



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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SHOP WITH A COP:
**WNTPD
officers
treat kids to
memorable
Christmas**

PAGES 5

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

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Cover Photo:
Shop With a Cop program at Walmart in Miami, Okla.
 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) 932-4778.

Looking for Elders, Veterans for Feature Stories

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

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

Our solid foundation

“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.”

--Jesus, Matthew 24:7

There is no substitute for a firm, solid footing, and when we talk about a house, we are talking about physical elements.

When we talk about a program, a business or a tribe, we are focusing on the vital support systems that make the Tribe successful.

We are greatly blessed at the Wyandotte Nation to have a tribe with a rock-solid foundation. We have been fortunate throughout our history to have had great leaders who helped lay this foundation that we are building on today.

Many of our elders will recall when we sometimes felt as if we were on shifting sands. The mid-20th Century environment in which tribal nations operated was not particularly favorable. Many would even say it was a period of daily struggle, and they would be correct.

It is important to understand the small steps taken by the tribe during those challenging times.

The Wyandotte Nation was utterly dependent on the federal government for its scarce programs and services. There were no tribal businesses or other entities that might conceivably contribute to the tribe’s dreams and initiatives.

The Wyandotte people could access only the barest education,

housing, health care, nutrition and other programs. What we had was each other. That unbreakable connection continues to this day, it is the remarkable bond that held us all together.

During the decades of the 1980s and 1990s, we learned how to better access and utilize the federal funds on which we depended for basic services. Once we became a Self-Governance tribe we became familiar with representatives and officials who could assist us on our drive to build that solid tribal foundation. I believe by this time every employee at the Bureau of Indian Affairs knew who Chief Bearskin was due to his persistence to get answers.

During this time, it became clear we could not, over time, sustain the healthy programs and services we envisioned on federal funds alone. For the Wyandotte people to grab hold of the tremendous education, health care, housing and other opportunities we as a tribe

envisioned, the Wyandotte Nation would have to grow.

Growth, to us, was the same as self-sufficiency and Wyandotte opportunity. We set upon a course of economic development with the goal of creating a self-sufficient nation committed to improving the lives of our people.

Today many, especially our elders, can recall the days of struggle, and fully appreciate our current reality. We always remember it is our people we serve, and our economic ventures that provide the financial foundation are in place strictly to serve the Wyandotte people. The times have changed, but our mission has never varied.

I appreciate our businesses and the success that they have achieved. However, the real proof of our success is the new Wyandotte college graduate; the new home welcoming a Wyandotte family; Wyandotte elders gathering for a nutritious meal and fellowship; and the finest health care for our people.

Together we have achieved much, and together we will continue to work to improve the quality of life for all of our Wyandotte citizens.

Tizameh

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Perseverance of our ancestors made Tribe what it is today

Kweh
 Winter is upon us and I hope everyone is staying warm and healthy, there are a lot of nasty illnesses going around and I wish everyone a healthy New Year. At the writing of this article the government is in the longest shut down in history. Indian country all across the U.S. is feeling the

effects of government agencies that don’t have enough staff to keep them functioning. They won’t answer emails or phone calls, tribes do business with government agencies on a daily basis. HUD funded projects are in limbo, the BIA will not return calls and it is not certain if we will get our funding from Indian Health Services.

It’s not just the furloughed government workers that are suffering but people all across the country are being affected by the government shut down. Especially Indian Country.

Next week I will be attending the first meeting of the NEH A New



TRIBAL CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS



McLaughlin sworn in to committee

Reilly McLaughlin was sworn in on the Grievance Committee on Tuesday, Jan. 8. McLaughlin is also the Maintenance Manager at the River Bend Casino & Hotel.

Congrats to recent graduates!

Congratulations Hannah Blythe on receiving your BSN-RN from Clarkson College and also to Wyandotte Nation citizen and Grant Writer Debbie Dry on receiving her degree from Missouri Southern State University!

Also, if you are interested in receiving a Wyandotte Nation stole to wear at your post-secondary graduation/commencement, please provide proof of completing requirements/filing for graduation to the Education Department. Please allow up to two weeks for delivery. Contact information: chudson@wyandotte-nation.org or 918-678-6334.



Blythe



Dry

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

View of the Battle of the Wabash Humanities Scholars at the Miami Tribal headquarters in Miami, Okla. This will be an exciting project to be a part of and can't wait to see it all together and touring the country. Those of you that aren't familiar with this battle it was the prelude to the Battle of Fallen Timbers where the Wyandot's lost all of their Chiefs but one. The only one that survived was Tarhe and he was severely wounded, just imagine what impact that had on the Wyandot Tribe at that time.

There will be exciting things happening this year and it will take place in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, but that is all I am going to say about it. I will share some history about Upper Sandusky, the Methodist Mission Church and the people that influenced the construction of it.

By 1824 the school and farm were prospering well, but the buildings were small for so many children who now lived at the mission house. The greatest need was for a place to worship, for there was no such building, just the council house, which was cold and drafty, or the mission house which was far too small. J.B. Finley went to Washington, D.C. while on a tour to the East with Rev. David Young. President Monroe granted him an interview and Finley told the President about the condition of the school and the mission work

among the Wyandottes. He also had an interview with the Secretary of War, John C. Calhoun, who was very interested in Indian affairs. Finley presented an estimated cost of the proposed building to Calhoun who granted permission to use the \$1,330 due the Wyandottes toward the worthy project. He asked the preacher to build the church of materials so strong that it would remain a house of worship long after they both were gone.

The Wyandottes must have felt great joy when they were told this good news. They were not long in deciding on the location for the church in the midst of a grove of large oak trees. The closest place to get the stone was from the bottom of the Sandusky River. Day after day the men chiseled away at the hard blue limestone with their primitive tools. Tugging and straining, the ox teams bore the heavy carts of rocks from the river to the spot chosen among the oak trees. The missionaries worked side by side with the natives to erect the building. J.B. Finley was the architect, John Owens from Delaware, the builder, with Ben J. Herbert the assistant. The structure was 30x40 feet, "plainly finished" with four windows to the east, four windows to the west and two doors opening to the north -- one for the men to enter and one for the women, as was customary in the early churches. The earliest

"If you can't solve it, it's not a problem -- it's reality."

--Barbara Colorose

pictures show two small windows to the south where the stone tablets are today.

How the heart of the Savior must have rejoiced as he watched the building of this little gray stone church! Each stone must have been laid with love and prayer by his children of the wilderness who had turned from paths of darkness and destruction onto the trail to the cross. As they wiped the perspiration from their brows, they must have remembered how Christ had sweat blood in anguish for the salvation of all sinners of the world. They had indeed "beat the sword into plowshares," for most of their people had surrendered the tomahawk, the arrow, and the scalping knife to the better way, the plow, the hoe, the sickle and the ax.

Their new meeting house was crowded for the Sunday services. By the year 1826, 292 had been received into membership on trial and 250 were in full membership still. They had been formed into 10 classes, there were 13 class leaders and five exhorters. At first many were reluctant to have their names put on paper and to have to account for their actions. As Indians, they were not used to written laws and still had a deep rooted mistrust of the White Man's way, and written laws and signed papers were of the White Man, not the Indian. Finley insisted that this

had to be done if they were to have a church organization. So gradually they conformed to his demands.

