



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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Fireworks by Moonlight

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Board of Directors

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

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
Fireworks display at the Pow-Wow grounds.
Photo by
William Swaim

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Submit a story idea or your latest news and photos. To submit, email William Swaim at wswaim@wtok.org or call (918) 932-4778.

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Working hard to serve you

Kweh, I hope this quarter's Turtle Talk finds all doing well and enjoying their summer during our current conditions.

During this unprecedented time, I want to take the time to let you know that the main concern of our tribal government, now and in the future, is to provide service to the Wyandotte people. Those of us who serve you in your government are working hard to continue that service.

The health and wellbeing of our people continues to drive our decision making. We are dedicated to serving the needs of Wyandotte people regardless of the challenges we encounter. Our staff here at the Wyandotte Nation has continued to go above and beyond their job descriptions to ensure services are continue to be provided.

We are now operating in a new reality and we have instituted a number of changes to adjust to the current environment. We have lost a significant percentage of our tribal revenue. We were prepared financially to cope with a crisis situation. Our team had the insight to set aside funds and have reserves in place. We didn't know we would be specifically facing a pandemic, but we were prepared for a crisis situation.

Your government is functioning.

Some of the work we now do is away from the office, but the work continues to get done. Much of our communication now is tele-conference, video conference, email and text almost exclusively. It is a big change, but we are handling it and getting the work done. We have a great team here at the Wyandotte Nation and I have watched our team grow stronger and work more efficiently than ever before during this pandemic. You should take pride in the fact our people are adjusting well and are committed to effective action that produces good results for the Wyandotte people.

The Bearskin Clinic has done an outstanding job adapting and improvising during this unprecedented time and should be commended for all they have done working on the front lines fighting this pandemic while still providing excellent care to our patients. We are providing drive-through testing for all citizens who make the request. We have also put in place rapid testing equipment that expedites testing and results.

The key for us has been our early actions. We established health and safety guidelines early on. As a result, we believe, we have experienced fewer cases within the Wyandotte Nation.

On a very positive note we received

some great news on May 20 when the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Tara Sweeney called and informed us that she had just signed the notice of intent to accept our 10.53 acres of land in Park City, Kansas, into trust for gaming purposes. The battle to take this land into trust actually began when we were first informed in 1993 that it did not qualify for gaming purposes and was denied. We re-applied again in 2006 and have fought for the last 14 years to have this land taken into trust for gaming purposes. We have now started the process of putting up a temporary gaming facility to establish gaming and are working on a master plan for a larger development. We will be sharing more about this project in the future, but this is a great victory for the Tribe and will help us secure a better future for our nation.

You and your family continue to be the focus of all our efforts. We are doing our business much differently, but who we serve has not changed. Our job is to keep your government running at a high level, and to make sure you are healthy, safe and getting what you need from those of us who serve you. May God bless you and your family and keep you safe during these trying times.

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Coping with a crazy new reality

Kweh Omateru

Hello my friends, I hope everyone is coping with the crazy world we are living in right now. With riots, protests, racial issues, politics and pandemics it seems that nothing is going to be solved anytime soon. This upheaval will probably be with us for a while until people start coming to their senses and just chill out

for a while. Go out into nature, sit by a creek or a lake or take a walk in the woods, clear your head and enjoy what God has given us, and hopefully gain a better perspective.

Wyandotte is in a rural area so we have not been affected by the pandemic like other areas in the country. But we have still taken precautions to protect our employees, elders and

all members of our great little community here. I hope all of our tribal citizens all across this country stay safe and do not become a statistic to this pandemic.

Now for some history I think you will find this interesting.



See **SECOND CHIEF**, Page 3

2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

Why did Iroquoian cousin fight Iroquoian cousin in one of the most accidentally decisive wars in history? The oral traditions of the Huron-Wyandot people say it was because of a beautiful young woman and her evil scheme for blood revenge. In the story, the ancestors of the Huron-Wyandot were named as the instigators -- they were simply identified as being Wyandot. At this point in time, whenever this may have been, a tribe by the name of Wyandot did not exist. The Seneca were named as the recipients of the Wyandot's ill-fated decision; however, like with the name Wyandot, a tribe by the name of Seneca did not exist. There is no doubt the two tribes existed, but by what name they called themselves is unknown. Over time as the war fizzled onward, as a never-ending blood feud, the Europeans arrived to the Great Island. After their arrival, and self-serving interests came into play, the complexion and complexity of the war began to change. The tradition of the blood feud, found among the Iroquoian tribes, festered into a policy of eradication and total conquest.

