Wyandottes, conservation featured in TV show filming

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- Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow
- Ryan Leaf shares story with students
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“To improve the quality of life for all tribal citizens.”
This is the simple, straightforward mission statement of the Wyandotte Nation. Our mission statement is what leads those of us, who serve Wyandotte citizens, every day.

For us to be a successful and a united tribal nation, we must have a strong cultural identity. We must know who we are as Wyandotte people.

Our basic mission is to make Wyandotte lives better. Our vision for the future is to help Wyandotte citizens achieve success in all aspects of their lives and empower them to be part of the great union that unites us. We want all Wyandotters to understand the fascinating history of our tribal culture.

Those of you in business or corporate environments have no doubt participated in strategic plans. These plans attempt to identify real needs, areas for improvement, and opportunities for future success. We will begin our executive strategic planning sessions, starting in May, to once again identify and prioritize our projects for the next 5-10 years. Our plan will be based on both our mission statement and our vision for the future. We hope to identify objectives that we will seek to accomplish over this time span. We want to achieve our objectives as quickly as possible, which means better service to citizens. We also realize big ideas can take time to completely mature and have the desired effect. These ideas require the effort of all of us who serve in offices of the Wyandotte Nation.

A good perspective is important when considering our Tribe and what we have all achieved together. I think perspective is a bit easier for our elders. Most of them recall the times when we had very little except each other. We relied on our communities and our willingness to help each other when there was nothing else for us. Often it was just a little food, or some dry shelter that was offered. That’s what we had, so that is what we shared. Today, things have changed for the better. We have together built a strong and resourceful nation that manages many programs and services, all designed to improve Wyandotte lives.

Progress doesn’t just happen. It is the result of planning, hard work, good people and the will to carry on through the difficult times. All of us who are Wyandotte citizens can be proud of the progress we have made together and the goals we have achieved.

I come to work each day aware of the powerful history of the Wyandotte Nation and how we have together overcome so much to be where we are today. From less than 300 citizens 151 years ago when we arrived in Oklahoma to over 6,000 tribal citizens today. It takes people working together toward a positive goal. We are blessed to have traveled so far down this road to together and we pray that we have many more miles ahead.

Kweh,
Hello fellow Wyandotters, spring is trying to bust out if Mother Nature will let it, the weather has been like a roller coaster with no end, but that’s Oklahoma. Will Rogers, a famous Oklahoma son, said “if you don’t like the weather in Oklahoma stick around it will change” – it’s very true.

Our Housing Department got a grant a year or so ago to do rehabs on homes in the Wyandotte area. Levi Griffin, Paul Parker and sometimes Drew Lankford has been doing these rehabs for the most part, some things had to be contracted out like roofing, plumbing and electrical. These guys do a fantastic job, it is amazing the work they do -- just ask Grover Tanner about the floor they put in his house. I want to thank these gentlemen and Don Graham for helping our Wyandotte Citizens here have safe, warm and comfortable homes to live in. A big TIZAMEH to the Housing Staff.

This is just one way we help our tribal citizens. We have many
tor Greyeyes, Francis A. Hicks, John Hicks, Henry son, Charles B. Garrett, Joel Walker Garrett, Doc-
the Wyandots from Michigan and Ohio to Kansas. treaty of 1842, which provided for the removal of 35 prominent Wyandots under Article 14 of the

tribute and financial obligations to the Wyandot Nation. Among the things sometimes stated are the assertions that the floats originated with the Wyandot Nation, but it did not cancel out their claims to their grants.

The reason for the grants isn’t spelled out anywhere, but it was probably an attempt by the government to “sweeten” the removal agreement, as most of those who received the grants were from among the more assimilated Wyandots who had strongly resisted the pressure for their removal. (If this was really bribery, as it might appear to be, it was in violation of federal law.) A number of the Wyandots who received the grants, including George Garrett, Joseph L. Tennery, and John R. Walker, never moved to Kansas but remained in Ohio. This meant that technically they were no longer members of the Wyandot Nation, but it did not cancel out their claims to their grants.

Every time an Indian nation was moved, those who did not move ceased to be recognized as members of that nation. In this way the government was able to incrementally reduce each nation’s size, land area and influence – and the government’s legal and financial obligations to that nation.

Second Chief

Continued from Page 2

services available. Our beloved Chief Bearskin always said at every annual meeting that the Wyandotte Nation believes in a hand up not a hand out, and we have continued that policy.

Now for a little history, this will be a small ex-
ccerpt on a subject that some of you may not have ever heard about “Wyandotte Floats”.

One of the less-understood aspects of early Wyandotte County history is the difference between the so-called Wyandot Floats and the Wyandotte Allotments, both of which originated in treaties between the U.S. Government and the Wyandot Nation. Among the things sometimes stated are the assertions that the floats originated with the treaty of 1855, that those Wyandot Indians who received floats under the treaty of 1855 did not receive allotments, that some of the floats were on land that had been part of the Wyandotte Purchase, or that there was just one float, in the area that is now the Central Industrial District.

None of these statements are true, the floats and allotments were completely separate from one another, and actually originated in different treaties. The Wyandot Floats were land grants made to 35 prominent Wyandots under Article 14 of the treaty of 1842, which provided for the removal of the Wyandots from Michigan and Ohio to Kansas. The 35 individuals listed in the treaty were George Armstrong, John M. Armstrong, Silas Armstrong, George I. Clark, Peter D. Clarke, Jared S. Dawson, Charles B. Garrett, Joel Walker Garrett, Doctor Greyeyes, Francis A. Hicks, John Hicks, Henry Jacquis, Ethan A. Long, Irvin P. Long, Elliott McCulloch, Samuel McCulloch, Joseph Newell, Peacock, George Punch, James Rankin Jr., Ebenzer Z. Reed, Robert Robitaille, Ron-ton-dee, Squendingechtee, Taumeree, Joseph L. Tennery, William M. Tennery, Henry Clay Walker, Isaiah Walker, Joel Walker, John R. Walker, Matthew R. Walker, William Walker Jr. and James Washington. Each grantee was to receive one section of land (640 acres) on any unclaimed (non-reservation) U.S. government lands west of the Mississippi River. As these were “floating” land grants, not tied to any specific location, they came to be called the Wyandot Floats.