Some came from as far away as 16 miles for the Sunday services. They crowded inside the stone walls, and in nice weather spread to the outside around the open windows to hear the story of Jesus that they might implant each word upon their hearts. Wrapped in their blankets, they listened in rapture. Tears rolled down their cheeks as they chanted praises and thanks to the Great Spirit for the Good News of Salvation. These meetings lasted for from four to five hours. When they held their love feasts, the communion service, they overflowed with joy in their testimonies of the experiences they had had since their conversion. These were given amidst tears, and with such sincerity and beauty of phraseology as only an Indian can express. Sometimes they brought their tents and set them up on the grounds around the church. The horses were turned loose to graze upon the fine bluegrass. The sound of the horse bells tinkling in the twilight accompanying the sweet gospel songs sung in the native tongue by these faithful followers of Christ was a sound never to be forgotten.

It's always interesting to me to get an idea of what life was like for our ancestors, they endured many hardships so the Wyandotte Nation could progress to what it is today, so to our ancestors TIZAMEH!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019

PRESCHOOL VALENTINE'S DAY PARTY

**FEB.
14
9 AM**



ELDER'S VALENTINES DAY PARTY

**FEB.
14
NOON**



TOWN HALL MEETINGS - OHIO & SEATTLE

**MARCH
16 &
APRIL
13
10 AM**



PRESCHOOL POW-WOW

**APRIL
11
6 PM**



ELDER'S EASTER PARTY

**APRIL
18
NOON**



ENVIRONMENTAL FESTIVAL

**APRIL
25
10 AM -
2 PM**



PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

**MAY
13
7 PM**



GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

**JUNE
21-23
TBA**



FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**JULY
2
7 PM**



THE GATHERING

**SEPT.
11-13
TBA**



30TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.
13-15
TBA**



ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.
14
10 AM**



'Shop With a Cop' another success

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas. That is where the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department's 'Shop With a Cop' program comes in, joining underprivileged children with officers, providing the children with money to shop for Christmas presents for their families and themselves.

The program is made possible through local donations.

"With the additional contributions, we were able to fund more children and their families with a very, very Merry Christmas," said WNTPD Chief of Police Glenn Johnston. "We want to thank the businesses that made this possible along with each and every volunteer that made this event go off without a hitch."

The WNTPD officers and volunteers treated 29 youth to a pizza party, snacks and then took them shopping at Walmart in Miami, Okla., to buy gifts for their family for Christmas. Following the shopping excursion, they returned to Wyandotte to wrap the presents.

"We are looking at making this event even bigger and better in the years to come!" Johnston said. "Finally, this could not have been arranged without Pat



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

(Above) Volunteer Holly Hilliard helps one of the youth pick out Christmas gifts. (Below) Wyandotte Nation Police Department Officer Faron Lee and one of the 'Shop With a Cop' youth navigate through the toy section.

Wilson and Kristi Johnston getting the ball rolling. They make a great team!"



'Shop With a Cop'

Volunteers: Debbie Dry, Dana Butterfield, Geri Weisner, Kim Keller, Janette Arnold, Stephanie Hamilton, Leesa Hibbard, Jason Latimer, Debra Ford, Bill Ward, Denton Ward, Zach Early, Tara Gagg, Carol Arnold, Lisa Arnold, Tara Robinson, Edie Ingram, Holly Hilliard, Jan Woody, Deana Sweatt, Kristi Johnston, Christen Lee, Darrell Robinson, Chris Matthews, Tammy Charles, Steve Johnson, Twilia Stone, Makayla Bailey, Natalie McCowen, Janecka Pinion, Zach Early, Abby Hughes, Julie Wills, Daryl Johnston, Charlie Arnold, Heather Douglas, and Pat Wilson.

Officers: Police Chief Glenn Johnston as well as officers Faron Lee, Ken Brodrick, Richard Teeter, Travis Eby, and Jared Robinson.

Donations:

- Items for the food baskets were provided by: G&W, Harps, Dollar General, employees, Wyandotte Nation Title VI Elders, Turtle Stop, and Walmart.
- Monetary donations were made by: River Bend Casino & Hotel, the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Department, City of Wyandotte, 7th Street Casino, Bank of Wyandotte, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, Wyandotte Nation Education Department, Empire, Deana, the Kropps, several anonymous donations, and the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK).
- The Wyandotte Nation provided the pizza party.
- Allgeier, Martin & Assoc. provided the T-shirts for the youth, officers and volunteers.

Holidays in Pictures

Wyandotte Nation & Preschool Christmas Parties



Photos by
William Swaim





Holidays in Pictures

Elders Thanksgiving & Christmas Parties



Town Hall Meetings set for Ohio, Washington

In 2019 the Wyandotte Nation will hold Town Hall meetings in Ohio and Washington.

The first Town Hall will be held in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, at the John Stewart Methodist Church Saturday, March 16. The meeting will begin at 10 am. Lunch will also be held at the church following the meeting. A question and answer session will be held in the afternoon at the Wyandot Mission Church.

The second meeting will be held Saturday, April 13, in Seattle, Wash., at the Hilton Seattle Airport and Conference Center. Details for this meeting are still being determined.

Additional information for each meeting will be mailed via postcards to tribal citizens who reside within the meeting areas.

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

At these meetings citizens were able to meet the Chief, Second Chief and key Wyandotte Nation staff, hear the state of the Tribe,



and make connections with family members and other citizens who reside in their local areas.

We are expecting good turnouts for both meetings so we will be asking that everyone who plans to attend a meeting to register in

advance so we will be prepared.

The postcards will give instructions on the registration process. If you don't receive a post card, but feel you are within traveling distance and would like to attend either of the meetings you are

welcome to do so. We just ask that you register in advance.

If you have any questions regarding either meeting please contact Dana Butterfield at (918) 678-6319 or dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org.

Government shutdown impacts Tribe's programs

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

While the U.S. government shutdown continues in record-setting days, the impact of the shutdown has started to expand beyond the 800,000 federal workers receiving no pay. The shutdown, which was still ongoing as of this writing, has started to affect the economy, and it has reached Indian country as tribes are having to deal with the absence of funding they have come to rely on to provide certain programs.

The majority of Wyandotte Nation programs are funded by the federal government. Through years of treaty agreements between the U.S. Government and tribes, there was a trust respon-

sibility created, and when you have a shutdown, that responsibility is not met.

"The essential government functions that we provide to our citizens are funded through federal programs of which are currently shut down," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "We received our last partial funding amount through a CR (continuing resolution) approximately three weeks ago, and most programs are operating on funds that we have set aside for this possible scenario.

"If the shutdown continues for an extended amount of time, we will have to sit down, and assess and prioritize which services are the most essential, and may have to ration others."

Educational, housing, environmental, family services, elder

nutritional services as well as caretaker programs, healthcare services, law enforcement and judicial services, are partially supported through federal funding. These are all programs that could be impacted going forward.

The Wyandotte Nation's federally-chartered corporation, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), subsidizes the programs and provides necessary funding the federal government doesn't to keep the programs in operation through economic development.

