



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 24, Issue 1

[www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)

February 2020

## Man v Bear: Tribal citizen tests his strength against mighty grizzlies

PAGES 4 - 5



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

The Wyandotte Nation  
64700 E Hwy 60  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

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



### Inside:

- *Wyandotte book featured in article*
- *Holiday in Pictures*
- *Shop With a Cop a growing success*

## Board of Directors

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

## Content

CALENDAR .....	3
FEATURE: Man v Bear .....	4-5
Shop With a Cop .....	6
Town Hall Meetings .....	6
Holidays in Pictures .....	7
Book featured in historical article .....	8-11
What to know about 2020 Census ....	12
Tribal Department Reports .....	13-19
Important Numbers .....	18
Community News .....	20

Editor/Design: William Swaim



**Cover Photo:**  
*Sheldon Jackson competes against a bear in new TV show*  
 Photo: from MVB

## Contact Us

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

### Have News?

#### Share it

We want to hear from you! Send us news or stories you may have or suggest features for us to work on.

Email: [wswaim@wtok.org](mailto:wswaim@wtok.org)



[www.youtube.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.youtube.com/WyandotteNation)



[www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation)



From the Chief

Billy Friend

# Happy New Year

Did 2019 just race by?

It certainly did! The years seem to zoom past, and this past year was no different.

At the end of each year, most of us look back to see what we have achieved and make plans for the year to come.

If we take a close look at what had been accomplished during our year, it is surprising to discover that we have made some real headway. Of course, we have days during the year when we feel as if we have just been spinning our wheels, but if you look at some key accomplishments, you can measure your results and see how much progress you are actually making.

At the Wyandotte Nation, the Wyandotte people were at the top of our minds during the year. Our team actively worked to develop new opportunities for you to make your life better and bring you closer to your Tribe.

Almost all Wyandottes are familiar with the many programs related to education, health care, housing, employment and so much more. Those who work for you at your Tribe are continually driving new plans designed to make your life better.

As our society has changed over the past several decades, and it is important to be attentive and reactive to those changes, and especially to your needs. Today, single parents raising children are much more common. People are living longer, so our elder

**"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight."**

-- Proverbs 3:5-6

population is growing. These changes present opportunities for improvement in our delivery of services.

Just two decades ago we had strictly limited resources. We were almost completely dependent on federal funds, and those dollars were not enough to fulfill our true needs.

Changes began to be initiated that would develop new resources for us and, in turn, present new opportunities for Wyandotte people. It was determined that, as a sovereign nation, we would grow our own, self-made businesses to get where we needed to go. Plans were made to enter commercial business and produce income to support our programs. It was always Chief Bearskin's and the Board of Directors goal to eventually become self-sustaining and self-reliant.

Through hard work and a proper foundation we begin to have success in commerce, and those successes have fueled growth of our vital programs

and new opportunities for Wyandotte people. Every day we witness success stories, and it is incredibly gratifying to see Wyandotte's grow and prosper.

We are now one of the largest employers in Northeast Oklahoma, and our growth continues daily. We are engaged in a variety of business ventures and we value our diversification. We have an active, innovative management team that keeps our businesses operating and profitable.

With all that we have been able to do our greatest tribal success is...you! You are now recognizing the unique opportunities your tribe offers and taking advantage of those opportunities. Our job here at the Tribe is to keep those opportunities flowing, and help Wyandotte families achieve success and happiness.

We must continually adjust to the changing lifestyles and needs of Wyandottes across the country. It is our desire to always bring to you the very best your tribe has to offer!

Yes, 2019 has flown by, and we can take a bit of time to check our achievements. Many Wyandotte people across our great country this past year grabbed opportunity and connected with their Tribe in positive ways. We plan to keep up the pace in 2020 with our mission always "to improve the quality of life for every Wyandotte Citizen."

Happy New Year!

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

## A bit of history: Wyandots departure from Ohio

*Kweh*

I hope everyone survived the holidays and are looking forward to an exciting New Year. Here at the Wyandotte Nation we are always trying to improve the area to benefit not only our Wyandotte Citizens, but the Wyandotte area as a whole. Our new-

est project is Wyandotte Ridge north of Twin Bridges State Park. It is a beautiful piece of property that should appeal to anyone wanting to build a home in a quaint country setting, and they are reasonably priced. If you are wanting to move and build in the Wyandotte area I hope you check out

Wyandotte Ridge.

