler
King, Jacob Aaron
Kite, Theodore Rex
Kneese, Alan Michael

Koon, Kanan Nicholas George
Landers, Jacob Lane
Landers, Joshua Lee
Lawson, Fletcher Elliott
Lewis, Joyce Aubrey
Lollis, Holly Lynn
Markwell, Reese Amelia
Martarano, Donovan Carmillo-Gary
Mathis, Brayden Taylor
Mathis, Dana Michelle
Mattox, Dustin Emerson
Mattox, Erica Jean
McCloud, Rachele Lynn
McCullum, Paisley Elizabeth Anne
McLaughlin, Sophia Nicole
McQuistion, Keegan Garrett Leon
Montgomery, Kimberly Dee
Moody, Josephine Rae Athena
Moody, Victoria Elizabeth Nancy
Morgan, Remington Alexandre
Nance, Evianne Lee
Nelson, Harper Jane
Nesvold, Charles Edward
Nesvold, Logan Ann
Nichols, Jasmine Marie
Padilla, Garrett
Poole, Remington Ray
Porter, Landon Gray
Powell, Lakelyn Rose
Powell, River Grace
Raymond, Makk James
Reinhardt, Caden Michael
Rieck, Shepherd Jonathan
Rogers, Audrey Rebecca
Rychak, Charles Kenneth
Ryser, Rowan Hutch
Schultz, Raelynn Amy
Scoggins, Raelyn O'Neill
Shideler, Austin Curtis
Shideler, Bryce Alan Patrick
Shipley, Braxton Scott
Slayton, Andi Wren
Smith, Emily Ray
Smith, Ryder Dudley
Souttee, Ethan Wiley
South, Killian Michael

Spencer, Samuel Ronan
Steele, William Maxwell
Stevens, Jax Coe
Stevens, Ryan Alexandria
Stone, Eliza Corrine
Taylor, Kathy Lynne Casey
Thomas, Mary Marklee
Thompson, London Sixx
Trim, Christian Montgomery
Trim, Jonathan Tailor
Tripp, Brynn Elizabeth
Tripp, Hailey Quinn
Tyrrell, Ashley Alyce
Underwood, Brooklynn Joyce
Uribe, Shilo Alonzo
Vaughan, Landon Blaze
Vowels, Bailee Elizabeth
Vowels, Coy Shawn
Vowels, Dwight Shawn
Watters, Easton Ryan
Watters, Emersen Grace
Watters, Tyler James
Watts, Bobby Allen
Webster, Brooks Tyler
Weeks, Charlotte Weslee
Weisinger, Johnny Tyler
Weisinger, Khloe Dawn
Weisinger, Mitchell Quaid
Werntz II, Douglas Franklin
Werntz, Davis Lee
Werntz, Denise Carla
Williams, Connor Lee
Williams, Kyler James
Yzaguirre, Charlotte Josie
Zumwalt-Adams, Alannah Renee

173
New Tribal Citizens

6,425
Total Tribal Enrollment



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.