The reason for the grants isn’t spelled out anywhere, but it was probably an attempt by the government to “sweeten” the removal agreement, as most of those who received the grants were from among the more assimilated Wyandots who had strongly resisted the pressure for their removal. (If this was really bribery, as it might appear to be, it was in violation of federal law.) A number of the Wyandots who received the grants, including George Garrett, Joseph L. Tennery, and John R. Walker, never moved to Kansas but remained in Ohio. This meant that technically they were no longer members of the Wyandot Nation, but it did not cancel out their claims to their grants.

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Public Notice

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election

On September 08, 2018 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting and Election at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The Election will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of the election is to elect the following positions:
- Second Chief
- 1 Board of Director member
- 2 Grievance Committee members

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

The opening date to file for candidacy is May 11, 2018 with the closing date June 11, 2018 at 4:30 p.m. All qualified members of the Wyandotte Nation who desire his or her name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Elective Office must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" in person with the Election Board Secretary or a designated representative at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 64700 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office at any one time. All such filings of Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no sooner than May 11, 2018 and no later than June 11, 2018. No later than three days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board Secretary shall cause to be posted at the Tribal Complex a complete list of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy.

A filing fee of fifty dollars ($50.00) shall be assessed for each candidate filing for Second Chief and Board of Directors. Ten dollars ($10.00) will be assessed for Grievance Committee candidates. Each candidate for Elective Office shall be assessed these fees payable to the Wyandotte Nation by Certified Check, Cashier’s Check, or Money Order. These fees shall be used for election purposes. The filing fee shall be paid on the same date the prospective candidate submits his or her Declaration of Candidacy. Said filing fee is non-refundable.

POLLCING PLACE: The official polling place for all Tribal Elections shall be the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Classroom, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The polling shall be opened from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Any voter in line at the polling place but unable to cast a ballot before 11:00 a.m. will be allowed to finish voting. The polling place shall be staffed by at least two (2) polling officials designated by the Election Board. Each voter will be required to present a photo ID and Tribal Membership Card. If the Tribal Membership Card has a photo on it, this will satisfy both of these requirements.

Rob Nesvold, Chairperson
Wyandotte Nation Election Board
Princess aims to represent Tribe in different light

Wyandotte Nation Princess Sara Wright performs 'The Lord's Prayer' before the Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow.

By Autumn Bracey
KSN/KODE TV

A local tribal princess has been working to break tradition.

Sara Wright is princess of the Wyandotte Nation and is known as the ambassador of her tribe.

“I know sometimes tradition can be broke and can be changed, and sometimes it’s for the better,” says Sara Wright.

Wright says traditionally Wyandotte women didn’t have much, so they were forced to wear dresses with material they found around them.

“So they had a lot of floral. They would have floral pots, pans whatever a lot of it was in their pottery and some in their clothes in what they would wear,” says Sara Wright.

She recently made history becoming the first princess to wear a dress not made of buckskin material. She incorporated some of the tribe’s traditional bead work on previous dresses to make a more intricate design. Wright says she is pleased her mother helped her make a modern dress she believes best represents who she is.

“It kind of represents more royalty and she just wanted to bring all the different styles that she could to the role of being a princess,” says Rebecca Wright.

Rebecca says each princess has a goal to meet while serving their tribe.

“To help educate culturally about their people and to bring that to the forefront,” says Rebecca Wright.

She adds the Wyandotte Tribe was proud she was able to represent the Wyandotte Nation in a different light.

Reprinted with permission.
Supreme Court justices selected for tribal court

The Wyandotte Nation swore in Supreme Court Justices Jason Glidewell from Anadarko, Klint Cowan from Oklahoma City, Earl Lawson from Tulsa, Peary Robertson from Seminole and Chief Supreme Court Justice Kyle Haskins from Tulsa, April 10 at the Tribal Administration Building.

Chief Billy Friend swore the justices in before a Board of Directors Meeting.

“We look forward to continuing to build our justice system. It’s all a part of us building a community,” Friend said before swearing in the justices.

“The goal for us here is to build a community of Wyandotte people, so it is very important for us to have a strong judicial system in building that community, and being a centerpiece for that.”

Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors Juanita McQuistion, Ramona Reid, Vivian Fink and Eric Lofland greeted the newly sworn in justices.

Following the ceremony, the justices elected Haskins as Chief Supreme Court Justice for the Wyandotte Nation.

Court Clerk Jan Everly said they received several applications for the positions. A committee interviewed the applicants and then selected the five applicants they felt best suited for the positions.

Profiles of the Justices:

Kyle B. Haskins: Kyle lives in Tulsa, OK. He has 29 years of legal experience. He is presently the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court for the Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma; and Assistant Attorney General for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation. Kyle was a Supreme Court Justice for the Cherokee Nation; and Adjunct Professor of Law with the University of Tulsa College of Law. Kyle is a member of the Cherokee Nation.

Kyle has published an article entitled: “What Judges Want: Courtroom Etiquette and Civility.”

Jason Glidewell: Jason lives in Anadarko, OK. He has 17 years of legal experience. He is presently the Vice Chief Judge for the Southern Plains Region BIA; and has a private practice as well. Jason has served as the Gaming Commissioner for the Delaware Nation; and Special Master for the Caddo Nation of Oklahoma.

Klint A. Cowan: Klint lives in Oklahoma City, OK. He has practiced tribal and federal Indian law for 12 years. He is presently the Director for Jicarilla Apace Nation Econ. Dev. Holding Co.; and is an attorney for a firm in OKC. Klint is a member of the bar associations of Chickasaw, Kaw, Muscogee (Creek), Oklahoma CFR Courts, Osage, Pawnee, and Sac and Fox Nation; Oklahoma Bar Association, Oklahoma county Bar Association; U.S. District Courts for the Northern, Eastern, and Western Districts of Oklahoma; and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit.

Earl D. Lawson: Earl lives in Tulsa, OK. He has 9 years of legal experience. He has been a member of the Oklahoma Bar Association; Muskogee Creek Nation Bar Association; Osage Nation Bar Association; a member of U.S. District Court of Oklahoma, Eastern District; and a member of the U.S. District Court of Oklahoma, Northern District. Earl has a BA in American Indian Studies from Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, KS. He is presently serving as the prosecutor for the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

Perry Robertson: Perry lives in Seminole, OK. He has practiced Indian Law for 7 years in multiple tribal courts and is currently the District Judge for the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. He has been practicing law at his law firm since 2010. Perry has served as Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Seminole Nation Gaming Enterprises. He is an enrolled member of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma.