In October I went to Albuquerque for the National Congress of American Indians Annual Conference and Marketplace. This year was an election year and my term as Eastern Okla-



See SECOND CHIEF, Page 3



UPCOMING EVENTS

2020

<div>TOWN HALL MEETINGS</div> <div>MARCH 28-29</div> <div>NEWPORT BEACH &amp; SACRAMENTO, CALIF.</div> <div></div>	<div>GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES</div> <div>JUNE 26 - 28</div> <div></div>	<div>FIREWORKS CELEBRATION!</div> <div>JULY 2</div> <div></div>
<div>THE GATHERING</div> <div>SEPT. 9 - 11</div> <div></div>	<div>31ST ANNUAL POW-WOW</div> <div>SEPT. 11 - 13</div> <div></div>	<div>ANNUAL MEETING</div> <div>SEPT. 12 10 AM</div> <div></div>

ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED

Second Chief

— “Fill your mind with the meaningless stimuli of a world preoccupied with meaningless things, and it will not be easy to feel peace in your heart.” -- Marianne Williamson

Continued from Page 2

homa alternate Vice-President was ending so I ran for Eastern Oklahoma Vice-President and won, I am the first non-Cherokee to hold this position in a very long time. It is my honor to be able to represent the 20 tribes headquartered in Eastern Oklahoma for the National Congress of American Indians -- the largest Tribal Advocacy group in the United States. I will also enjoy working with David Woerz of the Chickasaw Nation as my Alternate area Vice- President.

As everyone knows last September the Methodist Council deeded over to the Wyandotte Nation the Old Methodist Mission Church in Upper Sandusky, Ohio, the site of our last recognized reservation. Before our ancestors left Upper Sandusky, Squire Greyeyes gave a farewell speech that continues to bring tears to our eyes to this day, here is what happened.

On Sunday, July 9, 1843 the entire Wyandot Tribe, at least the 664 souls who intended to move west, assembled at Upper Sandusky. One last service

was held on the grounds of the Mission Church. Reverend Wheeler presided over the service and preached the last farewell sermon. Squire Greyeyes, also an ordained Methodist minister, delivered to those assembled a rousing farewell speech in Wandat. Greyeyes eulogized the Wyandot Tribe’s departure from Ohio, and here it is:

“My people, the time for our departure is at hand. A few words remain only to be said. Our entire nation has gathered here for farewell. We have this morning met together for the last time in our Love Feast. More than two hundred have testified to the great power of God. Brother Wheeler has preached the funeral for our dead – our John Stewart, our beloved Monobcue, our recently murdered Summundewat, our eloquent Between-the-Logs. They sleep the sleep of death, but the hope of immortality is strong within our breasts. Our chiefs have committed to the care

of our White Brothers, our temple; to the Great Spirit, the grave of the Wyandots. The Indian does not forget the pale-faced brother who came to him with the message from the Great Spirit, and who loved him well and served him well.

The White Man’s God has become the Indian’s God, and with us go ever to our new home, our beloved shepherd, Brother Wheeler, and sister Lucy Armstrong, the Wyandot bride. Surely like the white-faced truth of all that she says: Whither thou goest, I will go and where thou lodgest, I will lodge; thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thy diest I will die, and there will I be buried.

It remains only for me to say farewell. Yes, it is indeed farewell. No more shall we engage in the solemn feast, or the feast of rejoicing. No more shall Sandusky’s Plains and forests echo to the voice of song and praise. No more shall we assemble in our

Temple to sing the sacred songs and hear the story of the Cross. Here our dead are buried. We have placed fresh flowers upon their graves for the last time. No longer shall we visit them. Soon they shall be forgotten, for the onward march of the strong White Man will not turn aside for the Indian graves. Farewell – Farewell Sandusky River. Farewell – Farewell our hunting grounds and homes. Farewell to the stately trees and forests. Farewell to the Temple of the Great Spirit. Farewell to our White Brothers, and friends, and neighbors. It is but a little time for us till we leave our earthly home; for here we are no continuing city, but we seek one that is to come, whose builder and maker is God. Let us remember the dying words of Brother Stewart: Be Faithful.”

