



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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May 2019



Town Hall Meetings a chance for citizens to reconnect

PAGES 7

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

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Inside:

- Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow
- Celebration of Mission Church agenda
- 12th Annual Environmental Festival

Board of Directors

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 Second Chief..... Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
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 Councilperson..... Vivian Fink
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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
Family and friends reunite in Seattle.
 Photo: William Swaim

Contact Us

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

Email: wswaim@wtok.org



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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Commemorating veteran sacrifices

This is May, the time of year when the living things around us begin to show themselves once again. Trees begin to come to life and flowers are in bloom. The sun warms the Earth and everywhere there is a sense of renewal and a refreshing of the spirit.

On May 27th we will commemorate the sacrifices of the American men and women who have died in service to our country. They will not be with us to enjoy the beginning of one more summer, but we will remember them on Memorial Day. We will honor the actions each undertook to keep our great nation a place of freedom and liberty.

We know there have been many Indian veterans who have gone before us. World War II saw a surge in Indian men and women in the military. Headstones alone cannot account for the large number of Indian servicemen and women during the war years of 1941-1945. It is estimated that over 40,000 Indians served with distinction during World War II, a huge proportion of, at that time, a small Indian population.

Additionally, Indian men and women not in the military at that time left homes and reservations to work in the American war industry, including ordnance plants, aircraft factories, railroads and more. It is estimated Indian people invested more than \$40 million of their own money during the war to purchase U.S. war bonds, which helped fund the war effort.

During the Korean War, many Wyandottes fought as infantrymen, tank crewmen, artillerymen and more. Wyandotte and Indian veterans were again called on during the Vietnam War, the first Iraq War and the current conflict in Iraq.

Wyandotte and Indian military decorations are too numerous to list. Many Indian veterans have been awarded the Silver Star or

the Bronze Star for meritorious service in combat. Countless thousands are Purple Heart recipients.

We know there have been at least six Indian military men who have received the country's highest military honor, the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Memorial Day has its origins in the War Between the States, during which time Confederate women began honoring Confederate war dead with regular decorations of graves. The Union side soon took up the practice following the war. The day in May was originally known as Decoration Day.

Today, Memorial Day is observed the last Monday of May. To many, the day signifies the beginning of the summer season. However, for each who has served, and for each of us who appreciate the liberty and freedom our country guarantees, we honor and we remember those men and women who paid the price required of them.

In closing I want to remember one special veteran who recently passed on. Theodore (Ted) J. Nesvold, 84, Wyandotte, Okla., passed into eternal rest April 11, 2019 at his home surrounded by his family.

Ted Nesvold was born July 4, 1934 in Boulder, CO. He was the son of Harold and Artie (Peacore) Nesvold. Ted served his Country in the United States Air Force

from 1955 to 1958. Ted served as the Commander of the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard for several years and was respected all across Indian Country as a gourd dancer in many of the local pow-wows.

I will remember Ted as a respected elder, leader, a mentor to me and many others, but most of all I will remember him as my friend.

Fly High Airman!



Wyandotte Nation Memorial Day Program: Monday, May 27, 10 am. Honoring Ted Nesvold.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Looking back at Wyandot Mission Church history; new projects beginning in Nation



Kweh Omateru

I hope everyone is enjoying a wonderful spring so far, it seems like the pollen flying in the air is in overdrive because it is really bad here in Oklahoma. On April 11, 2019, Ted Nesvold, a good friend not only to me but to many that had the privilege of meeting him, passed away. He made moccasins for many people including myself, he beaded medallions, and he was in the Honor Guard until his illness kept him from doing it anymore. He built just about everything at the pow-wow grounds, he could build anything out of metal. God gifted him with many talents. Whenever he greeted someone it was with a smile, a handshake and a hug. Ted was very proud of his Wyandotte Heritage, and the Wyandotte Nation was proud and honored to have him as one of its citizens. You will forever be missed, R.I.P. my friend.

On April 19, 2019, Juanita McQuiston will celebrate her 93rd birthday, Juanita is a wealth of knowledge about the Tribe and was one of the many Wyandotte Nation citizens that kept the Tribe going through the termination era that started in the mid to late 50s. The Wyandotte Nation wishes Juanita a very Happy Birthday!

The Wyandotte Nation has many projects going on in the Wyandotte, Okla. area, one just west of the casino is addressing some drainage issues, widening the entrance and road to better accommodate large trucks. This will help in the development of some duplexes the Nation plans to build to help alleviate the shortage of rental property in this area. They will be available to tribal and non-tribal renters.

We also have a project north of Twin Bridges State Park where we will be selling lots to any individual who wishes to build a home. We are very close to being able to put our waterline project out for bids -- we are waiting on the BIA for approval since it involves trust lands.