It is generally believed, even with little archaeological evidence, the Wenroronon lived alongside the Seneca on the southern side of Lake Ontario. The Wenroronon have been identified as a tribe of the Neutral Confederacy and likely one of the oldest, largest, and strongest tribes in the region. We know that one of the three parent tribes of the Huron-Wyandot was the Wenroronon; therefore, I will change the oral tradition just a touch and name the Wyandots in the story as the Wenroronon. Even by doing this we fall short of truly identifying the name by which the

"In order to deserve, we must pay our dues and steadily work for perfection. We must relish in struggle, and relinquish pride. We must dispel fear and seek enlightenment. We must shun division and honor love. We must know our hearts and seek to understand others. We must try, live, create, feel, grow and love."

-- Bryant McGill

people had named themselves. The name Wenroronon is the name the Wendat people called their cousins.

There was a beautiful young woman of the Wenroronon who all the young men in her village desired as their mate. The problem was she wanted nothing to do with the young men. After many failed attempts by the young men to claim her as their mate, they gave up. In frustration the young men approached the village war chief who had an outstanding reputation as a warrior. The young men told the war chief, if one of them could not have the young woman as their mate, he should be the one to have her as his mate. They believed with his reputation the young woman quickly accept his proposal. At this time it was a tradition that all the young women and men of the tribe fulfill their duties and keep the clans well populated.

The war chief reluctantly agreed to participate in this new kind of 'love-war game.' After being convinced the war chief donned his finest regalia and looked nobly impressive. The war chief approached the young woman with confidence and in a most spectacular way only to feel her rejection. No Wenroronon war chief ever turned his back to a challenge and good fight. This love-war game had now become a fight not only to preserve the war chief's dignity, but if possible, the young woman's

approval. The war chief was now inspired to obtain her as his mate beyond the encouragement and dare of the village's young men.

After several advancements, the beautiful young woman finally consented to the war chief's proposal; however, the young woman had a proposal and condition of her own. The young woman would not divulge her condition until the war chief swore an oath upon his reputation and honor as the greatest warrior of the Wenroronon people. The war chief's answer was an immediate no. No, he would not consent to doing something without first knowing what! The young men of the village teased and encouraged the war chief to accept the young woman's offer before she changed her mind. Again, with great reluctance the war chief finally consented to doing as the young woman wished. It was then the young woman whispered her evil desire---kill the war chief of the Seneca. The Seneca war chief had killed the young woman's brother and she wanted blood revenge.

The Wenroronon war chief immediately refused. The war chief of the Seneca had been his closest friend since childhood. The young woman then threatened to announce to the whole of the tribe that the war chief was a coward in disguise who hid behind his feathers and paint. The war chief was now without a choice of his

own. After donning his feathers and paint, feasting, and giving honor to his totem, the Wenroronon war chief collected his weapons and walked a short distance to the village of the Seneca war chief. At this time the Wenroronon and Seneca tribes were said to be the closest of friends.

After locating his friend, the Wenroronon war chief brutally killed the Seneca war chief in front of family and friends. The anger that raged inside the heart of the Wenroronon war chief was pure. The brutality inflicted upon the Seneca war chief was nothing less than the rage of a rabid wolf. In his rage the Wenroronon war chief was convinced that every blow he delivered to his best friend, were blows given to the body of his devious mate -- who would never be his mate.

In retaliation, the warriors of the Seneca people vowed to destroy the Wenroronon people from the Great Island. A simple blood feud turned into outright war. A friendship between peoples that had existed since the beginning of time was destroyed. The warriors of the Seneca people came close to fulfilling their oath; however, after many years of war the Seneca failed. The Huron warriors fought the Seneca warriors to a truce with the help of their Algonquian allies, the Ottawa, Potawatomi, and Chippewa. This is how the war between Iroquoian cousins nearly destroyed the Great Island. During the war many different cultures and traditions disappeared from the Great island.

I hope you enjoyed that story and remember with actions come consequences. I thought it was interesting and hope you did too. I have said this many times but I am proud to serve the Wyandotte Citizens as Second Chief of the greatest Indian Nation in the country.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Annual Meeting

On September 12, 2020 the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Registration

will begin at 9 am and the Annual Meeting will start at 10 am. 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 2020. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the

tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, September 12, 2020 per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

-- Dee Killion, Chairman, Election Committee

Persistence and Perseverance

Plans for Park City property move forward

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

If there is one thing Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend has learned from the tribe's history, it's persistence leads to perseverance.

In the case of the Tribe's efforts to conduct gaming on 10.5 acres it purchased back in 1991 in Park City, Kansas, Chief Friend said it once again proved true. He said once the Tribe won the legal battle on the Kansas City property in 2006 (7th Street Casino), he re-submitted the application to take the Park City land into trust at the end of 2006 to the Regional BIA office in Oklahoma. It was forwarded in January 2009 to the central office in Washington, DC. From 2009 until the land was taken into trust, the Tribe sued the federal government and received a denial, but he said they remained persistent knowing that the law was always on the Tribe's side.