It was indeed a very moving speech, and tells everyone that they didn’t want to leave but they had to for the survival of the Tribe. It is events like this that makes me proud to be Second Chief of the greatest nation in the country, the Wyandotte Nation.





PHOTO COURTESY OF MVB

Jackson tests his strength in a monumental tug of war with a grizzly bear (pictured above) during the Discovery Channel's new show 'Man Vs. Bear.' (Below) Jackson tests his stamina while being chased up a tree by one of the grizzlies.

# Jackson left in awe after grizzly encounter

*Tribal citizen competes in new TV show 'Man Vs. Bear'*

BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Very few people, if given the opportunity to square up against three grizzly bears, would welcome and cherish that moment. But that wasn't the case for Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen Sheldon Jackson, who tested his mettle against three grizzlies on the Discovery Channel's new show 'Man Vs. Bear.'

"It was great," said Jackson, of Watts, Okla. "I loved the opportunity to be that close to a grizzly – it was a once in a lifetime opportunity. It's hard to explain -- it just leaves you in awe."

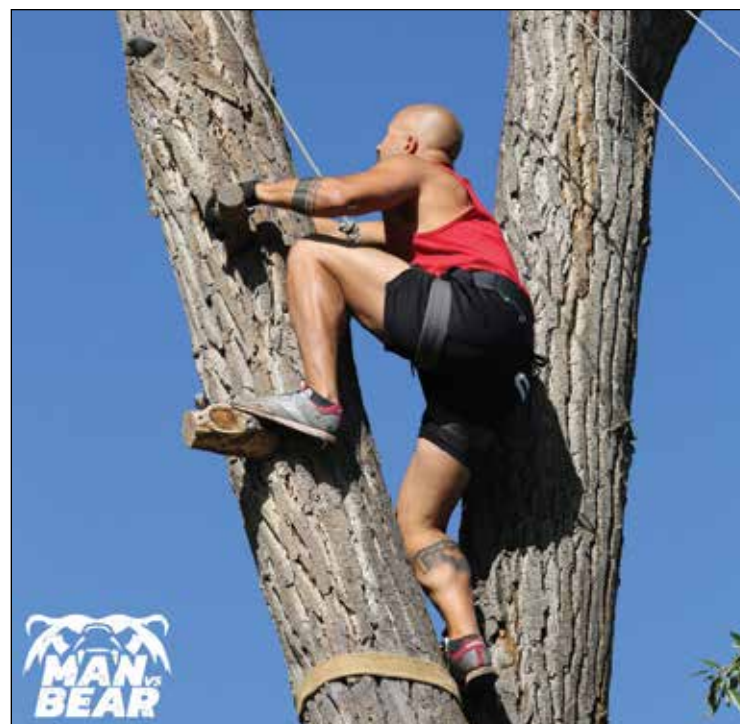
Jackson, a football coach, was one of three contestants on the Dec. 18 "Human Kannonball" episode of the show to challenge Bart, Honey Bump and Tank in a monumental game of tug of war, a test of strength in rolling giant logs, and a test of

agility while a grizzly bear chased them down. The episode was filmed in August at the Utah sanctuary where the bears reside.

According to the show's website, the competitions for 'Man Vs Bear' were designed around the exercise routines the bears regularly follow – a combination of encouraging natural Grizzly instincts and actions.

For Jackson, the biggest challenge wasn't necessarily the grizzlies.

"Honestly, the part that really got me was getting out of my own way," Jackson said. "I made myself nervous because I wanted to make friends and family proud, and the Wyandotte Nation proud. The hardest part was just getting out of my own head."



See MVB, Page 5



# MVB

Continued from Page 4

Jackson, in fact, did get out of his head long enough to finish as the winner on the episode. And at the time, had posted the second best score so far on the show. That is important because at the end of the season, the top three competitors with the most points will return one more time for the super-human showdown against the bears.

Jackson's road to the show came as a bit of a surprise. He said the show found him and at first he thought it might be a scam. However, after doing a little research found that they were just looking for every day people who were athletic.