Museum receives $10k donation from Wyandotte Nation, 7th Street Casino

By William Swaim
Wyandotte Nation

The Wyandotte Nation presented the Wyandotte County Museum a check for $10,000. The museum is located at 126th and State Avenue inside the Wyandotte County Park at Bonner Springs.

Friend said one of his goals as a tribal leader is to make sure the next generations of the Wyandotte Nation know their history. For the past 10 years or more, he has brought busloads of Wyandottes to the museum to learn about their history, he said.

The Wyandottes were here primarily from 1843 through 1867, when the group split and some of the Wyandotte Nation moved to Oklahoma.

“This is an important part of our history,” Friend said. The period of 1843 through 1867 also was an important part of the history of Wyandotte County and Kansas City, Kansas, and included the Civil War years. Those 24 years had a strong effect on the tribe, and there was a split in the Wyandotte Nation that occurred during those years, he said.

“Thank you for all you have done in helping us preserve the future of our past,” Friend said in presenting the check today.

The donation of $10,000 was presented on behalf of the tribe and the 7th Street Casino, which is located in downtown Kansas City, Kansas, at 7th and Ann Avenue.

Mayor David Alvey, who received the check with Museum Director Trish Schurkamp, expressed his thanks to Chief Friend and the Wyandotte Nation.

The circumstances that brought the Wyandottes to this area were not happy, and were fairly brutal, Alvey said, but “sometimes great things come from that, and your presence here now and your friendship here now is a great thing.”

“Today we are being honored by the Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma and Chief Billy Friend,” Schurkamp said. Over the past years, the friendship that the museum and the Wyandotte Nation has built has prided itself on honesty, trust and stability, she said.

“I am and will forever be humbled by this alliance,” Schurkamp said.

Schurkamp said the $10,000 check will not be used for museum operations, but will go to a special Wyandotte County Museum fund that will help to fund exhibits and museum needs.
Ryan Leaf’s story isn’t that of a typical rise and fall because unlike many of those tragic stories, his is one of redemption.

It was this part of the story that intrigued Wyandotte Nation Health Director Kelly Friend after seeing his story on an ESPN 30-for-30. The side of the story she felt could help the Wyandotte Nation’s Substance Abuse and Suicide Prevention (SASP) Initiative was redemption.

“Ryan’s story is about the human struggle with life, in that anyone at any stature in life can fall into a path of drugs and/or alcoholism, but with the right guidance and self-help you can overcome that obstacle,” Friend said. “Even helping others with your story to know they are not alone and that help is out there.”

This is something Leaf, who is now a Program Ambassador for Transcend Recovery, has done since turning his life around and what made him a good fit to speak to students at Will Rogers Middle School in Miami, Okla., as part of the SASP Initiative.

Wearing Armor

Leaf was a standout quarterback at Washington State where he was a Heisman Finalist. He was the second overall pick in the 1998 NFL draft behind only Peyton Manning, joining the San Diego Chargers.

After signing a huge deal making millions, he struggled with poor play and injuries. His career ended after just four turbulent seasons. He was considered by many to be one of the biggest NFL busts of all time.

“That was the scary part about my situation was that he was OK with it. "Drug addicts will do or say anything because these pills, these little white pills, have a psychological effect like no other. And it’s a vicious cycle.”

Leaf went from making $5 million a year, quitting that job and he didn’t replace it with anything. He said the problem was that he pretended he was still making $5 million, but that money just went away.

“A Dark Path

Following his retirement, Leaf ended up back in his hometown of Great Falls, Montana. It was here, his drug addiction really took hold.

Leaf said later that night he was offered pills at a party.

The pills took the emotional hurt away, but sent Leaf down a dark path.

“Ultimately I ended up back in my hometown, where I was supposed to be the hero, in a little apartment, waking up every morning with the first thought on my mind being, do I have pills?" he said. “And if I didn’t, how would I find them? And then finding them. And that was my day. I’d go to friends' home just to say Hi and go through their medicine cabinets. This was my life. A guy who was a special athlete, had millions of dollars, endorsements through Nike, Rolex, Mercedes, to sitting alone in an apartment in my hometown whose only obsession was using a drug.”

For Leaf, the scary part about his situation was that he was OK with it. "Drug addicts will do or say anything because these pills, these little white pills, have a psychological effect like no other. And it’s a vicious cycle.”

The biggest problem for Leaf was not asking for help when he needed it the most.

“You don’t see the star QB or the most popular kid in school stand up in front of a group such as yourselves and say ‘hey, I’m struggling. I need some help,’ Leaf told the middle schoolers. “We don’t see that.
RYAN LEAF

Continued from Page 6

We are a country of strength. We see that as a weakness. Being vulnerable and telling someone is considered not OK – that’s the stigma of what it is.

Leaf’s life continued to spiral out of control until it led to his arrest for felony burglary and drug possession in Montana, resulting in a 32-month prison stay.

While the prison stay should have served as a wake-up call, little had changed for Leaf until a couple years into his prison sentence.

“Just because you go to prison doesn’t mean anything changes,” he said. “You go into this environment, and just because you are removed from the substance, you are still the same person.”

Finding Redemption

For 26 months of his 32-month stay, Leaf described himself as angry and self-loathing. It wasn’t until he met an Iraq-Afghanistan war veteran that his life would start to turn around.

“He felt comfortable enough one day to get on my ass to get it figured out... for whatever reason, at this moment, I was open to the idea,” Leaf said.

Leaf began going to the prison library with the veteran to help prisoners who didn’t know how to read, learn how to read. He said it begrudgingly at first. However, things started to change.

“I did it the first day, came back a second, and before I knew it, it was one week, two weeks and I realized I was being of service for the first time in my life. And that was significant,” he said. “There was no media, it wasn’t about marketing. No one knew I was doing this. It was completely about me being a fellow human being helping another human being no matter the circumstances.”

The change continued when he was released from prison, when he was offered a job making $15 an hour.

“I reached out to a company that worked in recovery and asked for a job. I remember the day they came in and offered it to me and they said, ‘normally we start guys out at $10/hour but we are going to start you out at $15 Ryan.’ He’s a good buddy of mine now, I don’t remember doing this, but he said I gave him this huge bear hug at the time,” Leaf said.

“Because the idea I was making $5 million a year and was miserable, to be offered a $15/hour job and feeling the most value I have ever had, is an amazing feat.”