In September the Methodist Council will deed over to the Wyan-

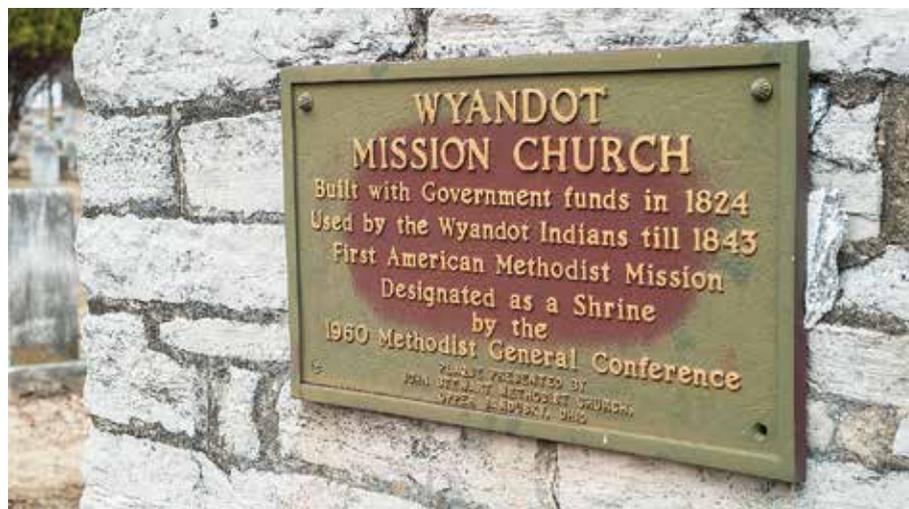
"Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail"

--Ralph Waldo Emerson

dotte Nation the Methodist Mission Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, so here is a little history when that church was built:

By 1824 the school and farm were prospering well, the buildings were small for so many children as 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 of the condition of the school and the mission work among the Wyandotts. 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 Wyandotts 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 Wyandotts 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 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.

Two-hundred fifty 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 ways 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. This information was from Thelma R. Marsh's book *Moccasin Trails to the Cross*.

The most important thing you can do as a Wyandotte is to learn our history, you have to know where we came from, where we have been and now where we are going as a Nation so you can better educate your children and those that ask 'what is a Wyandotte.' I have spread the history of the Wyandotte Nation all across the United States, being on the executive board of the National Congress of American Indians I come in contact with American Indian leaders from all across this great nation. Now these Tribal Leaders know about the Wyandotte Nation. It is an honor to represent the Wyandotte Nation as Second Chief of the greatest Indian Nation in the country.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2019

PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

**MAY
13
7 PM**



GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

**JUNE
21-23**



FIREWORKS DISPLAY

**JULY
2
7 PM**



THE GATHERING

**SEPT.
11-13**



30TH ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.
13-15**



ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.
14
10 AM**



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED



Wyandotte Nation

Memorial Day Program

Monday, May 27
10 am

Wyandotte Indian Cemetery

**Honoree:
Ted Nesvold**

PUBLIC NOTICE

On Sept. 14, 2019 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The Annual Meeting will start at 10 a.m. **Please note that citizens will be required to present their Wyandotte Nation membership/citizenship card to register for the meeting.**

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined that there are no contested posts for elective office within the government of the Wyandotte Nation for 2019. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, September 14, 2019 per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

**Dee Killion, Chairman
Election Committee**

TRIBAL CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

Theodore J. Nesvold

July 4, 1934 - April 11, 2019

Theodore J. Nesvold, 84, Wyandotte, OK passed into eternal rest April 11, 2019 at his home surrounded by family.

Ted Nesvold was born July 4, 1934 in Boulder, CO. He was the son of Harold and Artie (Peacore) Nesvold. Ted served his Country in the United States Air Force from 1955 to 1958. Ted was a member of Sycamore Chapel United Methodist Church, Wyandotte, OK. Ted was a strong, working man and a leader to his family.



NESVOLD

Theodore J. Nesvold married Gail G. Roberts July 26, 1959 in Wyandotte, OK.

Survivors include son Lon Nesvold, Seneca, MO, daughter Sherri Clemons, Wyandotte, OK, son Jim Nesvold, Wyandotte, OK, daughter Lea Baldwin, Wyandotte, OK, daughter Carolyn Cox, Wyandotte, OK. Twelve grandchildren, Brandon Neal, Joe Nesvold, Erin Eckhart, Tim Nesvold, Shelby Hobbs, Wendi Long, Kelly Nesvold, Trey Clemons, Jason Baldwin, Catherine Baldwin, Lynnea Cox, Tristen Cox and 12 Great-Grandchildren.

The family hosted a visitation at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center Friday, April 12 and Saturday, April 13.

Arrangements were under the direction of Campbell-Biddlecome Funeral Home, Seneca, MO.

Cade Friend graduates from basic training

Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen, Cade



COURTESY PHOTO

Cade Friend with his father, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend.

Josiah Friend, son of Billy & Kelly Friend and Troy & Angie Sumpter, graduated United States Air Force Basic Military Training (BMT) on Friday, April 12, 2019 at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

The 8 ½ week training conditions trainees mentally and physically. The instruction consists of Air Force history and heritage, building character and leadership skills, Air Force standards, preparation for the possibility of combat including how to handle stress, the laws of combat, and what role they have in countering diverse threats to national security such as terrorist attacks and how to handle a chemical, biological, radioactive, or nuclear attack.

Upon graduation of BMT, Cade relocated to Goodfellow Air Force Base to continue his education, for the next 6 months, in Intelligence,

where he plans to become a Fusion Analyst.

Cade is a 2018 graduate of Miami High School.



COURTESY PHOTO

Henry Andrews with his father Ben.

Henry Andrews receives 'kindness' award

Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Henry Andrews received the C.O.R.E. value of "kindness" award for his 5th grade class in a recent assembly at Walker Creek Elementary School in North Richland Hills, Texas, including a dog tag necklace and a sign to place in his front yard. Henry received the award for being kind and helpful and assisting his fellow students and teachers whenever he sees an opportunity.

WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG / ONLINE-GIFT-STORE /

ONLINE GIFT STORE

Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!