"I was at home mowing my yard when I received a call from Tara Sweeney, the Assistant Secretary of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, informing me that she had just signed notice of intent to take our land into trust," Chief Friend said of the May 20 phone call. "I had to pinch myself



Slot machines at the River Bend Casino & Hotel. Plans are underway to open a casino in Park City after land owned by the Tribe was put into trust.

WILLIAM SWAIM / FILE PHOTO

several times to make sure it wasn't a dream or I was suffering from heat exhaustion."

What it means to the Tribe is the ability to conduct gaming on the property in Park City.

"The city (Park City) has always been a supporter of the Tribe gaming there because they know it will produce jobs in their community and spur further economic development in their community," Chief Friend said. "We all believe that the casino will create a synergy and will bring added long-term development in the area."

From an economic standpoint, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO Kelly Carpino said Park City

has been a part of many decisions made the past several years regarding economic development of the Wyandotte Nation. WTOK is the federally-chartered corporation of the Wyandotte Nation.

"Through all of the years of growing our enterprises, we focused on managing cash flow and debt so that when the time came to build the Park City property, we would be prepared," Carpino said. "After a long, persistent effort, the land is in trust and we are ready and able to move full steam ahead."

Carpino said the goal is to have a temporary facility with 500 Class II slot machines open in November. At the same time, they will be working

on the Master Plan for the larger casino and resort.

Chief Friend said it has also been important to have communication with local and state leaders in the area. "We have been in constant communication with Park City officials over the last 12 years and have just recently sat down with Kansas Governor Laura Kelly to make introductions and to communicate to her that we would be submitting a compact in the future to conduct class 3 gaming."

In addition to the 10.5 acres, the Tribe also purchased approximately another 109 acres of land that is contiguous to the trust land. Since all the gaming must take place on the 10.5 acres, the additional land allows the Tribe to put other amenities such as parking, hotel, entertainment, etc. on the additional acreage.

"Our goal is to see all the additional lands used as retail, restaurants, and other economic development opportunities," Chief Friend said.

"This has been a long awaited day for the Wyandotte Nation and we believe there are endless possibilities with the development of this property. It will further enable us to fulfill our mission of improving the quality of life of every tribal citizen."

Carpino said the land is in an ideal location for what they want to do, adding it has always represented a significant opportunity for the Wyandotte Nation's economic development.

See **PARK CITY**, Page 5

NATIVE AMERICAN HERBAL TEA

CHIEF'S DELIGHT

12 TEA BAGS • NET WT. 3.5g (1oz) • ALL NATURAL • Caffeine Free

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

PayPal VeriSign

ONLINE GIFT STORE

Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!

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

Check it out!

Convenient:

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- Pay with your credit card, debit card, or bank account. Your choice.
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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.

Cultural events cancelled; Annual Meeting still set for Sept. 12

We will have our constitutionally required Annual Meeting Saturday, Sept. 12. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 situation and the need for social distancing, we are limiting the meeting to only Wyandotte citizens ages 18 up. We are also making plans to livestream the Annual Meeting and will post details on our website and Facebook page.

We will serve lunch at their Title 6 facility, but it will be drive through and carryout only. Also, there will be no childcare available, but Heritage Acres Park and Splash Pad will be available.

For those who may not feel comfortable sitting in the meeting or may be high risk for the virus, you may pick up your packets at a designated area. There will be more information coming in the near future, so please check the Tribe's website (www.wyandotte-nation.org) and Facebook page (www.facebook.com/WYandotteNation) for further updates.

The Wyandotte Nation Board of Director's have also made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 Pow-Wow, the Gathering and Wyandotte Artisan Showcase for 2020. Leadership will con-

tinue to monitor the situation and hope to host a showcase in Spring 2021. Chief Billy Friend and the Board of Directors understand this is unfortunate, but the health and safety of our citizens, guests, and employees rates most important.

In addition, due to the continuing threat of the COVID-19 virus, we have regrettably had to cancel our Tribal Town Hall Meetings scheduled for this fall in both Southern and North Central California. Our hope is that we can reschedule them both for next Spring. We will keep you informed as we make plans for next year.

PARK CITY

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"From a gaming perspective, our location is very accessible and offers a large regional population. Although we will face some competition south of us, the Park City site is viewed as a prime location that will draw a substantial local and tourist market. There are not many of these areas left in the country. This ultimately means continued economic growth, which is essential in meeting our mission of improving the lives of Wyandotte citizens."

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT:

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Court is in search of (2) two individuals to fill the positions of Supreme Court Justices. To be eligible for selection or confirmation as a Justice of the Supreme Court, a person shall: if an attorney, be a licensed attorney who is in good standing with the licensing authorities where licensed; who possesses a demonstrated background in tribal court practice, and have demonstrated moral integrity and fairness in his business, public and private life, and have never been convicted of a felony or an offense punishable by banishment, whether or not actually imprisoned or banished, and have not been convicted of any offense, except traffic offenses, for a period of two years preceding his appointment. The two year period shall begin to run from the date the person was unconditionally released from supervision of any sort as a result of a conviction. The candidate must have regularly abstained from the excessive use of alcohol and use of illegal drugs or psychotoxic chemical solvents. The candidate must not be less than (25) twenty-five years of age.