‘I am Ryan Leaf and I am just like you’

Leaf talked to the students about interjecting three things into their lives: 1. Accountability. 2. Spirituality. 3. Community.

He said those three ideals helped change his life. He met the woman of his dreams and now has a son, MacGyver.

He said his story isn’t unlike others who face challenges in others who face challenges in their lives and turn to substance abuse. But there is help, initiatives like SASP can help reach youth in making informed decisions in their lives.

Following his discussion, he allowed time for Q&A as well as taking pictures and signing autographs.

“Ryan was very open, honest and humble about his struggles,” Friend said. “He engaged with the youth, letting them ask questions and kept it on task the whole time.”

As far as the SASP Initiative, Friend said right now they are focused on collecting data within the community. They sent out a survey to the Wyandotte Middle/High School and hope to see results in soon. They did the same survey back in 2015, and Friend said they are curious to see the differences in the youth and their responses.

She said they also have the Wyandotte Nation Summer Youth Program starting up soon, and will be able to engage a larger number of youth in SASP activities as well as host special events for families to participate together.

“We want to encourage the family unity and spending that quality time together,” she said.

Environmental Festival

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its 11th annual Environmental Festival April 20. Area schools were in attendance. A variety of environmental agencies, non-profits and park services provided hands on experiences for students to learn about the environment.
29th Annual

WYANDOTTE POW-WOW

September 7-9, 2018

$35,000

In Prize Money

Contests in all Categories

Friday
8:00 p.m.
1:30 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Saturday
1:30 p.m.

Sunday
1:30 p.m.

Grand Entries

17th 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

Gene Sovo
Chuck Bread
Nicole Ponkilla
Murry Rhoads Jr.
Wyandotte Honor Guard
Dude Blalock
Jay Blalock
Steve Kinder
Redscout
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 7
Evening
Mens Golden Age
Womens Jingle
Mens Straight
Jr. Girls Cloth
Womens Golden Age

49 Contest - Jay Blalock

Saturday, September 8
Afternoon
Jr. Boys Grass
Womens Fancy Shawl
Mens Traditional
Jr. Girls Jingle
Tiny Tots

Saturday, September 8
Evening
Mens Fancy
Jr. Girls Fancy Shawl
Womens Buckskin
Jr. Boys Straight
Stomp Dance - Bruce Martin

Sunday, September 9
Afternoon
Jr. Boys Fancy
Womens Cloth
Jr. Boys Traditional
Jr. Girls Buckskin
Mens Grass

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

Gourd Dancing
1 hour prior to all sessions.

Must Be Registered and Participate In Two Grand Entries and Two Exhibitions To Qualify For Contests. Must Be Registered In Only One Category. Must Be In Full Dress To Receive Contest Monies. All Decisions by the Committee are Final! The above schedule is intended as a guide only, and is subject to change at the discretion of the Pow-Wow committee!

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:
SHERRI CLEMONS
WYANDOTTE NATION
64700 E Hwy 60
WYANDOTTE, OK 74370
918-678-6344

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

Everyone welcome! Bring your cameras and lawn chairs! No personal shades setup before Friday afternoon. (NO PETS ALLOWED NEAR ARENA)
Tribal citizens key in helping WPP achieve ISO

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Precision Products has been working toward ISO 9001:2015 Certification the last six years, and thanks to hard work and a complete team effort over the last year, achieved ISO certification.

ISO 9001 certification is intended to improve management performance at companies. The main part of achieving certification is forming a Quality Management System (QMS). Certification gets a company’s QMS recognized globally.

“It was a good accomplishment -- everyone is proud of the work we have done,” said Ron Brown, Business Developer/Operations Manager at Wyandotte Precision Products (WPP) and Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK).

Brown said the certification opens the door for WPP to work with the Defense Logistics Agency (DLA), which is the buying agency for all of the military, and other companies that require ISO certification. Without being ISO certified, WPP wasn’t able to compete for those contracts.

He said they also have the potential now to subcontract to companies making parts for major companies like Boeing or Lockheed, which WPP can’t sell to directly, but can subcontract to companies that do. All of it is increased potential for sales.

“It should allow us a lot of opportunities that weren’t there before,” said WPP Administrative Assistant Carla Howrey. “In the past, some of our potential customers asked if we were ISO and we had to say no. Now we should have a clean shot at getting a lot of work that we were qualified to do, but we just weren’t certified to do.”

While most of the work to get certification took place over the last year, the ground work for achieving the status has been going on since WTOK purchased the machine shop (formerly Howard’s Machine Shop) in 2011. WTOK is the federally-chartered corporation of the Wyandotte Nation and drives economic development for the Tribe. Economic development supports various programs for tribal citizens, including healthcare, housing, and education programs.

“When we set this shop up from day one we had ISO in mind, so we planned the organization that way,” said WPP Machine Shop Supervisor Larry Robinson. “From tooling and machines all the way down to the way we were doing our paper-work. That’s basically what it is, it’s a way to track everything.”

The requirements to achieve ISO 9001 Certification is all about process documentation. So on Jan. 6, 2017, WPP set out on its goal about setting the process, and having an effective and repeatable process it could document.

Brown said WPP hired ISO consultants IMSM to provide gap analysis – to show where they were and where they needed to be. The consultants helped walked them through the process to prepare for the audit required to receive certification.

Another key player in developing WPP’s Quality Management System was the team’s Internal Auditor Melody Liles, who is also a Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen. The QMS covers every step that WPP takes, from intake of the order to delivery to the customer.

“I was our liaison if you will,” said Liles, who previously interned with WPP before working the last year at the machine shop. “I got all the documents together, made sure everything was organized the way they were supposed to be. I was sort of the ISO specialist and internal auditor.”

With the help of the consultants, the effort of Brown, who is also a Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen, and the entire WPP team, they were ready for the audit from QAS International.

QAS International’s Auditor spent time at the WPP's machine shop in Webb City, Mo., going through the entire Quality process from intake to delivery.

From left, Larry Robinson, Norm Lown, Mark Parnell, Darryl Collins, Melody Liles, David Tatum, Carla Howrey, David Woodmansee, Ron Brown and Erik Vargas.
Management System and later interviewing all the machinists to ensure they knew their stuff.

“We have a process for everything, from the intake of an order, identifying the material needed, procuring the material, programming the machines, machining the part, quality control, delivery to the customer and invoicing,” he said. “All of these processes were audited and confirmed to achieve certification.”