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

Check it out!

Convenient:

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

Secure:

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

A celebration of Mission Church Sept. 21

By **KIM GARCIA**

WYANDOTTE NATION FOUNDATION/
SPECIAL PROJECTS DIRECTOR

In 1816, John Stewart became a missionary to the Wyandots in Ohio. He was taken into the home of Jonothan Pointer, a black man who in his youth had been kidnapped by the Wyandots and adopted into the tribe and had learned the Wyandott language. Pointer served as an interpreter for Stewart.

Rev. James B. Finley was sent in 1821 by the Methodist Conference to start the mission school at Upper Sandusky. John Stewart taught a class at the Big Springs Reserve. John Stewart died Dec. 18, 1823 and "Be Faithful" were his last words.

The Wyandot Mission Church was built in 1824 in Upper Sandusky and was used by the Wyandot people until 1843, when they were removed from Ohio. It was the first mission in America of the Methodist denomination, and the school was reportedly one of the first vocational schools and the first coeducational school. The building was restored in 1889 and designated a national historic shrine by the General



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandot Mission Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

Conference of the Methodist Church in 1960.

Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church has determined to return the historic Wyandot Mission Church and cemetery in Upper Sandusky to the Wyandotte people. On Saturday, Sept. 21, 2019, an event

will take place to commemorate and celebrate the important historical connections among the Wyandotte people and the people called Methodists.

Wyandotte Nation would like to invite our Wyandotte people to attend this ceremony.

Wyandot Mission Church Celebration Agenda:

Thursday, September 19, 2019:
Leave Tribal Headquarters and travel by buses, stop for the evening in Indiana to sleep

Friday, September 20, 2019:
Leave Indiana for Ohio, arrive in Upper Sandusky, Ohio and tour significant sites of our ancestors

Saturday, September 21, 2019:
Attend the Celebration at the John Stewart Methodist Church and Mission Church in Upper Sandusky

Sunday, September 22, 2019:
Leave Ohio and stop for the evening in Indiana to sleep

Monday, September 23, 2019:
Leave Indiana for Oklahoma, arrive in Wyandotte, OK

If you would like to attend, please contact Kim Garcia at 918-678-6317 or email at kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org for more detailed information. Deadline to sign up is July 15, 2019.

You do not have to travel on the buses in order to attend the ceremony; you can travel on your own and meet us there. However, we would like to know if you will be in attendance so we can plan appropriately.

Wyandotte Nation, receives crime victims funds

Three Oklahoma tribes were awarded nearly \$2 million recently to support crime victims. Nationwide, the Office for Victims of Crime awarded more than \$5.7 million to support crime victims in Native American communities.

The Wyandotte Nation was awarded \$579,596 to expand services to victims of domestic violence, elder abuse, sexual assault, dating violence and human trafficking by hiring a victim advocate. The award also will fund transportation to reach survivors in remote areas and provide legal and mental health services to those impacted by crime.

12th Annual Environmental Festival

Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department staffers Janice Wilson and Braulio Ramirez present their booth to area students during the 12th Annual Environmental Festival, which was held April 25 at Heritage Acres Park. The event was sponsored by WTOK (Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma), the USDA NRCS and the Oklahoma Tribal Conservation Advisory Council. The event featured various vendors from area tribes.

WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION



Town Hall meetings in Ohio, Seattle another success

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

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

“Once again we had two very successful town hall meetings this year,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. “Our first meeting this year was held in Upper Sandusky, Ohio which is the site of our last reservation in Ohio before being removed in 1843. We had a good turnout and were joined by several members of the local Historical Society as well.”

The first Town Hall was held at the John Stewart Methodist Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, Saturday, March 16. Tribal citizens were treated to a dance exhibition after hearing about the State of the Nation. Following lunch and the exhibition, citizens had the opportunity to learn more about the history of the Wyandottes, visiting the Wyandot Mission Church for a Q&A session.

The second meeting was held Saturday, April 13, in Seattle, Wash., at the Hilton Seattle

Airport and Conference Center. Seattle was also the site of the very first Town Hall, which started in 2013. There was record attendance with more than 200 attending the meeting, also hearing the State of the Nation, treated to lunch and a dance exhibition, and had the opportunity to participate in a beading class instructed by Kim Garcia.

“The town hall meetings have exceeded our expectations over the last several years and have been instrumental in re-connecting many of our citizens back to the Nation with many of them coming back to Wyandotte in the fall to attend the Gathering, Pow-wow, and Annual Meeting,” Chief Friend said. “I want to say thank you to each one of our citizens who have taken time to attend these meetings and to all of team members here at the Wyandotte Nation who have helped to make this happen.”

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 headquar-



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION

The Town Halls were an opportunity for tribal citizens to reconnect with the Tribe. Chief Billy Friend delivers the State of the Nation in Ohio.

ters in Wyandotte, Okla.

At these meetings citizens are able to meet the Chief, Second Chief and key Wyandotte Nation staff, hear the state of the Tribe, and make connections with fam-

ily members and other citizens who reside in their local areas.

Plans are being made for next year's Town Halls, and locations and meeting dates will be announced later.

Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool hosted its annual Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow Thursday evening, April 11, at the Wyandotte HS Gym. The preschoolers performed the Tizameh song and Numbers before taking part in Round, Snake and Buffalo Dances. The evening concluded with an Intertribal Dance with everyone participating.