Indian preference will apply for qualified candidates.

Please submit your resume or CV to Deana Howard, Human Resources Director at dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org.

Casinos reopen June 1 in Wyandotte, Kansas City

The Wyandotte Nation reopened its 7th Street Casino in Kansas City, Kansas, and River Bend Casino & Hotel in Wyandotte, Okla., June 1 with safety measures and guidelines put in place to ensure the safety of its employees, guests and communities. The Lucky Turtle Casino in Wyandotte will remain closed with a time and date of reopening still to be determined.

A number of safeguards in place at each location. Both properties are following recommended sanitation procedures for using safe chemicals and cleaning surfaces. Signage was placed reminding guests of physical distancing and hygiene.

The River Bend Casino & Hotel reopened with the following changes:

- Club 60 West will be closed with a time and date of reopening still TBD.
- Meeting spaces will be closed with a time and date of reopening still TBD.
- Hotel occupancy reduced to 50%.
- Reduced occupancy limits of 30% to the casino floor and Twin Bridges Restaurant and the Deli.
- No Sunday buffets. Tables removed and spaced for social distancing. Sneeze guards installed in customer service locations.

7th Street Casino reopened with the following changes:

- Reduced occupancy to 25 percent for the casino floor.
- Café seating reduced.
- Sneeze guards installed in customer service locations.



Wyandotte Nation

64790 E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370

Due to the Covid-19 Pandemic we ask that everyone please stay in their vehicles. We will bring backpacks to you. Children Pre-k to 6th grade must be in attendance to receive a backpack & school supplies.



Fireworks Celebration!
Photos by
William Swaim



The Tribe held it's annual Fireworks Display and celebration Thursday, July 2 at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds. The Diversity Band opened the evening with music and vendors were on hand selling various items.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Education Department is very happy to welcome Sonia Ipock as Early Childhood Nurse; Kacey Lewis to her new position as Administrative Assistant; John Webb into a Custodian/Bus Driver Position; Sara Wright as a substitute and Debbie Bussey and Ellen Chrisos in joining the Education and Title VI Departments as Substitutes.

Sonia Ipock has her Bachelor's in Nursing. She has several years' experience. In her spare time she enjoys gardening, painting, serving and teaching people to sew and visiting flea markets and antique stores. She also enjoys spending time with her husband, visiting Silver Dollar City, going to movies, playing games, and teaching children's church. We are very fortunate to have Sonia on our team and wish her much success in her new position.



IPOCK

Kacey Lewis, a tribal citizen, enjoys doing arts and crafts and painting in her spare time. Kasey also loves spending time with her family. She and her husband have started a small farm and enjoy spending time with their daughters out on the farm.



LEWIS

We are happy to have Kasey on our team.

John Webb served in the Military for 13 years, with two years active in Germany. He is currently studying at Robert Haskins School of Christian Ministry. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, flint knapping, traditional bow building and all types of crafts. John also enjoys spending time with



WEBB

his family, playing with grandkids (10 in total) and studying the word of God. John has been married for 36 years to a Wyandotte tribal citizen and is a member of the Wyandotte Honor Guard. We are very happy to have John join our team and wish him much success in his new position.



WRIGHT

team and wish her much success in this position.



BUSSEY

Debbie Bussey is retired from the postal service and enjoys spending time with her family and her grandkids. We are pleased to have Debbie and wish her much success in her new position.



CHRISOS

The Facilities Department has a new full time staff member, tribal



PULIDO

citizen Cindy (Betts) Pulido. Cindy has joined us as a Custodian. Cindy has experience in the field. In her spare time, she enjoys painting, drawing, and flipping any flea market findings. She also enjoys spending time with her family, has a baby boy she loves teaching new

things, and spends as much time outside exploring new places with them. We are very fortunate to have Cindy on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Facilities Department is also very excited to welcome Darren Workman and James Heffren into custodian positions.

Darren graduated from Nevada High School. In his spare time,



WORKMAN

he enjoys hunting, fishing, and gardening. Darren also enjoys spending time with his girlfriend doing whatever and going to flea markets. He also enjoys spending time with his only daughter. We are very happy to have Darren on our Facilities team and wish him much success in his new position.



HEFFREN

James graduated from Seneca High School. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, and golf. James also enjoys spending time with his wife Tammy. We are glad to have James on our Facilities team and wish him much success in his new position.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

"We are strong Wyandotte women!" That has been the motto for the Family Services staff this summer. During this pandemic, we have worked together to the best of our ability, to continue to provide services to our citizens. Somethings may look different and may have different requirements to meet social distancing guidelines, but most all of our services are still available.