"They wanted someone ready to go out and prove to themselves they had that drive and passion to compete," he said. "What guy doesn't want to test himself? And what better way than to do it against a grizzly bear?"

Sheldon grew up playing basketball and baseball in high school, and was very competitive. With part Wyandotte and part Cherokee in his blood, Sheldon's Native American culture has always been important to him and his family. He grew up hunting with his dad, and learned how to make bows and chip his own arrowheads.

"A lot of it stemmed from my dad and he was big on not losing that part of our heritage. It's an important part of my life," he said.

"It makes you proud. We're smaller than other Tribes, but to say you are Wyandotte, it is a big thing to us. To let the world know we are here is a big thing."

His appearance also made him a bit of a local celebrity. While a few called him crazy, even more thought it was 'really cool.'

"I was at my son's basketball game the other night and some little kids stopped me and said they saw me on TV. I never imagined I'd be a local celebrity. It is pretty wild."

The TV series includes commentary from Brandon Tierney and Casey Anderson. Brandon is an Emmy Award-winning sports commentator. He is no stranger to live sporting events – hosting game coverage for the New York Knicks and serving as a commentator for college basketball for the last 20 years.

Casey, a wildlife expert with 25

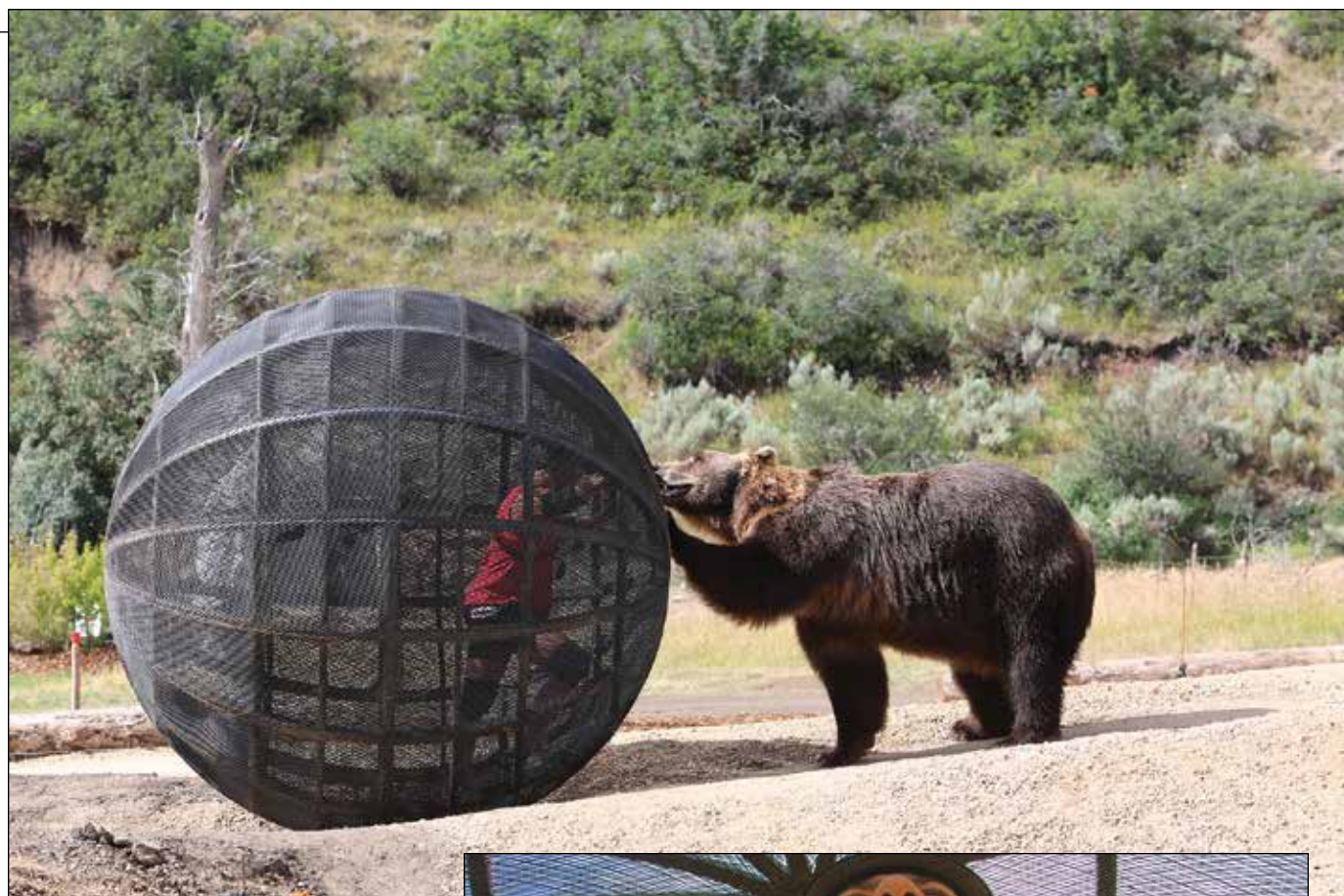


PHOTO COURTESY OF MVB  
**Jackson finds himself in a caged ball pushing back against a grizzly as one of three competitors in MVB. In addition, he was tasked with a giant log rolling challenge.**

years of experience, has lived with bears nearly his entire life. After graduating college, he became a wildlife filmmaker, and expert on animal biology and behavior as well as the founder of the Montana Grizzly Encounter.

If given the chance to do the show again, he said he wouldn't even blink before agreeing to do it.

"I talked to Casey Anderson and he said it was really neat, only handful of people have been that close to a grizzly and survived," Jackson said. "Before the show, I thought about hunting bears, but it has changed me. After being that close, it is different, you feel connected. I don't think I would ever hunt one now."

The show airs Wednesdays at 8 pm (CST) on the Discovery channel.

Viewers can also join the conversation on social media by using the hashtag #ManVsBear and follow Discovery on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter for the latest updates.





# 'Shop With a Cop' expanding its reach

*Program doubles the number of kids and families helped during holidays*