WILLIAM SWAIM/
WYANDOTTE NATION



30th Annual
WYANDOTTE POW-WOW

September 13-15, 2019

\$50,000



In Prize Money

Contests in all Categories

Friday 8:00 p.m.	Grand Entries Saturday 1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.	Sunday 1:30 p.m.
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18th Annual Veterans Honor Program
All Veterans Welcomed



HEAD STAFF

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

Damian Blackfox
Neil Lawhead
Geneva Hamilton
TBA
Wyandotte Honor Guard
Dude Blalock
Jay Blalock
Steve Kinder
Redland
Sara Wright

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

Host Motel: Indigo Sky Hotel/Riverbend Hotel

POW-WOW CONTEST SCHEDULE

Friday, September 13
Evening

Women's Jingle
Jr. Girl's Cloth
Men's Grass
Jr. Boy's Straight
Men's Golden Age

49 Contest - Jay Blalock

Saturday, September 14
Afternoon

Jr. Boy's Grass
Women's Cloth
Jr. Girls Fancy Shawl
Men's Straight

Saturday, September 14
Evening

Jr. Girl's Jingle
Men's Fancy
Jr. Boy's Traditional
Women's Buckskin
Women's Golden Age

Stomp Dance - Bruce Martin

Sunday, September 15
Afternoon

Women's Fancy Shawl
Men's Traditional
Jr. Girl's Buckskin
Jr. Boy's Fancy
Tiny Tots

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

Gourd Dancing

1 hour prior to all sessions.

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



Must Be Registered and Participate In Two Grand Entries and Two Exhibitions To Qualify For Contests. Must Be Registered In Only One Category. MUST BE IN FULL DRESS TO RECEIVE CONTEST MONIES. All Decisions by the Committee are Final!
The above schedule is intended as a guide only, and is subject to change at the discretion of the Pow-Wow committee!



All Food Vendors
must have
Oklahoma food
handlers permit



FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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

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

Everyone welcome! Bring your cameras and lawn chairs! NO PERSONAL SHADES
SETUP BEFORE FRIDAY AFTERNOON. (NO PETS ALLOWED NEAR ARENA)



www.wtok.org

FABICash donates \$20,000 to Wyandotte Nation

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

FABICash donated \$20,000 to the Wyandotte Nation. FABICash Sales Account Executive Nick Rabito presented the check to Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend in the Sandusky Conference Room at River Bend Casino & Hotel.

Rabito said FABICash gives back to its partners every year, donating money for its partners to use toward charity or educational purposes. FABICash provides casinos and their patrons secure and convenient access to cash.

Chief Friend said the Tribe will use the funds toward a trip and celebration in September later this year where the General Board of Global Ministries of the

United Methodist Church will be presenting the deed of the Wyandotte Mission Church property to the Wyandotte Nation.

Also on hand for the presentation were River Bend Casino & Hotel General Manager Gary Johnson, River Bend Casino & Hotel Controller Carla King, and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO Kelly Carpino, as well as several River Bend employees.

WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION
From left, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, River Bend Casino & Hotel Controller Carla King, River Bend Casino & Hotel General Manager Gary Johnson, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO Kelly Carpino, and Nick Rabito of FABICash.

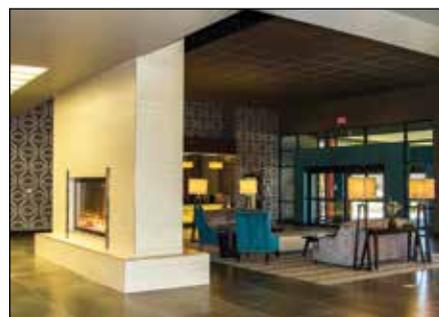


Booking.com recognizes River Bend with 'Guest' award

By **WILLIAM SWAIM**
WYANDOTTE NATION

River Bend Casino & Hotel now has one of the highest property review scores on Booking.com, and the reviews helped River Bend garner the site's 2018 Booking.com Guest Review Award. River Bend has scored a 9.3 out of 10 for reviews on the website.

"Throughout the planning process our goal was to build something special, with a focus on comfort and unique features that distinguished us from the competition," said River Bend Casino & Hotel General Manager Gary Johnson. "So we are very



WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION

appreciative that our guests have responded with the great reviews and shared them with our partner Booking.com and the public."

James Waters, Vice President of Partner & Customer Services for Booking.com, wrote this on

the recognition: "A Guest Review Award is no small feat. Delivering such incredible experiences to your guests is the result of dedication, passion, and a lot of hard work. We are proud to call you our partner, and – like all your happy guests – we want to give you our warmest thanks."

Sitting at the edge of Wyandotte on Hwy 60, River Bend Casino & Hotel, formerly the Wyandotte Nation Casino, opened its doors in 2007. Since it's opening, the casino has offered gaming, entertainment and great food.

The casino underwent a renovation and expansion a few years back featuring the addition of the new luxurious three story, 92-

room hotel. The hotel expansion also included conference rooms perfect for business meetings, conferences and conventions.

In addition to the hotel, the project also expanded and renovated the casino and Twin Bridges Restaurant while also adding amenities, including an Event Center, bowling alley and Club 60 West.