"Our staff does a great job of managing their program budgets, and most have anywhere from three to six months of funding set aside knowing that this is always a possibility," Chief Friend said. "The Wyandotte Nation subsidizes almost 100 percent of our tribal programs

through economic development revenue, so in essence some of our programs are already having to use non-federal funds to stay in operation."

As of this writing, Chief Friend said no workers have been furloughed or programs cut.

"We do have emergency reserves set aside for such an occasion, but if the shutdown continued for an extended period, say three to six months, then we would likely have to limit the services we provide and look at reduced staffing," the Chief said.

He said once Congress and the President comes to an agreement and another continued resolution is passed or an actual budget is passed, then things would get back to normal -- anything that would have been placed on hold would continue as usual.

A look back in history: Four Nations Alliance Belt

BY LAURIE E. LECLAIR

PUBLISHED WITH PERMISSION
FROM ANISHINABEK NEWS

The “Four Nations Alliance Belt” can be found in the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford England under the accession number 1896.7.1. It is attributed to the North East Woodlands Wendat and made up of shell beads, string, animal hide and other unknown materials. Not counting its fringe the belt is nearly a meter long and 86 mm wide. The date of its creation is estimated to be between 1710 and 1720.

Here is its story: On August 4, 1701, the Haudenosaunee Confederacy and the Anishinabek Nation forged an agreement more commonly known as the Great Peace of Montreal. Over 1,300 delegates and their families bore witness to the proceedings and when their headmen placed their totems on the treaty parchment a relative peace descended over a large part of what would become Ontario, Quebec and portions of the American northeast and northwest.

Decades prior to the treaty, the Hurons, Odawas, Ojibwas and Pottawatamies had formed an alliance with the French, one that extended over much of the Great Lakes and grew as the French trade networks expanded. The Great Peace allowed the European nation to establish a fort on the Detroit River, an important link between lakes Erie and St. Clair. Lamonthé Cadillac, the former commander at Michilimackinac believed that from the vantage point of Detroit, the French could have a better control over trade and more immediate communication with its Indigenous allies.

Following the peace, the Detroit area became temporarily safe for

communities to re-establish themselves, something much desired by Cadillac who understood that his fort could not exist without the support of France’s Indigenous allies. The Huron-Wyandottes were one of the first groups encouraged to relocate to the area, joining Anishinabek villages that were either long-established in the area or created after the peace.

But if an easier access to the European market appealed to local Indigenous groups, it was equally attractive to other Northwestern nations like the Kickapoo, Winnebago and Fox who wanted control over a potential French-Sioux trade network. In early 1712, the Fox built a fort threateningly close to Fort Pontchartrain and began to attack. It was only through the intervention of warriors from the Three Fires Confederacy that the outmanned Huron-Wyandottes and the French were able to hold their settlements. The siege lasted nearly three weeks and cost the aggressors 1,000 lives.

Strengthened by victory, the Ojibwa, Ottawa, Pottawatomi together with the Huron-Wyandottes entered into a formal union. The Four Nation Alliance belt remains the only tangible evidence that such a grand council occurred, and most historians place its origin between 1712 and 1720. Over time, the belt was entrusted to Adam Brown, an adopted Huron-Wyandotte. Brown passed the knowledge inherent in the belt to his sons. It is through his grandson, Peter Dooyentate Clarke, that we learn more details about the agreement, and begin to get a sense of what the wampum recitation might have sounded like. In his history, written over 150 years after the creation of the belt, he recalled:

...about this time the four nations (the French being a fifth party) of Indians having already formed an alliance for their mutual protection

against the incursions of the roving savages of the West, the four nations now entered into an arrangement about their country as follows:

The Wyandottes to occupy and take charge of the regions from the River Thames, north, to the shores of Lake Erie south. The Chippewas to hold the regions from the Thames to the shores of Lake Huron, and beyond. The Ottawas to occupy and take charge of the county from Detroit to the confluence of Lake Huron, with St. Clair River, thence north-west to Michilimackinac and all around there. And the Potawatamies the regions south and west of Detroit. ... But it was understood among them, at the same time that each of the four nations should have the privilege of hunting in one another’s territory....

The belt remained with Adam Brown at Brownstown, Michigan and sometime during the late 1790s, the Wyandotte Head Chief called a council at Brown’s home. Dooyentate’s further recollections help us understand how wampum knowledge was disseminated. Here, the Head Chief, or Sastaretsi, asked Brown to take out each of the wampums and their associated parchments after which he commenced to recite the meaning of each in front of the assembly. The individuals who were charged with remembering the belts were asked to repeat the words back to Sastaretsi, who in turn corrected them if needed. Unfortunately, the Sastaretsi remained unnamed in Dooyentate’s story, but he is said to have passed away sometime between 1790 and 1801. From this, it is compelling to suggest that the recitation and repetition of wampum may have been one of the last duties of a head chief. As the great chief spoke, Brown took notes in the form of a short label affixed to each of the wampums. Over time, these labels have disappeared.

The wampum belts stayed in Brownstown until 1812 when the Huron-Wyandotte council fire moved across the Detroit River to their reserve in Anderdon Township. Here the entire Wyandotte archives remained until the nation broke up in 1842.

In 1872, the Canadian ethnologist Horatio Hale met with Wyandotte chief Joseph White and interpreter Alexander Clark at their reserve in Anderdon Township. White recalled that prior to this 1842 partition, the archives was kept in a large trunk and when taken and spread out could cover a 15-foot square room. The group that left for the United States took away the majority of the belts, leaving only those that related to the title of lands in Canada, or affairs related to their church. By the time Hale interviewed these men, the Huron-Wyandottes had only four belts in their possession, including the Four Nations Alliance Belt, all of which he purchased.

Hale collected the belt in either 1872 or 1874. This marks the first time it was photographed and described in detail. Hale noted, albeit with his cultural biases:

It was mainly a treaty respecting lands, which will account for the shape of the figures. In lieu of the oval council hearth we have four squares... which indicate in the Indian hieroglyphic system, either towns or tribes with their territories, and remind us of a similar Chinese character which represents the word field... The White-peoples houses, at the ends of the belt...signified the French forts of settlements which protected the native tribes alike against their persistent Iroquois enemies, and against the marauding Indians of

See **ALLIANCE BELT**, Page 10



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.

Alliance Belt

Continued from Page 9

the South and west.

According to Hale, and apparently supported by Chief Joseph White, the agreement remained in force until the implementation of the major land cessions enforced by Sir Francis Bond Head in 1836. While today's scholars would certainly question this opinion, it creates a conversation around the possibility that the validity or efficacy of certain wampum belts may have had an expiration date. If this is the case, it helps us understand why Chief White was willing to part with it.

Timing was also important. Hale visited the Anderdon reserve when it was facing many challenges. In 1869, the Canadian government had just introduced amendments to its Enfranchisement Act making it possible for entire groups to enfranchise en masse. In 1873, between Hale's visits, the Huron-Wyandotte council met several times to discuss whether its people were willing to give up official "Indian" status, convert their reserve lands to fee simple and receive a per capita cash out of their trust funds. Also during the same year, the 75-member nation agreed to subdivide its land, selling surplus lots off for its benefit. Understandably, given the weight of the decisions lying ahead, the community had split into two factions with Joseph White and Alexander Clark, Hale's two main contacts, aligning with the pro-Enfranchisement group. Historian P. Dooyentate Clark dissented and became a spokesperson for the other side.