In this article I would like to highlight a few of our existing programs that are only available between

July 1 and Sept. 30, and a couple programs funded by the CARES Act that are currently available as well as Annual Meeting and enrollment information.

The School Supply Program started July 1 and is available to all students nationwide pre-k (must be at least 3 and enrolled in a qualified learning program) through grade 12. Each student is eligible for up to \$100 for school supplies, clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. Walmart gift cards are available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas and Missouri, and students nationwide will be reimbursed for expenses. Please note that all applications and receipts must be original so they will either need to be mailed or hand delivered. Applications for both the gift card and the reimbursement program are available on the website homepage as well as a one page information page with details about the program. Applications MUST be postmarked or hand delivered no later than Sept. 30. If you have questions, please call Leeanna at 918-678-6329.

The Senior Energy program began July 1 and will make one payment of \$100 between July 1 and Sept. 30 directly to your energy provider. This program does require an application each year and is available nationwide. Please submit the application

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TAG REMINDERS:

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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along with a copy of your current electric bill. Applications can be found on our website or one can mailed/emailed to you. If this is your first time using this program please allow up to 30 days for processing as we are required to obtain a W9 from your provider, which takes some ad-

ditional time.

The Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) began July 1 and will be available on a first come first serve basis to those living in the state of Oklahoma and has an income requirement. Eligible families have the choice to apply for LIHEAP either through the state

of Oklahoma or with the Tribe.

Eligible households may only use LIHEAP from one entity per year during the winter and again during the summer. For questions please call Tara Gragg at 918-678-6355.

The Family Services staff, accounting staff and any other employee we can recruit, have been fervently

working on the COVID Relief Program funded through the CARES Act. If you have been adversely financially affected by COVID-19 you are eligible to apply for this program, which is a one-time payment of \$1,500. You are required to keep receipts for this program between the dates of June 29 and Dec. 30 for such things as food, rent/mortgage, utilities, expenses for PPE, distance learning/working, etc. We are not asking you to submit the receipts at this time, but to retain them in case we need at a later date. This application is on the website, Facebook or can be obtained from our office. If you have questions please call 918-678-6319

Another CARES Act funded program is to assist with the purchase of laptops/computers for students who are either opting or being required to participate in distance learning. The Tribe will either purchase the required computer or citizens can apply to be reimbursed for purchases made after March 1, 2020. This program is available to enrolled Wyandotte Nation citizens who are enrolled in a school or educational institution and proof of enrollment is required (e.g. class schedule, letter from school). Applications can also be found online or by calling/emailing the office and must be received in our office by Sept. 30, 2020. For questions about this program please call 918-678-6319.

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

As mandated by the Constitution, the Annual Meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 12 at 10 a.m. in the gymnasium of the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center. Due to the current health crisis ONLY enrolled Wyandotte Nation citizens age 18 and over will be allow to attend the meeting. Tribal leaders are working on the ability to livestream the meeting so be sure to follow our Facebook

COVID-19 Updates

Public Health Emergency Relief Program

The Wyandotte Nation on June 22, 2020, created the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Relief Program as part of the Wyandotte Nation's General Welfare Program. The purpose of the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Relief Program is to provide direct emergency financial assistance from the Wyandotte Nation's Coronavirus Relief Fund monies to our citizens to alleviate the hardships our citizens are facing as a result of the COVID-19 public health emergency. Eligible tribal citizens may apply for a disbursement of \$1,500.

Eligible tribal citizens are those who will be age 18 or over as of Oct.1, 2020, and who submit the COVID-19

Public Health Emergency Relief Program Application certifying they have suffered economic impacts due to the COVID-19 public health emergency and that economic assistance is necessary. Applications will be sent out to those who answered questionnaires on Monday, June 29 and will also be posted on our website and Wyandotte Nation Citizens Facebook page. Applications will be accepted through Aug. 31, 2020.

Please direct any questions you may have to Family Services by phone at 918-678-6319 or email at wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org.

CARES Act Funds for students

Using CARES Act funds afforded to the Wyandotte Nation, we are providing a maximum of \$700 towards the purchase of, or reimbursement for, a computer, such as a Chromebook, desktop, iPad, laptop, or Tablet. We have determined the expense of ensuring our tribal citizens have access to computers in order to facilitate their distance learning is a necessary cost arising from the COVID-19 public health emergency.

The Tribe will either purchase the required computer or citizens can apply to be reimbursed for purchases made after March 1, 2020. This program is available to enrolled

Wyandotte Nation citizens who are enrolled in a school or educational institution, and proof of enrollment is required (e.g. class schedule, letter from school).

Applications can be found on our website or by calling/emailing the office, and must be received in our office by Sept. 30, 2020. For questions about this program, please call (918) 678-6319.

Here is the link to the application on our website: <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/WyandotteNationCARESActComputerApplication.pdf>

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.