The auditor’s summary report included this comment: “I wish to thank Wyandotte Precision Products for their hospitality and cooperation during the audit. They have a good start in the ISO 9001:2015 process. They have seasoned machinists who are very knowledgeable in their area of expertise.”

Brown credited all the machinists, Robinson, Liles, Howrey and WTOK Accounting Clerk Chelsea Sherwood for all the work in bringing the certification to Wyandotte Precision Products.

Robinson agreed, “Any time you can bring everybody together as a team, it makes for an all-around better work place. We work hard, we work fast and we work together.”

Upon hearing they had achieved certification, relief was the common theme for the WPP staff.

“So much relief,” Liles said. “I’m just excited for us. I know it’s something we’ve been working on since we were first established, so it’s nice to finally have it and we can breathe.”

Robinson echoed that thought. “Relieved -- it’s been a long time. I’m just glad we finally got there,” he said. “I think it is going to open up a lot of doors. I’m really anxious to see where we are going to be at a year from now, two years from now. I think our growth is just starting.”

About WPP:

Wyandotte Precision Products brings an experienced blend of design, machining, manufacturing and machine build capabilities. To find out more, visit www.wppok.com.
The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome Dr. Steven Abernathy, PhD. He will serve as the Clinic Psychologist. Dr. Abernathy has over 25 years’ experience in his area of expertise. He attended the University of Arkansas, Vanderbilt University, and Oklahoma State University. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his grandchildren, fishing, writing, and plays the guitar and mandolin. He is also a gourd dancer. We are very fortunate to have Dr. Abernathy working at the clinic on a part-time regular basis and wish him much success in his position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Kayla Collins to her new position as Education Specialist, as well as Jessica Rogers as a Substitute, and Sarah Threlkeld as a part-time Childcare Assistant.

Kayla is a Wyandotte Nation Citizen and has several years’ experience working as a teacher and in the classroom. She received her Bachelor’s Degree from Pittsburg State University. She enjoys reading, watching movies, and attending concerts in her spare time. Kayla also likes spending time with her family attending church, and doing activities with Kids/Teens. We are happy to have Kayla join our team.

Jessica is involved in band and color guard. She enjoys spending time outdoors either hunting or just enjoying being outside. We are pleased to have Jessica on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

Sarah is currently attending high school online. After high school, she plans to attend college to further her education and then join the Peace Corps for a few years. Her hobbies include photography, reading, watching movies/TV. Sarah likes spending time with her friends and family, has three dogs, likes to drive around and explore, and enjoys playing with her nephew. We are happy to have Sarah join our team.

The Wyandotte Nation recognized several employees for their years of service to the Tribe. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented the employees with gifts. From left to right: Second Chief Hildebrand, Shirley Mangum (Education, 15 Years), Donna Spaulding (Clinic, 15 Years), Deana Howard (Human Resources, 10 Years), Debra Scribner (Education, 10 Years), Debbie Dry (Administration, 10 Years), Tara Baron (Fitness Center, 10 Years), Cheryl Burleson (Education, 10 Years), Jon Quick (Environmental, 5 Years), and Chief Friend. Not pictured: Jared Robinson (Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department, 5 Years), Tory Eckert (Fitness Center, 10 Years), Chris Phelps (KC Gaming, 10 Years).

Family Services

The Family Services staff has had a busy start to 2018 and is looking forward to a productive remainder of the year. June will be a busy month for the staff with the Intertribal Children’s Pow-Wow on the 9th at the Ottawa Pow-Wow grounds, Kids Culture Program the 11th-14th and the Gathering of Little Turtles the 22nd-24th. Each of these events are open to all Wyandotte Nation citizens. If you have questions please contact a staff member for additional details.

For the second year, the school supply program will be available nationwide beginning July 1. This program will allow for every Wyandotte Nation enrolled child pre-K through grade 12 to be eligible for a $100 reimbursement for school supplies, clothes, shoes, etc. (See below for additional program guidelines).

In February three Wyandotte Nation employees attended a Safe Kids, Child Passenger Safety Seat training. All three passed the test and are now certified to install/assist with installation of car seats. The training was funded through a Bureau of Indian Affairs, Highway Safety Grant. This grant also allowed for the purchase of safety seats, which are available to all Native Americans who are in need. This is a separate program from our regular car seat program and individuals must meet either income guidelines or be eligible for certain need based programs such as, WIC, SNAP, LIHEAP, CCDF, etc. Appointments are also required and the child must be present. If you, or someone you know, is in need please contact the office.

In accordance with the Wyandotte Nation Constitution, the Annual Meeting will be held the second Saturday in September, which for 2018 will be Sept. 8. This is also an election year so tribal citizens will need to be sure to bring either their Membership card or Citizenship card to the meeting to be able to vote.

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

Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, 918-678-6355; Leanna Radabaugh, Family Services Assistant, 918-678-6329; and Tiffany Garner, ICW Social Worker 918-678-6353.

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 1st on the Wyandotte Nation website, at the Family Services office or can be faxed/ emailed to you. Tribal citizens enrolled in school/qualified learning program from pre-K (and at least 3 years of age) through grade 12 will be eligible for this program. Citizens residing in the four-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 four-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, 2018, no exceptions. Applications and
April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual assault is a topic not many people are comfortable discussing. Often people will make excuses for the behavior rather than dealing with the behavior because it is not easy to accept that someone could harm a victim in this way.

One in three Native American women will be sexually assaulted in their lifetime. There are 293,000 victims of sexual violence yearly in the U.S. Those are staggering statistics. Below you will find some myths and facts regarding sexual assault. This information was gathered from the Bureau of Justice Statistics. Please read them carefully. It is important that we start by believing:

- You should have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact me, Lisa Arnold at (918) 678-6324.

**Myth:** Sexual assault is an act of lust and passion that can’t be controlled.

**Fact:** Sexual assault is about power and control and is not motivated by sexual gratification.

**Myth:** If a victim of sexual assault does not fight back, they must have thought the assault was not that bad or they wanted it.

**Fact:** Many survivors experience tonic immobility or a “freeze response” during an assault where they physically cannot move or speak.

**Myth:** A lot of victims lie about being raped or give false reports.

**Fact:** Only 2-8% of rapes are falsely reported, the same percentage as for other felonies.

**Myth:** A person cannot sexually assault their partner or spouse.

**Fact:** Nearly 1 in 10 women have experienced rape by an intimate partner in their lifetime.

**Myth:** Sexual assaults most often occur in public or outdoors.

**Fact:** 55% of rape or sexual assault victimizations occur at or near the victim’s home, and 12% occur at or near the home of a friend, relative, or acquaintance.