Check out River Bend Casino & Hotel on Booking.com to book your next stay and see why River Bend is one of the highest rated on the website. #GuestsLoveUs

Or visit the website www.riverbendcasino.com/hotel to make your reservation today. You can also call (918) 678-4946.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard,
HR Director*

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Heritage Department is proud to welcome tribal citizen Courtney Cummings as our new Tribal Heritage Specialist. Courtney has her associate's degree in Early Childhood Education from NEO A&M College, and her Bachelor Degree of Science in Elementary Education from Missouri Southern State University. She resides in Miami, Okla., with her husband Brent Cummings of 13 years and they have five children. She enjoys spending time with her family and going to sporting events that keep her busy every season and almost every weekend! Her hobbies are crafting and photography. We are very fortunate to have Courtney and wish her much success in this new position.



CUMMINGS

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Evan Hotulke to his new position as Education Specialist, and tribal citizen Kathy Greenhaw as a Substitute.



HOTULKE

Evan graduated from Missouri Southern in 2014 with his Bachelors of Science in Mathematics. He taught middle school for three years. He has worked for River Bend Casino as Bar Lead for two years. He enjoys playing golf and wood-working in his spare time. Evan likes spending time with his three kids and attending their activities, plus

coaching any sport he possibly can. We are happy to have Evan on our team.

Kathy enjoys spending time with her four wonderful grandkids. In her spare time she enjoys crocheting and reading. We are pleased to have Kathy and wish her much success in her new position.



GREENHAW

The Wyandotte Nation Courts Department is proud to welcome tribal citizen Kristy Howard as our new Court Clerk. Kristy graduated from Wyandotte High School, has four kids, four grandkids and enjoys spending time with her family. We are very fortunate to have Kristy and wish her much success in this new position.



HOWARD

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is happy to welcome Sheryl Hogan as the new Business Services Manager, and Dee Dee Clapp as the new Health Information Management Technician.

Sheryl has worked in health care - office setting since 1985. In her spare time, she enjoys watching Chicago Cubs. She loves spending time with her grandchildren, watching their sporting events, playing bingo with her husband and friends. She likes entertaining guests, hosting parties and cook-outs, etc. We are very fortunate to have Sheryl join the clinic and wish her much success in this position.



HOGAN



CLAPP

Dee Dee has worked several years in the medical field and has previous experience with medical records, scheduling, clerical, and billing. In her spare time, she enjoys scrapbooking and auctions. She also loves spending time with her grandkids, movies, and playing games with her family. We wish Dee Dee much success in her new position.

Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,
Family Services Director*

Spring is finally in the air in North-east Oklahoma! It's a beautiful time of year here in "Green Country". The

redbuds and dogwoods are blooming, everything is turning green and the state park is full of anglers. The Family Services Department is gearing up for a busy summer, as usual, and look forward to seeing tribal citizens at the various events that will be held.

June 21-23 will be the annual Gathering of Little Turtles and we would like to encourage families to come out and participate in this great weekend full of activities. All meals will be provided and the hotel will have a special rate for those who travel from a distance. The event focuses on kids by providing cultural awareness, art projects, language and history, but is an enjoyable time for the entire family. Watch for registration and schedule coming soon to Facebook and the Nation's website.

We are excited to announce that all tribal citizens nationwide, who are 55 and older, will be eligible for the Senior Energy program. This benefit pays \$100 one time in the summer and one time in the winter directly to the energy provider. Applications will be available on the website mid-June for this program. For those who are outside of the four state area, and will be using the program for the first time, we ask that citizens pay their bill and send a copy of the entire statement (front and back if applicable) along with the application to the Family Services Department. Each new energy provider will need to submit a W9 to us prior to payment, so this may take some time to process. Please be patient with us the first year, as it will take more time than normal.

In accordance with the Wyandotte Nation Constitution, the Annual Meeting will be held the second Saturday in September, which for 2019 will be Sept. 14. Please note, that the Annual Meeting and Pow-Wow are typically held the weekend following Labor Day, but that will not be the case this year. There will not be an election this year, but tribal citizens still need to be sure to bring either their Membership Card or Citizenship Card to register for the meeting and receive their travel gift certificates. Both of these cards include your roll number; the CDIB (Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood) card/certificate is NOT sufficient, as it does not provide proof of enrollment.

Below you will find details about all of the programs available through the Family Services Department. If you have questions or need additional information please don't hesitate to contact a member of the staff:

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*

Dana Butterfield, Director, (918) 678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, (918) 678-6355; Leeanna Rada-baugh, Family Services Assistant, (918) 678-6329; and Tiffany Garner, ICW Social Worker, (918) 678-6353; Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault Advocate, (918) 678-6324.

LIHEAP – Summer LIHEAP will be available July 1 for tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma and is income based. This is a small grant, so funding is limited and is available on a first come, first serve basis.

School Supplies – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY-INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED FOR CORRECTIONS: Applications will be available beginning July 1 on the Wyandotte Nation website, at the Family Services office or can be faxed/emailed. Tribal citizens residing in the 4-state area (OK, KS, AR, MO) can receive a \$100 Walmart gift card or submit receipts for reimbursement up to \$100. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement. The correct application must be used. Tribal citizens who reside outside of the 4-state area will be eligible for the \$100 reimbursement program. Eligible items for the program are school supplies, clothing, shoes, socks and school supply fees charged by schools. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2019, no exceptions. Applications and receipts must

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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be original documents. Faxed or emailed applications and receipts will not be accepted. There will be additional information available with the applications beginning July 1.

Senior Energy – Now available Nationwide to tribal citizens 55 and older! Beginning July 1 applications will be available for \$100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30.

Elders Assistance – One-time expense for \$250 for tribal elders aged 55 and over who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, AR, MO) Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2019 to be eligible.