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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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page and website for additional information regarding this. We will also have the meeting power point and reports available to any tribal citizen who would like to have one mailed. There will NOT be an election this year at the meeting. However, citizens will still be required to show their tribal membership or citizenship card (CDIB's are not proof of enrollment and will not be accepted at the meeting) and photo ID to be eligible to register for the meeting and receive your gift certificates. If your citizenship card has a photo included this will meet both requirements. If you are in need of a tribal card please call the office or stop by and see us. Be sure to read the Annual Meeting notice elsewhere in the newsletter for additional details regarding social distancing, etc.

The Family Services staff would like to take this opportunity to tell you about our Intern, Sydney Nesvold. Sydney, has interned in the Family Services Department all five years she has participated in the Intern program. She is smart, kind, funny and an absolute joy to be around. She has been a huge asset to the Department. Each year she has increased her knowledge of

our programs and is able to work independently. This will be our last year with Sydney as she will graduate from Pittsburgh State University in the Spring of 2021 with a degree in Education and start her teaching career. Sydney is the great-granddaughter of Artie Peacore Nesvold, the granddaughter of Charles Nesvold and the daughter of Rob and Angela Nesvold. She is definitely



Sydney Nesvold

COURTESY PHOTO



a "strong Wyandotte woman" and while we will miss her tremendously, we wish her well in her future and hope she knows she will always have a place in our hearts.

Other service programs available through the Family Services Department include: Elder's Assistance, Extracurricular Expense; High School Jr/Sr Benefit; Fuel Assistance; Child Safety Seat Program; Tribal Tag Program; Supplemental Health (aka Benny card); Burial Assistance; Indian Child Welfare, Family Violence Prevention Program and Winter Clothing. Please note that all of the Family Service programs (with the exception of the Supplemental Health Program/Benny card) end on September 30th. No applications for this fiscal year will be accepted after that date. Most program guidelines and applications can be found on the tribe's website <http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/community/family-services/> or by calling the office.

As always, it is a great pleasure for us to be able to serve the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have a need and we will do our best to assist you. Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, 918-678-6355; Leeanna Radabaugh, Family Services Assistant, 918-678-6329; Tiffany Webb, ICW Social Worker, 918-678-6353; Lisa Arnold DV Advocate/Educator, 918-678-6324; and Cesilie Hale, 918-678-3269.

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

Kweh,
Wyandotte Nation's Preschool program recently held their annual preschool graduation. The setting was different from what we are used to, but we still had a great turn out of family and friends who gathered at Bear Park to watch their graduates receive diplomas.

This year's top Kumon student is a Wyandotte Nation tribal member, Silas McLaughlin. Congratulations to Silas, on a great accomplishment!

If you have a child, ages 3-5, and live in the Wyandotte, Okla. area, we still have a few openings for the upcoming preschool year. The first day of preschool for the 2020-2021 school year will be Thursday, Aug. 13, 2020. Applications can be obtained by emailing Lindsay Cooper at lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org or you can request one by calling Lindsay at (918) 678-3267. Our Infant, One-year old and Toddler programs are currently full. To be added to the waiting list, please contact Lindsay.

The Child Care and Development Fund program is accepting new applications for families that are seeking childcare assistance. We would be happy to assist in getting an application to you and answer any questions you may have. To be eligible for the Wyandotte Nation CCDF program, a household member must obtain a CDIB or tribal card, parents must be working or attending school, and you must live within certain counties in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. 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.

The Wyandotte Nation Library is open. The hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 5:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. New books have recently been added with more arriving soon. Be sure to let Deb, our librarian, know if there is a certain book or movie you would like to see added to our collection.

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 Assistance: Oct. 1 – Sept. 30

Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting: Sept. 12

Children's Christmas Party: Dec. 12

(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.

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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
Leeanna Radabaugh, (918) 678-6329, lrada-
baugh@wyandotte-nation.org
Family Violence Program
Lisa Arnold, (918) 678-6324, lisaarnold@
wyandotte-nation.org; Cesilie Hale, (918) 678-
3269, chale@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
bhhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

Education / Library / Child Care

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

Tribal Heritage

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

Environmental / Planning / Development

Christen Lee (918) 678-6341
clee@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing

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

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

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

Clinic Appointments

Dee Dee Clapp (918) 678-3228
lcoatney@wyandotte-nation.org

Dental / Vision

Ashley Crawford, (918) 678-3221,
acrawford@wyandotte-nation.org

Pharmacy (call-in only)

(918) 678-3244

Fitness Center

Sharon Bartley (918) 678-3231
sbartley@wyandotte-nation.org

Contract Health

Bridget Hart (918) 678-3227
bburleson@wyandotte-nation.org

Diabetes Clinic

Donna Spaulding (918) 678-3258
dspaulding@wyandotte-nation.org

Housing

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese,
Housing Director*

The Housing office reopened on June 1. All of the employees are back to work full time.