**BY WILLIAM SWAIM**  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) hosted its annual 'Shop With a Cop' Sunday, Dec. 8, and the impact of the program is being felt by even more families in the area. Participating officers, including WNTPD and other area law enforcement, shopped for 14 families with a total of 46 children.

WNTPD Police Chief Glenn Johnston said 32 children went shopping but they bought for 46. They also shopped for 21 Angel Tree Kids later in the month. WNTPD had 44 volunteers, including seven Wyandotte Nation Officers, one Park Ranger and two Quapaw Marshalls involved in the shopping. The program doubled the number of children the department provided for last Christmas. That is the most kids the program has provided shopping for since the WNTPD started taking part in it.

"Shop With A Cop 2019 was even bigger and better than in previous years," Johnston said. "As the donations grew, so did Pat Wilson's



WILLIAM SWAIM/WYANDOTTE NATION  
**Wyandotte Nation officers help provide gifts for area children as part of the annual 'Shop With a Cop' program.**

list of children that would see a little bit brighter Christmas. We were amazed at the outpouring of volunteer support."

Officers would like to thank all the volunteers for their help as well as all who donated to this great cause. Donations: Wyandotte Nation Education Department, Wyandotte Nation Cultural Department, Title VI, T-shirts from Metal Fab, Walmart,

Allgeier Martin & Associates, The Garrette's, Mike Melnikoff, Bank of Wyandotte, Lion's Club, Anonymous, River Bend Casino & Hotel, 7th Street Casino, Turtle Stop, Jar at Turtle Stop, and WTOK.

Also, thanks to all the officers that showed up to help on their off time, as well as Stephanie Hamilton, Twilia Stone and Chris Turner.

Participating officers treated the

kids to lunch and snacks at the Wyandotte Nation's Title VI Building before heading to Miami for an afternoon of holiday shopping. Following the shopping, the officers loaded the kids and volunteers on two buses and brought the kids back to wrap the presents.

Local families experiencing economic hardships are not always able to provide children with their own celebration of Christmas. That is where the 'Shop With a Cop' program comes in, joining underprivileged children with WNTPD officers and other area tribal officers, providing the children with money to shop for Christmas presents for their families and themselves. Local donations and volunteers make this program possible.

"The bar was raised beyond our expectations and we as a department are looking forward to what 2020 has in store for us," Johnston said, adding that he has approached other tribal, local and state law enforcement about getting involved.