Extra-Expense/Extracurricular Activities – One-time payment of \$100 per student aged Pre – K through 12th grade for tribal citizens who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR). Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30.

Jr/Sr Benefit – \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School. This benefit is available to Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR) and applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2019.

Fuel Assistance – Fuel assistance programs include: Hardship – personal hardships, travel for work/job interviews, etc. Medical – travel to/from doctor/dental appointments and pick up prescriptions. Major Medical – extreme medical issues (must be life threaten, terminal, etc. not chronic medical issues) that require multiple trips outside of the local area. Program provides fuel vouchers through the Turtle Stop convenience store for local tribal citizens or tribal citizens who travel to the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center.

Child Safety Seats – Each child is eligible for three seats in different sizes and must be picked up at the tribal office.

Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare – This program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families. It is designed to help keep children in their homes with the family, or ensure that if there is a need for removal, federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is considered first and foremost. If you are involved in a child welfare case please contact either Tara or Tiffany.

Enrollment – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2019 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along

with an original state certified birth certificate. Applications received after this date will be held until the 2020 Annual Meeting so it's important to get those applications in on time.

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. Some things to keep in mind when renewing tags and purchasing new vehicles:

Tribal citizen's name MUST be on the title at the time of sale. Tax Commission staff cannot add or delete names.

Renewal notices are mailed as a courtesy by the 15th of the month prior to the expiration.

Current insurance verification is required. Please have a paper copy of this when coming to the office.

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

the program, but may need to refer you to CoreSource in some instances.

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

Family Violence Prevention Program – Program provides advocacy and services to victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence and stalking. This program is available to any person residing within a 25-mile radius of the tribal headquarters and limited advocacy can be provided for Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide. The Program also hosts quarterly culture events, in conjunction with the Heritage Department.

Foster Family Recruitment – Indian Child Welfare social workers are actively seeking foster families. If you think this might be something you would be interested in please contact the office for more information.

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

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. 14
- 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

Education

**Submitted by Cristi Hudson,
Education Director**

Kweh - Spring semester is coming to an end for our Wyandotte Nation and WIOA scholarship participants. If you have enrolled for the fall 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 that will reflect your spring grades and fall schedule to the Education Department if you have not already done so. We will start processing the scholarships, but they will not be mailed out until the beginning of August.

A few Wyandotte Nation Undergraduate Scholarship reminders:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight (8) 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 Crawford and Cherokee Counties in Southeast Kansas or Barry, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, Newton and McDonald Counties in Southwest Missouri.

WIAO eligibility requirements include:

- You must be Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian.
- Possess a C.D.I.B. card.
- Member of a federally recognized tribe.
- Must be a resident of the service area listed above.

To obtain any of the scholarships that Wyandotte Nation offers, email your request or any questions that you may have to Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist at ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org; or you can request one by calling his office at (918) 678-6331.

The Wyandotte Nation Library has been busy adding new books and DVDs to the already large selection. Be sure to stop in and check out everything the library has to offer

**Submitted by Kathy DeWeese,
Housing Director**

The Heritage Acres Park is expanding. We are currently in the process of adding some new features to the existing park area. The expansion will include some climbing statues featuring a bear, a wolf, a turtle, and a canoe. The park expansion is expected to be completed near the beginning of summer.

The Heritage Acres Splash Pad will be opening by May 24, 2019 and will remain open until Sept. 16, 2019. The splash pad is free and open to the public from 9 am – 9 pm daily during the summer months. There are two pavilions located at the splash pad and park area that are open on a first-come, first-serve basis to the public.

There is a Down Payment Assistance Program available for those

when you are in town. If we do not have a book or movie that you would like to check-out, let Mrs. Deb, the librarian, know and she will see if we can get it ordered and added to our collection for you. Also available for the community's use, is the computer lab, located inside the library.

The Child Care and Development Fund program recently held an infant and toddlers massage as well as a children's massage training for our local providers. The training was hosted by Wyandotte Nation Tribal member Tina Allen. We heard lots of positive feedback from the providers on the training. We appreciate Tina taking the time out of her busy schedule to teach our providers techniques in which to utilize the different massages in their classrooms.

The Child Care and Development Fund program is currently accepting applications for childcare assistance. If you are in need of childcare assistance and have not applied, we would be happy to assist in getting an application 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 miles radius of our tribal headquarters. To request an application, or if you have any questions, you can email Sami Butterfield, our Child Care Coordinator, at sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org; or you can call her office at (918) 678-6330.

Housing

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.

We will begin taking applications for the College Rental Assistance program for the 2019-2020 school year soon. 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.

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.

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

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 Director, (918) 678-6334 or chudson@wyandotte-nation.org

Sami Butterfield – Childcare Coordinator - CCDF, (918) 678-6330 or sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Evan Hotulke—Education Specialist, (918) 678-6331 or ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org

If anyone is in need of food, we partner with area tribes and the Tulsa Foodbank to host a Food Distribution at the Highwinds Casino parking lot on the third Thursday of each month from 11 am to Noon. Each Title VI program has tickets to distribute to those in need. Participants will need to get their tickets prior to the distribution.

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.

We will be collaborating with other tribal caregiver programs to host a picnic on Thursday, June 6 at the Heritage Acres Park.

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.

Elder Services

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

Happy Spring everyone! It is so nice to finally have some nice warm days and see all of the trees budding and flowers blooming!