**Myth:** Rape does not happen that often.

**Fact:** There is an average of 293,066 victims ages 12 or older of rape and sexual assault each year in the U.S. This means 1 sexual assault occurs every 107 seconds.

**Myth:** People that have been sexually assaulted will be hysterical and crying.

**Fact:** Everyone responds differently to trauma—some may laugh, some may cry, and others will not show any emotions.

**Myth:** Men are not victims of sexual violence.

**Fact:** 1.5% of all men have been raped and 47% of bisexual men have experienced some form of unwanted sexual contact in their lifetime.

**Myth:** The assault is typically initiated by the victim or rapist, and therefore does not necessarily change the victim’s sexual orientation.

**Myth:** People with disabilities are at low risk for sexual assault.

**Fact:** People with disabilities are victims of sexual assault twice as much as people without disabilities.

**Myth:** Prostitutes cannot be raped.

**Fact:** Prostitutes have the right to give and withhold consent to any sexual activity, and therefore, can be raped just like anyone else.

**Myth:** Getting help is expensive for survivors of assault.

**Fact:** Services such as counseling and advocacy are offered for free or at a low cost by sexual assault service providers.

**Myth:** There is nothing we can do to prevent sexual violence.

**Fact:** There are many ways you can help prevent sexual violence including intervening as a bystander to protect someone who may be at risk.

Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate. Applications received after this date will be held until the 2019 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 are available. Please call the office for prices and additional information. Some things to keep in mind:

- You don’t have to be perfect to be a foster parent.
- You can’t have a criminal or juvenile record.
- You can’t be under investigation for domestic violence.
- If you are receiving any social service assistance, you may not be eligible.
- You must be a U.S. citizen.
- You must have a safe, loving environment.
- You must be 18 years of age.
- You must volunteer and participate in training.
- You must have a court background check.
- You must have a home inspection.
- You must have a car.
- You must have a car and home insurance.
- You must have a visitors’ pass in place.

Applications must be submitted at the 2018 Annual Meeting. Faxed or emailed applications and receipts will not be accepted. There will be additional information available with the applications beginning July 1.

**Senior Energy** – Beginning July 1 applications will be available for $100 assistance paid directly to the utility provider. Eligibility requirements:
- Age 55 or older, OK, MO, AR, KS resident.
- Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30.
- Elders Assistance – One-time expense for $250 for tribal elders aged 55 and over who reside in the four-state area (OK, KS, AR, MO).
- Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2018 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 four-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 four-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR) and applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2018.

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

**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 interested in child welfare case, please contact either Tara or Tiffany.

**Enrollment** – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2018 Annual Meeting. 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.
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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.mycoresource.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 to the funeral home or to the Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide. The program is available to any person residing within a 25-mile radius of the tribal headquarters and advocacy can be provided for Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide. The Program also hosts quarterly culture events, in conjunction with the Heritage Department.

**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

**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. 8
  (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.*

**Elder Services**

*Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director*

We are still waiting for spring to come. In a span of 24 hours, we had rain, thunderstorms, ice, snow, and an earthquake here in Oklahoma.

We held our Easter Party March 29. Iris Coon won the prize for the prettiest bonnet and Gail Johansson had the funniest bonnet. The Turtle Tots hid the eggs for our egg hunt in the library because of rain. Linda Blake found the most eggs and the prize egg. The Easter Bunny made a surprise visit and gave out bags of candy to the Elders. They really enjoyed his visit and having their picture taken with him.

We attended the horse races at Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, Okla., April 30.

May 10 will be our Mother’s Day Dinner. June 14 will be our Father’s Day Dinner.

We will be traveling to Branson, Mo., May 24 to see the Grand County Jubilee. The cost is $27. This includes the show, transportation and the meal.

June 12 will be the Ottawa County Senior Day at the Buffalo Casino in Miami, Okla. We will provide lunch. We will be giving away two recliners and many door prizes.

**CAREGIVER**

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

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

**Department Staff:**

- 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
Greetings from Wyandotte, Okla., where one day I think spring has arrived and the next day there is snow on the ground. The Education Department is busy with multiple events and activities that will conclude another year of Wyandotte Nation Preschool and the normal routines of the department.

The Child Care and Development Program has been busy with training for health and safety needs, the child care provider appreciation banquet and planning for future professional development opportunities. We are excited to have received additional federal funds in the budget recently signed by President Trump. The Regional Offices of Child Care have staff training planned during the summer on the final rule and implications for Native American tribes. We look forward to learning more of what the office of Child Care has on the agenda for childcare needs and families. It was a pleasure to work with Tara Gragg of Family Services and Education Program have high focus to the family units in our program.

On location, the spring events in the Wyandotte Nation Early Care and Education Program have highlighted our children, showcased the efforts of a staff of people that give 100% to the children, and brought the classroom to read during the week. When May comes, it is time for the Summer Reading Program. The 2018 theme will be “Libraries Rock!” and the book list for the next school year will be available.

There have been 975 materials added to the Library since January 2017, with 107 of those being new or replaced DVDs. Other sections in the collection include a large Native American section, Christian Fiction, Westerns, Biographies, the DeCillis Vietnam Collection, and nonfiction as well as novels. Another community resource is computer access that includes a lab with seven computers and Wi-Fi available throughout the library.

The Library is open Monday and Wednesdays 8am to 4:30pm, Tuesdays and Thursdays 8am to 6pm, and Fridays 8am to 3:30pm. For more information or questions about available materials, call Deb at 918-678-6332 or e-mail dhaynes@wyandotte-nation.org.

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The Preschool has been busy with classrooms hosting a family night (above left), and some even a dental screening (middle), as well as many other activities.

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Education Director Tammy Charles meets with the Sypherd family -- tribal scholarship recipients -- at the Town Hall in Arizona.
**Housing**

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director*

If you haven’t visited the Heritage Acres area, we invite you to come by. Two new senior duplexes are nearing completion. These units are two bedroom and have a garage. There are now 15 senior duplexes. Not only the senior units, but also family duplexes and homes are located here. Heritage Acres also has a park area with pavilions, basketball court, and a volleyball area. The Splash Pad will be opening soon and will remain open until Labor Day.