"The program has put us a little closer with the children that we supported with this cause, and each and every one of us have crossed paths with several of those children who have nothing but good to say about their experiences with us, as did their parents."

## Town Hall Meetings set for Northern, Southern California

In 2020 the Wyandotte Nation will hold two Town Hall meetings in northern and southern California.

The first Town Hall will be held in Newport Beach, Calif., Saturday, March 28, at 10 am. Registration opens at 9 am at the Hyatt Regency John Wayne Airport Newport Beach, 4545 MacArthur Boulevard, Newport Beach, CA 92660. Lunch will be provided after the meeting. An afternoon Q&A and historical session will also be held.

The second meeting will be held in

Sacramento, Calif., Sunday, March 29, at 1 pm with registration opening at 12:15 pm. The meeting will be held at the Four Points by Sheraton, 4900 Duckhorn Drive, Sacramento, CA 95834. Lunch will be provided before the meeting beginning at 11:30 am. There will also be a Q&A and historical session held after the meeting.

Post cards will also be mailed to those who live in this area. To RSVP: Please respond by Friday, March 13 to Dana Butterfield (918)

678-6319 or [dbutterfield@wyandottenation.org](mailto:dbutterfield@wyandottenation.org).

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

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

other citizens who reside in their local areas. Each adult (18 and over) enrolled Wyandotte Citizen who attends will receive \$50 to assist with the expenses associated with attending the meeting. Spouses and family are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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



## Holiday in pictures



A few images from our annual Children's Christmas Party, the Turtle Tots Christmas Program, and the Elders Christmas Dinner.

PHOTOS BY  
WILLIAM SWAIM



## ONLINE GIFT STORE

**Tribal items, Native made & just COOL stuff!**

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

**Check it out!**

### Convenient:

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

### Secure:

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







**EDITOR'S NOTE** It is believed that in 1623, Samuel de Champlain and Father Gabriel Sagard first used the name *Huron* in text. The name is derogatory and was given to all the Native peoples of New France in present day Ontario, Canada. The name reflected the Frenchmen's belief that all of the Natives were savage and uncouth. Somewhere around 1660, the name *Huron* Tribe came to represent an amalgamation of three dispersed Ontario Iroquoian tribes who, in less

than 100 years, would also come to be known as the Wyandot Tribe. A variation of the name Wyandot first appears in a 1748 journal entry of Conrad Weiser, a Pennsylvania Dutchman. A spelling variation of Wyandot is Wyandotte, which reflects a French influence. Today, when studying the Wyandot people it is imperative that both names, *Huron*-Wyandot, be used to properly identify a people who are known in history by two separate and non-related names.



Leonard Nicholas Cotter Jr.



DeGolyer Library, Southern Methodist University



**Left:** According to [wyandotte-nation.org](http://wyandotte-nation.org), the turtle "signifies the ancient belief that the world was created on the back of a turtle, the 'moss-back turtle,' also known as the snapping turtle."

**Top:** Bertrand Nicholas Oliver Walker was the chief clerk of the Quawpaw Indian Agency in the northeastern corner of Oklahoma. He was interested in preservation of *Huron-Wyandot* culture but was concerned: "The prospective field for research here is almost barren; yet it is the sole remaining place where even a shred of anything pertaining to the past of the Wyandots can be found."

**Bottom:** Leonard Nicholas Cotter Sr. served as chief of the Wyandot from 1936 to 1942, from 1948 to 1954 and from 1964 until his death in 1976.

# On the Back of a Turtle

THE *HURON-WYANDOT* LEGACY

**F**rom its first issue in 1887, the *Ohio Archaeological and Historical Society Quarterly* maintained a strong interest in Native American topics.

It's noteworthy, though, that non-Native Americans authored virtually all of this scholarship, including stories relating to one of Ohio's smallest but most respected and influential tribes, the Wyandot.

It took more than a century, but this year that was finally overcome with the publication of Trillium Press's *On the Back of a Turtle: A Narrative of the Huron-Wyandot People* by Lloyd E. Divine Jr. The author is a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation, a federally recognized tribe, and a long-time member of the tribe's cultural committee.