Our Mother's Day Dinner will be Thursday, May 9. We will be traveling to Branson, Mo., Wednesday, May 29 to see the play, Samson. Father's Day Dinner will be Thursday, June 13. The Ottawa County Senior Day will be Thursday, June 13 at the Buffalo Run Casino in Miami, Okla. The Delaware County Senior Prom will be Friday, July 12 at the Grove Civic Center in Grove, Okla.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Important Numbers

Police Department

Glenn Johnston (918) 678-6365
gjohnston@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

Cristi Hudson (918) 678-6334
chudson@wyandotte-nation.org

Historical

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

Environmental / Planning / Development

Christen Lee (918) 678-6341
clec@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

Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Sherri Clemons,
Tribal Heritage Director*

Kweh all! Spring has finally sprung! Things are kicking in here. Before you know it Pow-Wow will be here, but there are plenty of other things happening:

- Lacrosse Camp is set to be June 18-20.
- Little Turtles is on the calendar June 21-23.
- Fireworks will be July 2 at the pow-wow grounds.
- The Gathering will be Sept. 11-13.
- Pow-Wow is Sept. 13-15.

The River Bend Hotel has 80 rooms blocked. You will need to let them know you will be coming for the Gathering.

The Heritage Department would like to welcome Courtney Cummings as Tribal Heritage Specialist. Courtney is the great granddaughter of Juanita McQuiston, who has worked with the Historical department for many years and serves on the Board of Directors. Courtney as a teaching degree from MSSU. We look forward to new and exciting programs in the future. Stop by and visit the Cultural Center & Museum any time.

Tribal Police Department

*Submitted by Glenn Johnston,
Chief of Police*

Denton Ward, our newest officer, is currently enrolled in C.L.E.E.T. (Council on Law Enforcement Education & Training) in Ada, Okla. I have had great reports from instructors that I've known over the years. All tell me that he sets the bar high and that the instructors are running off Denton's tempo, which is still causing the remaining students to give all they have to keep up. We all are very proud! Denton is scheduled to graduate June 28.

Currently each police department employee is being sought out by local juveniles for the very elusive "CARD". Each employee has his or her own trading card which has a photograph of the employee on the front and a small history lesson of each employee on the back. After each juvenile searches (which has been referred to as a scavenger hunt) and obtains 15 cards, they will turn them in to

Court Clerk retires after 7 years



WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION

We held a retirement reception for Janis Everley, who was the Court Clerk for our courts the last 7+ years. Congratulations Jan on your retirement! Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented her with a gift, and punch and cake were served following the presentation.

Environmental

*Submitted by Kathy Welch,
Environmental Program Manager*

With the new year comes many new projects and activities within our department. One of the new projects is a loading dock at our Lost Creek Recycle Center, which started Jan. 4.

During the past three months, our department has had the opportunity to present Recycling Education classes to three separate area schools. The classes were held at Neosho Jr. High, Wyandotte Nation Turtle Tots, and Miami Head Start Program. During the classes, staff talked to the students about the importance of recycling and preserving our earth's resources.

I have been busy with many Natural Resource Damage and Assessment meetings and calls. Wyandotte Nation is a trustee of the Tar Creek Trustee Council (TCTC) and due to NRDAR settlements, the TCTC are beginning the process of restoration projects in the near future.

Pat Wilson at the Wyandotte Police Department. Pat will then supply the juvenile with a coupon, which is good for one Ice Cream Shake from the Turtle Stop Convenience Store. This project started out as a way to get the local children coming to law enforcement, and alleviating the fear that some children have had with past experiences with the law (seeing a parent being arrested, etc.). This project has gone far and beyond our expectations and we have been asked by participants to do it every year!

We will be putting on a Chili contest Oct. 12. Anyone is welcome to put a team together and register with us, along with a \$10 fee, and see who has the best chili in the area. It is still in its infant stage at this point, but is progressing along nicely. All entry fees and donations will go directly into the "SHOP WITH A COP" fund for this year. If anyone needs more information, please contact Pat Wilson at the Wyandotte Nation Police Department. We will also be putting on raffles, which will be posted on the WNTPD Facebook page.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 14



January was the month we had our first innital meeting to kick off preparation for our Annual Environmental Festival. Our department staff held a meeting Jan. 4 and held our 12th Annual Environmental festival Thursday, April 25. This event was open to the public and was held at the Heritage Acres Park/Pavilion. In addition to the Environmental Festival, we also held a Tire Collection Event at Lost Creek Recycle Center the week of April 22-26.



Our department staff have been staying very busy the sampling of private drinking water wells and the sampling of eight sites on our local creeks and rivers. Along with our eight monthly sampling on the local creeks and rivers, department staff Water Technicians, Janice Wilson and



Braulio Ramirez performed quarterly nutrient sampling on these locations.

As the old saying goes, "March winds bring April flowers", and we certainly had our share of those winds, along with measurable amounts of rain. We are looking forward to spring and the pleasant temperatures that accompany it.

On March 21, our department hosted a Native American Water Masters Association training at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center Classroom. This training was a four hour refresher class for Drinking Water Operators that were due to renew their licenses for the upcoming year. We had a total of 14 participants in attendance for the training.

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

Planning & Development

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

The Department is currently working on several construction projects for the Wyandotte Nation. The tribal road and storm water improvement on Rd 645 next to the casino is under construction and should be complete by May 31.



The water line project on State line road continues. Currently, we are waiting on BIA to approve the Rights-of-Way for one property. Our Engineer is working with the Rural



Water District (RWD) on the designs. The waterline will be the property of the RWD #5 once our construction is complete.