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

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

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

The Indian Health Service well and septic program is available on a first come, first serve basis. If you are in need of a well or septic contact our office for more information.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Department Staff:**

- Kathy DeWeese- Housing Director
- Valari Richards- Housing Specialist
- Don Graham- Residential Maintenance Technician
- Drew Lankford- Facilities Technician
- Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator
- Paul Parker- Project Coordinator

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**Tribal Heritage**

*Submitted by Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director*

Come on Spring! We are waiting on Spring to get here. Tribal Heritage is looking forward to lots of events going on this summer, starting off with Memorial Day. The Wyandotte Nation will hold its annual ceremony honoring a Wyandotte veteran. The event is held at 10 am and the public is invited.

The Gathering of Little Turtles will be held June 22-24. Sign-up sheets will be available on the Wyandotte Nation website. Please sign your children up before the registration cut off day. You will still be welcome, but we cannot guarantee a T-Shirt. The Lacrosse Camp will be held in June as well, but we do not have a set date yet, so keep an eye on the website and our Facebook page. We are hoping to schedule it the week before Little Turtles.

July is fireworks for everyone to enjoy. The firework display will be held July 3 at the Pow-Wow grounds. There will be food vendors as well as bounce houses and live music. Fireworks will start around 9:30pm.

All of that will be followed up in September with our Annual Meeting, the Gathering and our annual Pow-Wow. We really love seeing each of you, so try to make it to some of the tribal events.

On another note, the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum is open at noon, Monday through Friday and every second Saturday from 8am to noon.

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**Continued from Page 17**

not hesitate to reach out and ask for assistance with applications or questions regarding funding for educational programs. We have funding for high school/college concurrent, high school vocational, undergraduate and graduate programs. It was a pleasure to meet with tribal scholar- ship recipients past and current at the Tribal Town Hall meeting in Phoenix in March 2018. I enjoy connecting and enhancing the relationship with personal interaction.

The WIOA program is currently subsidizing the educational endeavors of 28 students. This year the grant writing team will be charged with submitting a new four-year proposal to the Department of Labor. We are very excited to have these additional funds to assist members of federally recognized tribes in the Southeast Kansas and Southwest Missouri area.

The Education Department staff is available to assist Tribal citizens with resources in the areas of educational funding, childcare and the tribal library. If you have any questions or we may assist you in the application process for any of our programs, please do not hesitate to reach out! The Tribal Citizen is our primary focus and we want to deliver the services that you need!

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is what are you doing for others?” Dr. Martin Luther King Jr

**Department Staff:**

- Tammy R Charles- Director of Education 918-678-6330 office; 918-944-0394 cell
- Cristi Hudson- Child Care Resource Referral 918-678-6334
- Kayla Collins- Education Specialist- WIOA 918-678-6331

The education stole available to those graduating with a post secondary degree.
**Health**

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

On March 30, Bearskin Fitness Center hosted the 7th Annual Superhero 5K & 1 Mile Fun Run. With over 237 participants, the event turned out to be a great success.

Each Superhero run is traditionally themed around raising awareness for specific community topics such as domestic violence awareness, antibullying, substance abuse prevention and even suicide prevention.

This year the theme focused on honoring and supporting local community Superheroes. The three individuals chosen recently have encountered diagnoses of cancer.

LaQuita Barnard, Vicky Brown and Don Stogsdill are three of our local educators at Wyandotte Public Schools. These individuals mold our children. They reinforce and build aspiration for our children in their future education and beyond.

In honor and appreciation for these individuals, all proceeds went to assist with expenses incurred while each one endures treatment. Proceeds raised were an estimated $2,850!

**For Race Results and Images, see Page 7 of this issue.**

Vicky Brown
Diagnosed with Acute Myeloid Leukemia in October 2017
- 20 years of teaching experience
- Teacher and coach at Wyandotte for 5 years – 2 in elementary and 3 in middle school/high school
- Coach softball, basketball, golf and archery
- Three children
- Hobbies: Hiking, softball, running, traveling and anything outdoors
- Coach Brown has undergone a bone marrow transplant from her sister
- She and her husband, Brandon, plan to sail the “Great Loop”

Don Stogsdill
Diagnosed with Esophageal Cancer in February 2018; currently undergoing treatment at The University of Kansas – Cancer Research Center
- Previously beat Lymphoma in 1997
- Long time educator/coach – 5th year at Wyandotte
- Hobbies: History – specifically the Civil War in Indian Territory, sports, wood carving, reading, biblical history
- Enjoys spoiling his three grandsons: Dawson, Waylen and Deklan
- Advice from Coach Stogsdill: “Quit wasting time!!! For so many years, I said: "I will get to it." I have now realized that time is one of the most precious elements ever possessed by Mankind. Do it now – for, you may never get another opportunity. Turn all your fears and doubts over to the Lord. He is our stronghold!!!”

**Facts of Esophageal Cancer:**
- Cause is unknown
- Second deadliest of all cancers
- Many don’t experience warning signs until it has metastasized
- Treatment is in the “infancy” stages
- The University of Kansas – Cancer Research Center is one of the leading research teams in the world on Esophageal Cancer
- One treatment is a long enduring surgical replacement of the esophagus – surgery scheduled in June 2018
- Team of physicians are confident that the detection was made in the neoplasm stage (new and abnormal growth stage)

LaQuita Barnard
Diagnosed with stomach cancer in August 2017
- Graduated from Coweta High School in 1981
- Attended Northeastern State University for undergraduate and graduate program
- Moved to Wyandotte in 1993, with her family. Father was pastor at Faith Assembly.
- Still very active in church
- Began teaching at Wyandotte Public Schools in 1994
- Taught a 5th and 6th grade overflow class the first year
- Second year taught 3rd grade
- Third year of teaching, began teaching Special Education until diagnosis
- Hobbies: cooking, needle work, crocheting, outside activities – gardening, hunting, fishing and camping

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**Tribal Department Reports**

**Bearskin Health Center Report**

Per the National Tribal Budget Formulation Workgroups recommendations on the Indian Health Service, Currently Indian Health Service:

**Honor**
To Indian people, the federal budget is not just a fiscal document, but also a moral and ethical commitment. The budget request for Indian health care services reflects the extent to which the United States honors its promises of justice, health, and prosperity to Indian people. For the Tribes to recommend a budget that falls short of providing even the most basic of health care services to all our people is no different from asking a parent to decide which child to feed and which to go hungry.