As he was nearing the end of his life, Horatio Hale reached out to his English colleague Edward Burnett Tylor who held the title of Keeper of the University Museum at Oxford. He believed that the four wampum belts in his possession were extremely special, and placed them "among the most ancient and important Indian historical relics of America north of Mexico." In April 1896, he confided in Tylor that he'd never considered selling them before, but as the museum would care for them properly, the curator could have them for £ 30. An agreement was reached and the four belts were sent by parcel post to Oxford University, arriving sometime in the summer 1896, just months before Hale's death.

The Four Nation Alliance belt remains at Pitt Rivers Museum. It came back to Canada in 1988 briefly, as part of the controversial Glenbow exhibition *The Spirit Sings: Artistic Traditions of Canada's First Peoples*. Here, the belt, as one of the several hundred items on display, became part of the difficult discussion over sponsorship, appropria-

tion, preservation and ethics.

The physical journey of the belt mirrors the history of the Wyandotte as well. Forged near Detroit around 1712, the belt codified an agreement over land use and territory shared between the Huron-Wyandottes, the French and the Anishinabeg in the wake of the largest Indigenous peace treaty on record. Like many of Huron-Wyandottes themselves, the belt remained in Brownstown near Detroit for over 100 years. Following the War of 1812, many families relocated across the river to Canada, taking the wampum archives with them. In 1842, the community split up, and a large proportion moved to Kansas, but it was decided by Wyandotte record keepers that because of its relevance to Canada, the Four Nations Alliance belt should remain in Anderdon. It would stay safe on this reserve for the next 60 years. Although Elders could still read it and recount its historic importance, the belt, like the community itself, fell victim to challenging times.

A shrinking land base and the enfranchisement process changed the shape of the Wyandotte village. During this time, Chief Joseph White believed the belt to be his personal property and perhaps with the promise of its preservation, sold it to Horatio Hale. For a further 24 years, it remained in Hale's house, located near Goderich, Ontario and then it journeyed overseas to Oxford where, except for a brief period, it has remained for 122 years.

Wampum like birch bark scrolls, rock paintings, carvings on pipes and painting on drums form part of the Anishinabek cultural legacy. Our knowledge and understanding of Indigenous law and diplomacy grows as Elders work with scholars and craftsmen to restore and preserve the meanings inherent in these treasures. Although centuries old, wampum belts, like the one discussed here, continue to educate, and with their revitalization their stories lengthen and deepen our understanding of the past and suggest new diplomatic pathways for the future.

Suggestions for Further Reading:

- BRUCHAC, MARGARET, ET AL. ON THE WAMPUM TRIAL: RESTORATIVE RESEARCH IN NORTH AMERICAN MUSEUMS. [HTTPS://WAMPUMTRAIL.WORDPRESS.COM](https://wampumtrail.wordpress.com)
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- CORBIERE, ALAN OJIG, "THEIR OWN FORMS OF WHICH THEY TAKE THE MOST NOTICE": DIPLOMATIC METAPHORS AND SYMBOLISM ON WAMPUM BELTS" IN ANISHINAABEWIN NIIWIN: FOUR RISING WINDS, A SELECTION FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE 2013 ANISHINAABEWIN NIIWIN CONFERENCE", CORBIERE, A. O, NOAKEWGIJIG CORBIERE, M., MCGREGOR, D. AND MIGWANS, C, EDs., 2014
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- HAVARD, GILLES. THE GREAT PEACE OF MONTREAL OF 1701: FRENCH-NATIVE DIPLOMACY IN THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY. MCGILL QUEENS UP, 2001.
- LECLAIR, LAURIE. THE HURON-WYANDOTTES OF ANDERDON TOWNSHIP: A CASE STUDY IN NATIVE ADAPTION, 1701-1914. UNIVERSITY OF WINDSOR, MA THESIS, 1988.
- WYANDOTTE NATION: PRESERVING THE FUTURE OF OUR PAST! [HTTPS://WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG](https://www.wyandotte-nation.org)

Seneca Indian School Annual Reunion

WYANDOTTE -- The Seneca Indian School Alumni Association will hold the 2019 Seneca Indian School Annual Reunion at the Wyandotte Cultural Center located on the old Seneca Indian School campus. They invite all Alumni, former staff, friends and family to attend. Events begin Friday at 7 pm with a Weenie Roast and Horseshoe Tournament at the old basketball courts. Hot dogs and bonfire will be provided. Bring your own lawn chairs and cut your own hot dog stick. The Main Meeting is Saturday from 10 am to 2 pm inside the Wyandotte Cultural Center. Potluck lunch is at noon with door prizes, raffles and arts and crafts. Saturday concludes with the 1st Annual Simon Bush Pool and Bowling Tournament at River Bend Casino Club 60 West from 5 pm to midnight. Winner gets a trophy and bragging rights.

A special collection of recently

found photographs from Robert F. Kennedy's 1968 visit to Seneca will be presented at the main meeting. Copies of other old Seneca photos and memorabilia from the Oklahoma Historical Society and individual alumni will be on hand to share. Attendees can also video record their comments and memories of Seneca history if they want to contribute. Recognition awards will be given to the oldest alumni, farthest traveled and to the decade with the largest number in attendance. Special hotel room rates are available for attendees. Seneca T-shirts are available for purchase. One-year Seneca Alumni memberships are only \$10. Weenie roast and potluck events are drug and alcohol free.

For more information, contact: senecaandianschoolalumni@gmail.com or join our the Facebook group "Seneca Indian School Alumni."

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

Senior Turtles Gift Shop,
operated by our elders,
will offer free delivery with purchase of
Valentine Roses and Candy
to any business address in Wyandotte,
OK, Fairland, OK, or Seneca, MO, on
February 13 and 14th ONLY!

They will be taking orders Feb. 11th-14th
Orders must be in by noon for delivery that day.

417-439-9356 or 918-678-6385



TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard,
HR Director*

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Taryn Frantz as a part-time Child-care Assistant and Sharon Howard as a Substitute. Taryn is a senior at Wyandotte High School. She previously was Eastern Shawnee Princess, which included duties with children. Her hobbies include school, reading, and Pow-Wow Dancing. Taryn likes spending time with her family and friends. We are happy to have Taryn join our childcare team.



FRANTZ



HOWARD

Sharon has ran her own local business for more than 20 years. Sharon enjoys spending time in worship and time with her family. We are pleased to have Sharon and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome tribal citizen Denton Ward. Denton looks forward to serving the people and community of Wyandotte. Denton has worked with the Wyandotte Nation as a Summer Youth Employee with the Nation Police Department. He also served one year with the Sheriff's Office. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends. We are very fortunate to have Denton join the Wyandotte Nation and wish him much success in his new position.