The Bearskin Fitness Center remodel project was awarded in April and should begin May 6. This will include several internal changes including a new pro shop, redesign of the locker rooms, a new classroom and addition of a kitchen area.

The Tribe has two projects on 137 Rd: During the quarter, we completed the Finding of No Significant Impact and the project was bid out for construction. It was then awarded in early April and should begin in six weeks. The Tribe is also working on building rental units on the 35 acres next to the casino. The Environmental documents are being drafted for this project. Once complete they will be sent to the BIA for approval. The



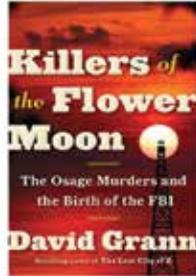
final project discussed last quarter were the parking lots in Heritage Acres Park, which were completed. Our next project that is in the planning stages is a new Administration building.

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 Manager 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.

Wyandotte Nation Library
BOOK DISCUSSION FOR MAY

KILLERS OF THE FLOWER MOON:
The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI
 By David Grann



Pick up a copy of the book at the Wyandotte Nation Library for discussions on:

Wednesday, May 22nd at 12:00 (bring your lunch)

Or

Thursday, May 23rd at 5:00

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Health

--Submitted by Kelly Friend,
Director of Health Services

A History of Indian Healthcare

Many people especially those outside of the Indian society have very little if any knowledge of Indian Healthcare, in fact there are many within the tribes that do not know the history of Indian Healthcare and its origins. In this article, I would like to briefly give a history of Indian Healthcare and how we have arrived at where we are today.

The government's obligation to provide healthcare to Native American's began in the early 1800s during the time that they were seizing land and removing tribes from their native lands and placing them on reservations. During this time, the government was entering into treaties with the tribes that stated "adequate healthcare" would be provided "as long as the winds shall blow and the rivers shall flow". Because of this type of language, the government has a continuing obligation to provide healthcare to all Indian people.

In the early 1800s federal health services for Indians was under the auspices of the War Department. At that time, the Federal Indian policy was primarily one of military containment. As early as 1802, Army physicians took emergency measures to curb contagious diseases among Indian tribes near military posts. The first large-scale smallpox vaccination of Indians was authorized by Congress in 1832, probably launched more to protect US soldiers than to benefit Indians.

Military control of Indian Affairs was brought to an end in 1849 with its shift to civilian administration under the newly created Department of the Interior. It was within this federal environment that the Indian health care system evolved until its transfer in 1955 to the Public Health Service (PHS). In 1955, the Division of Indian Health (since renamed Indian Health Service) was created within the PHS.

On July 8, 1970, Richard Nixon submitted a policy statement to Congress that launched the policy of "self determination". The President said:

"The first Americans—the Indians—are the most deprived and most isolated minority in our nation. On virtually every scale of measurement—employment, income, education,

Nearly 300 participate in Strongman & Superhero 5K

The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center hosted its annual Bearskin Strongman Competition and Superhero 5K and 1-Mile Fun Walk April 6.

Participants included 259 registered plus several more walk-up registrations in the Superhero 5K.

Some of the strongest took part in fire truck pulls and various other events in a test of strength.

The top finishers from both events included:

Strongman results: **Lightweight division - under 200lbs (Male)**

1st place – Brandon Foust
2nd place – Rusty Bunce
3rd place – Dexter Garbard

Heavyweight division - over 200 lbs (Male)

1st place – Shane Redden

health---the condition of the Indian people ranks at the bottom...The time has come to break decisively with the past and to create the conditions for a new era in which the Indian future is determined by Indian acts and Indian decisions." (Nixon 1970)

This proclamation brought forth Public Law 93-638 the Indian Self-Determination and Education Act. This act is also known as "self governance" which allows tribes to compact with the Federal Government to run their own programs. When it comes to healthcare, it authorizes tribes to plan, conduct, consolidate, administer, redesign and reallocate funding to and within programs, services, functions, and activities it determines necessary.



WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION
A sunny day greeted participants in the Superhero 5K and Bearskin Strongman. Check out our Facebook page for more photos.

2nd place – Mike Tushka
3rd place – Dan Pledger

Heavyweight (Female)

1st place – Vicki Fleming

Superhero 5K results:

1st place – 21:02, Victoria White, Carthage, MO
2nd place – 21:54, Jaci Clinton, Miami, OK
3rd place – 21:54, Matthew Mensink, Miami, OK



The Wyandotte Nation through a compact with the federal government assumed control over their healthcare program in 1995 and began the Bearskin Clinic. In September of 1998 the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center opened, through a cooperative funding agreement with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, continues to provide quality healthcare to all tribal members.

Just as in years past, many challenges remain in the Indian Healthcare arena. A recent report showed that the average amount spent on healthcare for an Indian patient in one year was \$1,914; about half of what the government spends on prisoners (\$3,803) and far below what is spent on the average American

(\$5,065). Statistics provided by the US Commission on Civil Rights say that deaths from alcoholism are 77% more likely among Native Americans than the general population; from tuberculosis, 65%; and from diabetes, 42%.

In some tribes, one in two people suffer from diabetes. Just this year, congress approved a 1.9% increase in funding, yet the medical inflationary rate is right at 9%, which actually constitutes about a 7% decrease in funding.

Despite the many challenges ahead, the Wyandotte Nation and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe are committed to both maintaining and improving our healthcare programs through the spirit of Self-Determination.