Washington must not continue to neglect or ignore its trust responsibility to Tribal Nations. Instead, Congress and this administration must begin a new era of honoring its promise to Indian Country.

These are not duties to be grudgingly accepted, but must be embraced in a manner that defines the character of this great nation. It is a matter of honor.

**Trust**

The provision of federally funded health care services to American Indians and Alaska Natives (AI/ANs) is the direct result of treaties that were made between the United States and the many Tribes and which were reaffirmed by Executive Orders, Congressional Acts, and two centuries of Supreme Court case law. Through the cession of lands and the execution of treaties, the federal government took on a trust responsibility to provide for the health and welfare of Indian peoples. This federal trust responsibility is the foundation for the provision of federally funded health care to all members of the 566 federally recognized Indian Tribes, bands, and Alaska Native villages in the United States.

“We shall continue to fulfill the federal trust responsibility for the physical and financial resources we hold in trust for Indian people. The fulfillment of this unique responsibility will be accomplished in accordance with the highest standards.” -- President Ronald Reagan 1983 Statement on Indian Policy.

**Parity**

Although the Indian health care system has made significant improvements by reducing mortality and morbidity rates for AI/ANs, serious health disparities remain. Much more needs to be accomplished before we finally eliminate the long-standing inequities in health status for First Americans. The fact that AI/ANs die at higher rates than other Americans from tuberculosis (500% higher), alcoholism (514% higher), diabetes (177% higher), unintentional injuries (140% higher), homicide (92% higher), and suicide (82% higher) still remains to be true.

As noted in the Fiscal Year 2019 Indian Country Budget Request, In FY 2015, The Indian Health Service per capita expenditures for patient health services were just $3,136. Compared to $8,760 per person for healthcare nationally. Indian Health Service is only funded at approximately 56% of the level of need. Bearskin Healthcare depends on third party revenue to supplement existing programs.

Funding is based on a User Population Report that is sent in annually from each individual healthcare facility. This is defined as “An unduplicated count by residence of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) registrants who have had a direct or contract inpatient, ambulatory, or dental encounter with the health system during the last three years.” Currently we are operating on a FY 2018 budget that was figured based on data collected from 2015. To fully fund Indian Health Service, it would take an increase of $32 billion.

The FY 2019 Budget request proposed an increase of $2.25 billion per year for the next 12 years to meet the true and documented needs of tribal nations.

With tribal citizens of both the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee Tribes moving back to their homelands and relying on Indian Healthcare, visits are increasing and policies are being amended in order to make use of funding for the greater advantage of all tribal members. The mission of the government of the Wyandotte Nation is to improve the quality of life for all tribal citizens. This goal is continuously the focus of services provided by Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center and is reflected upon as decisions; policies and procedures are created and updated.

In order to assist with collections, it is important that patients with insurance present their insurance cards when a new one is received. This includes Medicare coverage, as new plans are emerging daily. Medicare has also begun issuing new cards that will no longer have a social security number as an identifier. Please present this information to the Bearskin Clinic at your next appointment.

In addition, those patients with insurance are encouraged to respond to correspondence received from their individual health plans. This correspondence may mean the difference in payment being made to Bearskin Healthcare. This ensures that services can be provided to all citizens at the same rate.
Planning & Development

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

This has been a busy quarter for the Planning and Natural Resources Department. Construction planning and engineering work continues on the State Line Road water project. We are working with BIA, the county, other tribes and different landowners on the easements and right-of-ways. The Right-of-Way request is currently being reviewed by our local BIA office for the road project next to the casino.

The Department and Tribal Administration had the kick off meeting with our new engineer concerning our Fitness Centerremodel. Other Planning projects include future housing on the 35-acre property next to the casino and future housing on the 100-acre tract off of H 137. These two projects are in the pre-planning and engineering stages.

Environmental

Submitted by Kathy Welch, Environmental Program Manager

January

2018 is here and it has picked up where 2017 left off. Our private well drinking water samples have increased and we had seven wells sampled within this month. Temperatures during this month were seasonably warm and have made it nice for our monthly water monitoring at seven locations on area waters within the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdictional area.

We have had numerous conference calls and meetings pertaining to the Tar Creek and Tri-State Mining sites, that deal with Natural Resource Damages.

On Jan. 22, found we attended a NATURE Mtg. at the Peoria Tribal Environmental office. This meeting is attended by Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Environmental Departments on a bi-monthly basis to discuss various tribal, EPA and State environmental issues that impact our native lands and waters.

February

The mild weather continued into February and caused us all to want to be outside more. The warm temperatures helped our department and made our monthly sampling on the area waters much more pleasant and bearable.

On Feb. 13, our department hosted the Communities Unlimited NAWMA Water/Waste Water recertification class. There were a total of 16 participants from various tribal, state and communities in attendance.

The Community Partnership Management Meeting was held Feb. 22 at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center.

Oklahoma Rep. Ben Loring was present to speak on issues involving the State of Oklahoma and its citizens. I gave a brief update on the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department, and the services it provides for the community.

March

The flowers and trees are coming to life and things are greening up. For the most part, I believe Spring is here!

On March 14, Janice Wilson and Braulio Ramirez performed quarterly sampling for heavy metals and e-coli on the seven monthly sampling sites in jurisdictional waters. Through out this month they also collected several drinking water samples from private wells within the area.

March 16, Janice Wilson, Braulio Ramirez and myself held five Environmental Education classes with the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Preschool. The staff talked to the students and teachers, about the importance of clean water and how it relates to their overall health.

March 27 was the Tar Creek Open House at the NEO College in Miami, Okla. We were present along with other members of the Tar Creek Trustee Council, and provided an informational booth to the public.

We attended the Tri-State Stakeholders Meeting at the Quapaw Tribes Cultural Museum March 28. This meeting has information from the various tribal, state and federal stakeholders on the activities taking place within the Tri-State Mining District.

April

We held a Tire Collection Event at the Lost Creek Recycle Center April 16–20, and on April 20, we held our 11th Annual Environmental Festival at Heritage Acres Park.

Both of the events were open to the public.

Services Provided:

• Private Well Drinking Water sampling
• Private Home Owners Septic Assessments
• Lost Creek Recycling Center

Department Contacts:

Kathleen Welch (Env. Department Manager) 918–678–6335
Janice Wilson (Env. Technician) 918–678–6345
Jon Quick (Recycling) 918–678–6352
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