WARD

The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center is very happy to welcome tribal citizen Jamie Brown. Jamie will serve as our Pharmacy Technician. Jamie graduated from the Pharmacy Technician Program in 2010 and has worked in all pharmacy settings. In her spare time she enjoys a variety of hobbies. She



BROWN



GOSSETT

raising chickens, and loves to play pool. She also enjoys spending time with her friends. We are very fortunate to have Shelly on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

spends time with her family and friends. We are very fortunate to have Jamie on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Facilities Department has a new full-time staff member Michelle (Shelly) Gossett. Shelly has rejoined us as a Custodian. Shelly has more than 26 years of experience in her field, she has driven a bus for over 21 of those years bringing a wealth of knowledge with her. In her spare time she enjoys music, gardening,

Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,
Family Services Director*

The Family Services staff has had a busy winter with program services and activities. The Annual Children's Christmas party was held on Saturday, Dec. 8 and was attended by over 100 families. The party was a Polar Express theme and each child received a "golden ticket" from the conductor to visit with Santa and Mrs. Clause to make their Christmas wish. Children also made ornaments, decorated cookies, created picture frames and got to choose a toy. This is always a fun event for the entire family and we encourage you to mark your calendar to attend next year if possible. If you haven't received your Santa pictures yet they're available at the tribal office. If you don't have children eligible for the party and would like to volunteer your time, we'd love to have your help next year.

Town Hall meetings have been set for March 16 at Upper Sandusky, Ohio and April 13 in Seattle. As always, we're excited to be assisting

Tribal leadership with these meetings and look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. This will be our first time to host a meeting in Upper Sandusky, which was our ancestral Wyandotte home for many decades in the late 1700 and early 1800s. The meeting will take place at the John Stewart Methodist church with an afternoon session at the historic Wyandot Mission. If you have never attended a Town Hall Meeting, it is basically the Tribe's Annual Meeting that we take on the road so our citizens across the coun-

try can hear the status of the tribe. We encourage any tribal citizen who resides within traveling distance to attend the meetings. More information can be found in the Town Hall article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Some of the events we're working on this coming year are: April quarterly Domestic Violence Cultural event on April 13; The Gathering of Little Turtles June 21 -23; Pow-Wow Sept. 13 - 15; and Annual Meet-

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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 11

ing Sept. 14. Be sure to monitor our Facebook page and website for events and activities happening here at the Nation.

As always, it's our pleasure and honor to serve the Wyandotte people and if there's ever anything we can do for you please don't hesitate to contact us.

Winter Programs:

Winter Clothing – Began Nov. 1 and ends Feb. 28 for pre-K (must be at least 3 years old and enrolled in a structured learning program) through grade 12. OK, MO, AR, KS residents. Reimbursement program or Walmart gift card for \$100 per student. Applications, along with guidelines, are available on the home page of the Tribal website. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement program. If you did not return your gift card receipts for either the School Supplies or last year's Winter Clothing, you will be required to use the reimbursement program this year.

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

APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE WINTER 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.

The following are programs that

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

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

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

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

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 first and foremost. If your family is in a situation where the state is involved, please contact one of the Tribal Social Workers.

Enrollment – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate.

New Enrollee Benefit - Each application received prior to a child's first birthday will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card and a blanket embroidered 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.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card) – New Wyandotte Nation citizens should have received their Benny cards in December along with any replacements for cards that

have expired. The new cards being sent are now blue in color. All accounts were loaded Jan. 1, 2019 and the benefits are 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. Please keep in mind that this benefit is only for enrolled citizens of the Nation and is not to be used for spouses, step-children, etc. CoreSource will be following up more closely with accounts this year and asking for receipts periodically.

Quarterly statements are mailed by CoreSource to show remaining balances, but account balances can be obtained at any time via www.mycourcesource.com, by calling CoreSource at (800) 990-9058 ext 42086 or via the mobile app. If you have a smart phone I strongly encourage you to download and use the app. With the app you can see balances, file claims, see purchases/expenses, see if any receipts are required and scan items to see if they are an eligible expenses. If you would like more information about the app or how to set it up please feel free to contact a member of the Family Services staff or CoreSource.

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

Family Violence Prevention Program: The Wyandotte Nation receives grants from the Office of Violence Against Women and the Administration for Children and Families to help support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking within a 25-mile radius of the tribal headquarters. A victim is not required to be Wyandotte or Native to receive services from this program. Services offered include advocacy, court accompaniment, assistance with obtaining protective orders, relocation expenses and other basic needs. The Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator regularly makes presentations to schools and organizations providing education and awareness about these issues. Program staff, in conjunction with the Cultural Advisory Board, also hosts quarterly cultural events. The next event will be Saturday, April 13. If you're in the area we'd love to have you join us.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and Lisa Arnold will be providing educational out-

reach at the Wyandotte Public High School, Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College and Northeast Oklahoma Vo-Tech center. The Month of April will be observed as Sexual Assault Awareness month. Lisa has several activities planned for this month so be sure to watch Facebook for any opportunities to help support victims of sexual assault.

Family Services Staff:

Director, Dana Butterfield 918-678-6319, dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg 918-678-6355, tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org
ICW Worker, Tiffany Garner, 918-678-6353, tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org
Assistant, Leeanna Radabaugh, 918-678-6329, lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org
DV Advocate/Educator, Lisa Arnold, 918-678-6324, lisaarnold@wyandotte-nation.org

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

The Elder Services Staff would like to thank everyone that helped with our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners. We appreciate you so much! The Elders really enjoyed themselves. Kathy DeWeese was the lucky winner in the drawing for the recliner. Enjoy!

The Senior Turtles will be having their Valentine's flowers and candy sales in the safe room in the Artie Nesvold Community Center, Feb. 13-14. They will be taking orders Feb. 11-14. They will offer free delivery to any business address in Wyandotte, Okla., Fairland, Okla., or Seneca, Mo., Feb. 13-14 only. Orders must be in by noon for delivery that day. You may call (417) 439-9356 or (918) 678-6385 to place your orders. Thank you in advance for your support of our Senior Turtles.

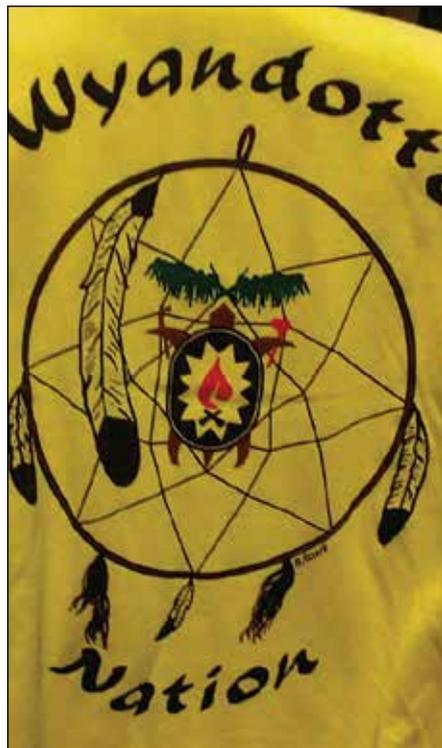
The Senior Turtles will be holding a contest to design a new shirt to sell in the Gift Shop. Contest dates will be forthcoming.