There are masks and gloves available for your needs.

The Heritage Acres Community Center is also open and available for rent. If you are interested in renting the center, contact our office to see if the date is available.

The weather has been hot and the splash pad has been full! The Splash pad is open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily. Bring the kids and enjoy the park.

Nahasda (Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act) is the program governed by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Each year a Housing Plan

must be submitted and approved by HUD. This plan provides for the upkeep of units, rental assistance to college students and down payment assistance, as well as the day-to-day activities of the Department.

If you are purchasing a home within a 50 mile radius of Wyandotte, and are a first time homebuyer, let us see if we can help you with Down payment assistance. The participant must meet income guidelines and be eligible for a conventional loan.

If you are interested in applying for a rental unit, please turn applications in at the housing office, or mail to 14325 Poreupine Rd., Wyandotte, OK 74370. If you are

IHS -121 Program

This program is funded through the Department of Health & Human

Services, to ensure safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for our tribal families. These services include drilling wells, installing septic systems, rural water hook-ups, and connections to city water and sewer. There are no income guidelines. Tribal citizens must reside in the following counties: Craig, Creek, Delaware, Mayes, Nowata, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Ottawa, Rogers, Tulsa, Wagoner, or Washington.

Department Contacts:

*Kathy DeWeese-Housing Director
Don Graham- Housing Specialist
Paul Parker- Project Coordinator
Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator
Larry Hamilton- Residential
Maintenance Technician
Drew Lankford-Residential Main-
tenance Technician*

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Deb's email address is dhaynes@wyandotte-nation.org, and her office phone is (918) 678-6332.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program and WIOA are currently processing fall 2020 semester scholarships.

Here are 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.

WIOA eligibility requirements include:

- You must be Native America, 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 a scholarship application that Wyandotte Nation offers, you can email your request or any questions that you may have to Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist at ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org; or by calling his office at (918) 678-6331.

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 Co-
ordinator – CCDF, (918) 678-6330 or
sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
Lindsay Cooper – Early Childhood
Program Coordinator, (918) 678-3267 or
lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org
Evan Hotulke—Education Specialist,
(918) 678-6331 or ehotulke@wyandotte-
nation.org*

Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House, Elder
Services Director*

With the COVID-19 virus continuing to hang around, we were forced to cancel all of our Health Fairs, Senior Days, Proms and other events, so we had to get creative to try to find something for the Elders to do that would be fun and safe. We came up with Car Bingo. Since all of the casinos were closed, we used the casino parking lots. As the cars entered the parking lot they received a nice goodie bag, a ticket and a bingo card. They parked in every other space for social distancing. No one was allowed out of his or her car. They played four rounds of bingo. We had several drawings for door prizes and we also gave prizes to the best decorated car or sign.

As the summer heat came on, we started having the bingo early in the morning. Duke Mason joined us and provided his amazing Elvis music, and then we got more creative and surprised them with the ice cream truck as they drove out. They absolutely loved it! Sponsors for the Car Bingo were Wyandotte Nation,

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Ottawa Tribe, Peoria Tribe, Quapaw Nation, Good Shepherd Hospice and Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging.

We certainly are going to miss seeing everyone at the gathering and Pow-Wow this year. Looking forward to seeing you next year. Stay safe everyone!

CAREGIVER

(Suspended due to COVID-19) The Caregiver Support Group meets the first Thursday of each month in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI) Safe Room beginning at 10:30 am. This group is for all cur-

rent and former caregivers. It is also for Grandparents raising grandchildren.

It is always a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation Citizens. Please feel free to call 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 Robyn Beaty, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328

Menu, (918) 678-6326

Tribal Police Department

Submitted by Glenn Johnston, Chief of Police



While the rural town of Wyandotte has been fortunate to not have the high numbers of persons testing positive for COVID-19, the safety of the Tribe is first and foremost. Therefore, we regret to announce that National Night Out will be cancelled this year due to the pandemic.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the Tribal Advocates are still in full force. Anyone needing assistance from one of our many Tribal Advocate services will still be able to receive the same services as in the past.

Finally, after one and a half years of service to the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD), Officer Denton Ward (Pictured Right) has moved into another phase of law enforcement. Denton was offered a position with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Denton's last tour of duty was on June 29, 2020. Denton came aboard with the WNTPD during the Summer Youth Program. Denton recalled that during his early years, he wanted to be a law enforcement officer. Officer Ward strived to fulfill his endeavors and did just that. For most Cadets that go through basic training in Ada, Okla., home of C.L.E.E.T. (Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training), it is a very trying time. The rigorous 12-week school is both physically and mentally challenging. While some cadets make it through, many do not. Denton was at the top of his class and named class leader. What Denton achieved during his tour of duty for the Wyandotte Nation and the Town of Wyandotte is second to none. We are all very proud of his accomplishments and what he has achieved. We wish him the very best in his endeavors in law enforcement. Be safe brother. We will always have your 6!