Our Valentine Party and Dinner will be Thursday, Feb. 14 during the noon hour. There will be prizes for

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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the Oldest Valentine, Couple Married the Longest, the Newlyweds and the one married the most times and is willing to admit it.

A representative from Grand Gateway will be holding a forum about the Pelivan March 14, at 11:30 am in the Artie Nesvold Community Center. If you have questions about rates, scheduling, etc. She will be able to answer all of your questions at the forum.

Our Easter Party and Dinner will be Thursday, April 18 during the noon hour. The preschool children will hide the eggs for the elders. There will be prizes for the most eggs found and the prize egg. We will have a Ladies Easter Bonnet Contest and a Men's Leg Contest.

We will be traveling to Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, Okla., to see the horse races, tentatively on April 30. The coach will leave at 11:30 am. 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 out and play with us.

CAREGIVER

The Caregiver Support Group is the first Thursday of each month in the Artie Nesvold Community Center safe room beginning at 10:30 am. This group is for all current and former caregivers. It is also for grandparents raising grandchildren.

It is always a pleasure serving the

Wyandotte Nation Citizens. Please feel free to call or come by and visit us anytime.

Department Contacts:

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

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

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

Menu, (918) 678-6326.

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Interim Director

Kweh,

The Wyandotte Nation Early Care and Education programs kicked off the New Year by enjoying a couple of warm days outdoors on the newly installed turf in the front playground area. We are currently working on redesigning the back playground area and are looking forward to having a more natural area for the children to enjoy.

Some important dates that are coming up for the Early Care and Education programs include:

- **Feb. 14:** Valentine's Day Program and Party beginning at 9 am
- **April 11:** Preschool Pow-Wow beginning at 6 pm
- **May 13:** Preschool Graduation beginning at 7 pm
- **May 17:** Last day of Preschool

With the arrival of the New Year, brings the arrival of a new semester for our Wyandotte Nation and WIOA scholarship participants. If you have enrolled for the spring semester and have not applied for a Wyandotte Nation or WIOA scholarship, please contact us and we will get you the appropriate application to get the process started. Current scholarship participants need to supply your updated transcript to the Education Department if you have not already done so. We are working diligently to get the spring scholarships processed and into the mail.

A few scholarship reminders:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight semesters.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a

2.0 GPA.

• Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the programs duration.

• Deadline for spring submission is Feb. 15.

• Deadline for fall submission is May 1.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department also oversees the WIOA program. These funds are available to assist members of federally recognized tribes residing in southeast Kansas or Southwest Missouri.

I would like to encourage the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation to visit the library that is located in the Education Department. Mrs. Deb has been busy ordering new books and movies. Also available in the library is a computer lab for your use.

The Child Care and Development Fund has finished the re-certifications and submitted the annual report. If you are in need of childcare assistance and have not applied, we are accepting applications and would be happy to assist in getting one to you. Parents must be working or attending school to apply. To be eligible for the Wyandotte Nation CCDF program, you must reside within 100-mile radius of our tribal headquarters.

We are available to assist you with the application process in any of our programs and we look forward to working with you soon.

Department Contacts:

Cristi Hudson – Education Interim Director and Childcare Coordinator, (918) 678-6334 or chudson@wyandotte-nation.org
Sami Butterfield – Education Specialist, (918) 678-6331 or sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Planning & Development

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

The department continues to work on surveying the Pow-Wow grounds and collecting other information to put the fee to trust package together to submit to BIA. The Bureau of Land Management has visited on site with our surveyor. Staff continue to update all trust land leases for the New Year. The Properties Man-

ager continues to update the rental houses and take care of the other tribal properties. The department issued several hunting permits and access letters to citizens who wanted to fish on Tribal properties.

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 went out for bid and was 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 public had until Oct. 9 to reply, we did not receive any comments. We filed for a release of funds and it was received. Work continues to complete the last three easements/right of ways for this project. As of now we are waiting on the BIA to approve a portion of them.

The other ROW is with the county. The engineer has submitted the permit request to ODEQ for this project. The Environmental Department completed the Environmental Assessment for the Bearskin Fitness Center project. We then posted it for public comment, but did not receive any comments. We are currently waiting on the Release of Funds from HUD for this project. 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 completing the Environmental Assessment at this time. The second is housing that will be open to the public. During the quarter, we hired an Archeologist to perform a survey on this property as required by the State Historic office. Our contractor did not find any artifacts. At this time, we are waiting on a response from the Fish and Wildlife Service so we can close out the Environmental Report.

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. During the quarter two parking lots were built and a raised crosswalk. This project will be completed in January. We hope this will improve public safety in and around Heritage Acres.

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
clee@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing

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

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

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

Clinic Appointments

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

Housing

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Heritage Acres Community continues to expand with the addition of the newest senior duplex which will be completed soon. New improvements and additions to the Heritage Acres Park will also be coming soon. Two parking lots were added to the area near the Splash Pad and Park area to make it more accessible for visitors.

There is a Down Payment Assistance Program available for those 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. Applicants must qualify by federal income guidelines. This is a first come, first serve program.

If you are interested in housing, please submit an application (which are now available online).

Proof of income, and a copy of your tribal card will need to be submitted with the completed application. Applicants must qualify by federal income guidelines.

There is still remaining funding available for the College Rental Assistance program. Applicants must be a tribal citizen, must currently be receiving a scholarship through the Education Department, and must either be living in the dorms or specifically renting for the purpose of attending school. Please contact our office for an application.

The Community Center is open daily from 8 am- 4:30 pm. Pool tables, ping pong table, and air hockey are available for use. The facility is also available for rent during evenings and weekends at a cost of \$50 for tribal citizens, and \$75 for non-tribal, with an additional \$25 cleaning deposit. Several dates for 2019 have already been booked. If you are interested

in renting the facility, 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.

Contact our office at (918) 678-6339 or (918) 678-6336 for any information listed above or with any other questions you may have.

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

Environmental

Submitted by Kathy Welch, Environmental Program Manager

October

October brought us cooler weather, and with that the leaves and foliage starting to change. On Oct. 3-4, I attended the Tri-State Mining Meeting in Pittsburg, Kansas. Our department stays actively involved in these meetings to insure that tribal citizens are being represented in the Natural Resource Damage issues.

On Oct. 11, Janice Wilson and Braulio Ramirez attended the Spring River WRAPS Meeting in Baxter Springs, Kansas. This group meets on a bi-monthly basis and has members from the Tri-State area that have interest in Spring River. Our department feels it is very important to have a tribal presence at this meeting so that tribal citizens are represented properly on all issues concerning Spring River and its watershed.

On Oct. 16-18, Region 6 EPA hosted a Tribal Childrens Health Symposium in Catoosa, Okla. I gave a presentation on our departments recycling program and the positive impact that Lost Creek Recycling Center has had on the area.

On Oct. 19, Janice Wilson and I provided and environmental education

and resource booth at the Bearskin Health Fair. This gives our department a chance to reach out to participants and give them information on any environmental concerns they may have.

During the week of Oct. 22-26, Lost Creek Recycle Center hosted a Tire Collection Event. A total of 114 tires were collected over the five day period. We feel by having these events twice a year it slows down the tires being thrown off in ditches and roadsides, and then ending up in our waterways.

To end the month, our department participated in the Turtle Tots Education Departments Halloween Carnival, with a activity booth. Janice Wilson and Braulio Ramirez ran the booth and the children were able to do a ball toss and win a prize.

November

It seems there is a different feeling in the air with this month. The promise of families getting together and good food seems to brighten our spirits. But, work must go on.

On Nov. 13, Janice Wilson and I attended the bi-monthly TECO Mtg. in Stroud, Okla. This is an environmental tribal meeting where the Oklahoma tribes meet in a central location to share value information with each other and have representatives from Region 6 EPA on hand to

give us important updates on rulings and agendas that could potentially affect our programs. On this meeting date we held our election of TECO Officers and the RTOC officers. For the past 10 years the Wyandotte Nation has been the Secretary for this group and this year we were able to take a reprieve from the Secretary duties as another tribe assumed the roles for the upcoming year. I then went on to Okmulgee, OK for an EPA General Assistance Program Training for GO3 Program, which is a new updated version for our quarterly reporting to our Project Officers.

On Nov. 13, Janice Wilson attended the NATURE Meeting. This meeting is where the tribal environmental departments in NE Oklahoma come together to address environmental issues that are impacting the area.

After the Thanks giving Holiday, Braulio Ramirez traveled to Shepherdstown, Virg., for a NRDAR 101 Training. This training is for new personnel becoming involved in the NRDAR (Natural Resource Damages and Assessment) process. Our department is involved in this process on a daily basis due to the fact of the impacts that Wyandotte Nation endures from the Tar Creek and Tri-State Lead and

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Zinc mines.

During this week, Janice Wilson and I traveled to Shawnee, Okla., to attend the Tribal Caucus and RTOC (Regional Tribal Operations Committee) Meetings. These meetings happen on a quarterly basis and they allow us to voice our concerns with EPA Region 6 Officers and the Regional Tribal Administrator. Wyandotte Nation is a voting member of the RTOC.

December

This month always seems to go by way to quickly with all the Christmas Parties and events, it's a joyous time of the year. Thankfully our department staff was not called out of the office for many out side meetings and could enjoy the festivities.

Our department continues to perform water sampling and monitoring on the area waterways. We added a new site (Brush Creek which is located on the south eastern border of our historic jurisdictional are) to our sampling schedule. This gives us a total of eight sites that our department samples and monitors on a monthly basis.

Our department continues to provide Private Drinking Water Well testing. During this quarter staff performed six tests and transported them to an EPA certified lab for analysis.

The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department would like to wish its citizens a very HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Upcoming events

Our department has selected a date for their annual Environmental Festival. The date will be Thursday, April 25, at the Heritage Acres Park/Splash Pad Pavilion, from 10 am – 2 pm. Each year it grows and we have approximately 12 booths from various Tribal, State and Local entities that participate with education activities and information. We would like to personally invite all who are in the area on this date, to come out to our festival.

Services Provided

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

Department Contacts:

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

Health

*--Submitted by Kelly Friend,
Director of Health Services*

Bearskin Health Clinic Purchased/Referred Care is a federally-funded program to assist eligible patients financially with specialized care that is not directly available from the Bearskin Health Clinic.

ASSISTANCE DEPENDS ON ELIGIBILITY, RESIDENCE, MEDICAL PRIORITIES, ALTERNATE RESOURCES, AND AVAILABILITY OF FUNDING.

The Bearskin Health Clinic Purchased/Referred Care program also contracts with specialty care physicians, hospitals, diagnostic groups and other health care providers to treat our patients at prearranged fees.

The Purchased/Referred Care Program is funded annually with federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). Medical priorities have been established for determining which referrals can be authorized for payment, dependent upon the availability of funds.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC PURCHASED/REFERRED CARE

Must be eligible for direct patient care services provided by Bearskin Health Clinic contracted facilities and/or an IHS facility. An individual is eligible if they are of Indian descent and a member of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe. Patient must also have an established medical health record at Bearskin Health Clinic and reside within the Purchased/Referred Care Delivery Area (PRCDA).

Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian's child through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian's household who resides within the Purchased/Referred Care service area is eligible for Purchased/Referred Care if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an acute infectious disease; A non-Indian under 19 years old who is an adopted child, stepchild, foster child, legal ward or orphan of an eligible Indian under specific circumstances.

Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county Purchased/Referred Care service area.

Out-Of-State residents are not eligible for Purchased/Referred Care funds.

PURCHASED/REFERRED CARE IS A PAYOR OF LAST RESORT! All other resources to pay for medical care, such as Medicare, Medicaid, VA, Worker's Comp, Title 19, Sooner Care, automobile insurance, and/or group health insurance, including IHS facilities must be utilized first, when applicable. Eligibility or ineligibility documentation will be required at a minimum of once annually or with each change of employment, income or referral.

As per the guidelines of the Public Health Service Code of Federal Regulations, Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) is a payor of last resort. All other resources to pay for medical care, including IHS facilities must be utilized first, when applicable. Alternate resources were available.

**[Code of Federal Regulations]
[Title 42, Volume 1] [Revised as
of October 1, 2007] From the U.S.
Government Printing Office via
GPO Access [CITE: 42CFR136.61]
[Page 738]**

**TITLE 42--PUBLIC HEALTH
CHAPTER I--PUBLIC HEALTH
SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
PART 136 INDIAN HEALTH-
Table of Contents**

**Subpart G Residual Status
Sec. 136.61 Payor of last resort.**

(a) The Indian Health Service is the payor of last resort for persons defined as eligible for contract health services under the regulations in this part, notwithstanding any State or local law or regulation to the contrary.

(b) Accordingly, the Indian Health Service will not be responsible for or authorize payment for contract health services to the extent that:

(1) The Indian is eligible for alternate resources, as defined in paragraph (c) of this section, or

(2) The Indian would be eligible for alternate resources if he or she were to apply for them, or

(3) The Indian would be eligible for alternate resources under State or local law or regulation but for the Indian's eligibility for contract health services, or other health services, from the Indian Health Service or Indian Health Service funded programs.

(c) Alternate resources means health care resources other than those of the Indian Health Service. Such resources include health care providers and institutions, and health care programs for the payment of health services including but not limited to programs under titles XVIII or XIX of the Social Security Act (i.e., Medicare, Medicaid), State

or local health care programs, and private insurance.

[64 FR 58322, Oct. 28, 1999]

The priority system helps patients have equal opportunity for specialty services and to make sure the funds are used to give the best possible benefits.

When services are not available at Bearskin Health Clinic and contracted facilities or at an IHS facility where the patient regularly receives care, a physician will initiate a referral to a contract specialty provider.

The Purchased/Referred Care Specialist at the Bearskin Health Clinic prepares all referrals to submit weekly for the Purchased/Referred Care Review Committee. Referrals from the Bearskin Health Clinic are reviewed and categorized in accordance with approved medical priorities.