Tribal Heritage

Submitted by Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director

It is with great sadness so many cultural events had to be cancelled for the year, and I am sure several are asking why? It is part of our culture to hug family and friends when we see them and want to be close. This virus has robbed us of that. Tribal leadership have tried to

do this and be safe, but there is not currently a way to do this safely and be able to enjoy Pow-Wow the way it was meant to be.

So rather risk someone, maybe one of our elders get sick, we cancelled our cultural events. We will plan on 2021 to be the best year for all of our gatherings.

You can go to the Wyandotte website and brush up on history there: www.wyandottenation.org

Stay healthy and stay in touch.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Planning & Natural Resources

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

Wyandotte Nation's mission is, "To advance the standard of living of the Tribe...and to promote in any other way the general welfare of the Indians of the Wyandotte Nation." To carry this mission forward in our tribal community, the Planning and Natural Resources Department provide a variety of services including, but not limited to, private well drinking water sampling as and septic assessments for private home owners. We also encourage and provide a place to recycle. Lost Creek Recycling Center is open to the community and surrounding area Monday through Thursday from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Friday. The facility can accept the following materials: paper, plastic, cardboard, tin and aluminum.

Many, if not most, of Environmental Staff worked from home during the month of April due to the COVID-19 health emergency. However, we attended and participated in many virtual meetings regarding Natural Resource activities. Unfortunately, our monthly and quarterly water samples on our eight sites had to wait until May.

While May was a busy month trying to catch up on postponements and cancelations, our water staff has been busy with an increased number of private drinking well samples.

Sadly, we canceled this year's Annual Environmental Festival because of school closings and concern for public safety.

On a lighter note, Lost Creek Recycle Center hosted a tire collection event in early July. Last November we collected 360 tires, which were collected by a Qualified Applicant for Collection & Transportation from Bristow, Okla. All tires will be refined and reused for other projects.

The Planning and Natural Resources Department is also dedicated to researching and applying for federal, state, and foundation grants to benefit the Tribe and tribal community. Projects often serve Tribal citizens within a 50-mile radius of tribal headquarters; however, some formula funded grants may serve citizens within a 100-mile radius. Ultimately, the department's desire to serve and create a positive impact on all Wyandotte's across the United States. Selecting grants is based upon community and departmental needs as well as the availability of funding opportunities. A summary of approved and pending applications can be seen in the tables to the right.



COURTESY PHOTO

(ABOVE) Staff put on a pollinator class. (RIGHT) Planning & Natural Resources staff conduct a bio assessment.

Department Contacts:

Director Christen Lee, clee@wyandotte-nation.org

Environmental Program Manager Kathleen Welch, kwelch@wyandotte-nation.org

Environmental Technician 1 Janice Wilson, jwilson@wyandotte-nation.org

Environmental Technician 2 Brittany Crowe, bcrowe@wyandotte-nation.org

Recycling Center Coordinator John Quick, jquick@wyandotte-nation.org

Land Management Technician Robby Graham, rgraham@wyandotte-nation.org

Water Utilities Operator Braulio Ramirez, bramirez@wyandotte-nation.org

Grant Writer Debbie Dry, ddry@wyandotte-nation.org

Grant Writer 2/ 477 Coordinator Michael Lowery, mlowery@wyandotte-nation.org



Approved Projects		
GRANT	AWARD AMOUNT	SUMMARY
Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$88,971	Provide opportunities to sustain heritage, culture, and knowledge through strengthened activities in areas such as exhibitions, educational services and programming, professional development, and collections stewardship.
Indian Community Development Block Grant	\$585,970	Expansion of clinical space, a larger pharmacy, and a drive-through pharmacy for improved safety.
BIA - OTJS	\$224,861	Support program services provided by Wyandotte Nation Tribal Court.
Family Violence and Prevention Services Program	\$13,397	Provide temporary housing, assistance, and supportive services to victims of family, domestic, and dating violence in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) public health emergency.
TOTAL AWARDED	\$913,199	

Pending Applications		
AGENCY	REQUEST	PURPOSE
Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration	\$1,200,730	Increase tribal capacity to reduce high-risk behaviors of students that may contribute to poor mental health and suicidal ideations.
Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$10,000	Support our library's existing operations and maintain core services.
Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration	\$250,000	Reduce unmet treatment need and opioid overdose-related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery support.
Affordable Housing Program	\$400,000	Secure funds for the construction of affordable rental housing units.
Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$24,475	Provide funds for the Library to prevent, prepare for, and respond to health challenges faced by the coronavirus.
Office of Victims of Crimes-Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside.	\$694,698	Provide funds to Family Services for one additional Advocate, vehicle, and substance abuse/mental health counseling.
TOTAL PENDING	\$2,579,903	