If a referral is denied, the patient and/or provider have 30 days from the date the denial letter is received to appeal for reconsideration. Appeal should be made in writing and mailed to:

**Attn: Kelly Friend, Administrator
Bearskin Health Clinic
One Turtle Drive
Wyandotte, OK 74370**

EMERGENCY CALL-IN PROCEDURES:

Call-ins are to be reported to the Bearskin Health Clinic in Wyandotte, Oklahoma, (918) 678-3227.

This call should be made when a patient has an emergency and is unable to go to Bearskin Health Clinic or the nearest IHS facility. The patient must call the Purchased/Referred Care office within 72 hours after the beginning of the treatment (THIS DOES NOT GUARANTEE PAYMENT. The Purchased/Referred Care Committee will follow the medical priorities and make determination).

Those individuals over the age of 55 years old have up to 30 days to call in emergency room visit. (THIS DOES NOT GUARANTEE PAYMENT. The Purchased/Referred Care Committee will follow the medical priorities and make determination).

REFERRAL PROCESS:

The patient must be seen by a provider at Bearskin Health Clinic.

If a referral is necessary, the Nurse/Provider will direct referral to the Purchased/Referred Care office.

Purchased/Referred Care Specialist will counsel regarding eligibility, alternate resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, VA, Work-

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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man's Comp, Sooner Care, and Title 19, and schedule the appointment, if necessary.

Patient will need a referral from Bearskin Health Clinic for each additional procedure, test, follow-up exams, and or hospitalization. It is the patient's responsibility to contact the Purchased/Referred Care Specialist each time!

If a patient schedules or reschedules an appointment, without proper Purchased/Referred Care authorization, the patient will be responsible for payment.

If you receive a bill from the facility or physician we have scheduled you with, you have 10 days to provide Bearskin Clinic with the bill or you may be denied.

The Purchased/Referred Care Specialist at the Bearskin Health Clinic is available to help with any scheduling and/or questions regarding Purchased/Referred Care.

Dates to Remember:

April 1, 2019 – Applications will be accepted for the 2019 Summer Youth Program

April 6, 2019 – Bearskin Superhero 5K and 1-mile fun run

April 6, 2019 – Bearskin Strongman Competition

Attention:

If you have a new insurance or prescription benefit card, please present to receptionist. This is critical that we have the correct information from our patients. Limited clinical services are provided to tribal members living outside the designated service area as long as funding is available and their utilization does not restrict access to the services for those whom the funding is intended. It is important to remember that this is not an insurance program and that services are always dependent upon federal and supplemental funding. Providing insurance verification (if patient has) helps in the supplemental process to ensure that services continue for those outside of the designated service area. Bearskin Health Clinic is able to bill insurance companies for services provided and with this revenue generated, continue to offer care to individuals outside the designated area needing primary care services. If patients receive correspondence from insurance company, please complete requested information and return in a timely manner. This ensures that Bearskin Healthcare will receive payment from the insurance provider.

Bearskin Healthcare continues to grow steadily. From 2016 to 2017, appointments were up 14%. From 2017 to 2018, appointments were up 8%. With over 804 patients accounting for 1,458 visits since October 1, 2018, we continue to monitor the growth and accommodate accordingly by adding providers to welcome you and your family. The provider-patient relationship is crucial to effective care and treatment. In addition, the pharmacy has filled over 5,918 prescriptions for 720 different patients since October 1, 2018.

Opioids and Benzodiazepines Policy – Effective 11/1/2018

To ensure compliance with Senate Bill 1446 as well as Sooner Care requirements.

For Acute Pain

1. The initial prescription can be written for 7-day supply only, with a maximum of eight units/day. Prescriptions written for greater than a 7-day supply will be limited to a quantity of four units/day

2. The second prescription can also be written for only a 7-day supply. The second prescription cannot be written until a minimum of seven or more days have passed since the first prescription.

3. The third prescription may be written for a 30-day supply. At that time, a "pain management contract/agreement" must be reviewed with, signed by the patient, and placed in the chart. At this point, the patient would be considered moving from management of acute pain to chronic pain management.

Pain Management Agreement

ANY/ALL patient on opioids and benzodiazepines must have a pain management agreement in place.

Prescription Monitoring Program

Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) MUST be ran and reviewed (and documented that in the chart that it was done so) on:

1. First time opioid or benzodiazepine prescriptions written for a patient

2. Any patient written a prescription for opioids or benzodiazepines whom the prescriber has not reviewed the PMP within the last 180 days (6 months).

Failure to follow the above PMP guidelines can now be used for disciplinary action by licensure boards

Initial Opioid Prescription

Prior to issuing an initial opioid prescription, the medical record must document:

1. Patient's experience with non-opioid pain medication.

2. Patient's experiences with non-

pharmacological pain management modalities.

3. Any history of substance abuse.

4. Development of the treatment plan with attention focused on determining the cause of the pain.

5. Discussion of the risk of addiction, danger of combining opioids with alcohol or benzodiazepines, why the prescription is necessary and consideration of alternative treatments that may be available.

90 Day Requirement

Every 90-day requirement for treating chronic opioid patient's:

1. Document a review of the treatment course, any new etiologies of the pain, and progress of the patient toward treatment objectives regarding the pain.

2. Make a reasonable effort to stop or decrease the opioid dosage and or try other drugs or treatment modalities.

3. Monitor compliance with the pain management agreement.

****Note is made that cancer patients, hospice patients, and patients in long-term care facilities are exempt from the above requirements.*

Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs

Oklahoma Bureau narcotics and dangerous drugs will be paying special attention and monitoring closely the following three categories of patients:

1. Any patient requiring opioid treatment for greater than 3 months.

2. Any patient on a combination of benzodiazepines along with opioids.

3. Any patient prescribed a dose of opioids exceeding 100 morphine equivalents.

Optometry

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service

Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider. Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic. AS FUNDING ALLOWS.

\$175 for single vision – includes exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts.

\$225 for multi-focal vision – includes exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts.

\$50 towards fundoscopic exam for retinopathy - for participants in the Bearskin diabetic clinic only.

Audiology

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service.

Services must be provided by a

Bearskin Contracted Provider.

Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic. AS FUNDING ALLOWS \$1000 per ear towards hearing aids. \$75 per hearing exam.

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

Pharmacy

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare. Fills prescriptions written by Bearskin providers or providers that patients are referred to from Bearskin Healthcare.

Prescriptions from practitioners outside of Bearskin Healthcare are only filled if approved and re-written by a Bearskin Healthcare physician under his/her authority.

Wyandotte Adult Reserve Dental

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service. Up to \$750 per year.

Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic. AS FUNDING ALLOWS.

Services excluded: orthodontics, whitening, IV sedation, conscious sedation and general anesthesia.

Adult Emergency Dental

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service. Up to \$750 per year.

Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic. AS FUNDING ALLOWS. Services provided: Emergency adult dental consists of limited exam, limited x-ray, re-cement of crowns, extractions, partials and/or dentures and wisdom teeth removal, as approved as being necessary, only.

Dentures and partials will only be replaced every five years. If they are lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed before reaching the five-year mark, it will be the tribal member's responsibility to replace these appliances.

Children's Dental

Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service. Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic.

Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider. AS FUNDING ALLOWS.

Services excluded: orthodontics, whitening, IV sedation, conscious sedation and general anesthesia.