*On the Back of a Turtle* is an all-inclusive history of the *Huron-Wyandot* people, beginning with their creation story of the Great Island, now called North America. While preparing this first full-length history of the *Huron-Wyandot* people—italicized to distinguish from other groups unwittingly called *Huron*—Divine recognized how misinformed many of his own tribal citizens were about their history. In response, he created a compelling and informative volume in a conversational and easily read style.

A native of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, Divine began researching his book in 1989 and chose the title because of the turtle's deep meaning to *Huron-Wyandot* people. William E. Connelley, an early student of the tribe's culture, commented in 1899 that "The turtle idea was interwoven with the whole social and political fabric of Wyandot institutions."

Divine agreed to answer several questions posed to him by *Echoes Magazine*.



**Echoes:** You indicate that sorting out the many conflicting names for your people was one of the primary reasons for writing your book.

**LD:** The confusion regarding our tribal name comes from the fact we do not know the name our three parent tribes called themselves. In 1652, three remnant Ontario Iroquoian tribes fled their homelands to avoid adoption into the Iroquois Confederacy. The name *Huron* comes from old French slang which implies 'ruffian' Early French





Trilium Press

Mononcue was a chief and one of the first of the Wyandots to convert to Methodism in the first half of the 19th century.

explorers called all the Native tribes of New France *Hurons*. The name is derogatory and refers to a rustic, savage and ignorant people. In 1660, the remnant tribes were discovered in the Wisconsin wilderness by French explorers. These refugees were Iroquoian and came out of the Jesuit *Huron* Mission; therefore, they were *Huron* and named the *Huron* Tribe. In 1747, there was a disagreement within the *Huron* Tribe. A clan segment moved into the Ohio Country, where on Sept. 6, 1748, they encountered Col. Conrad Weiser, an Englishman. Weiser in his journal identified these people as Wondats. In time, Wondat came to be spelled as Wyandot. The *Hurons* and Wyandots are one tribe. However, depending upon the time frame, they were known as the *Huron* Tribe or the Wyandot Tribe. Today, the historic *Huron* and Wyandot tribes are the Wyandotte Nation.

**Echoes:** In an early *Quarterly* article, Columbus attorney and historian Edward Livingston Taylor (1839–1910) argued 'that the cruel and vindictive acts of the Indians' were largely a response to similar actions by white men.

**LD:** The Gnadenhutten Massacre and Battle of Sandusky are arguably the two best examples. During the Revolutionary War, the Americans were convinced that the Indians were using the

Moravian Delaware village of Gnadenhutten as a staging area to attack the frontier. During these attacks, there was much loss of life and property. The response by the Americans was no different than the killings being perpetrated by the Indians. On March 8, 1782, the Americans, commanded by Col. David Williamson, attacked the village and murdered 96 Christian Delaware Indians. The Americans then organized a full invasion of Sandusky (now Upper Sandusky), the Wyandot village on the Sandusky River. The expedition was commanded by Col. William Crawford, with Williamson as his second in command. During the battle, Crawford was captured and Williamson escaped to safety. The Delaware had hoped to catch Williamson and take their revenge. Instead, they applied their full wrath upon Crawford. On June 11, 1782, Crawford was tortured and burned at the stake for the heinous crime perpetrated by Williamson at Gnadenhutten.

**Echoes:** With your own ancestor, Mononcue, as an example, you suggest that the acceptance of Christianity changed the *Huron*-Wyandot forever. What were the impacts on the hearts of the tribe?

**LD:** Arthur Schomburg in 'Two Negro Missionaries' best described the Wyandots when John Stewart, a Methodist missionary, arrived at their reservation in Ohio. Schomburg—and I do not disagree—described the Wyandots as 'the most abandoned and vicious tribe, having sunk in the most degrading vices such as drunkenness, lewdness and gambling, until many of them became the most debauched and worthless of their race.' In 1816 they were far more dangerous than during the Border Wars. Mononcue, my ancestor, was clan chief of the Little Turtles and chief speaker of the clan's mothers. Mononcue initially stood in opposition to Christianity. Mononcue was very influential, and within less than a year, he converted to Christianity with many citizens following his lead. If it had not been for Christianity, it's likely the Wyandots would have actively resisted removal from Michigan and Ohio while in a drunken stupor. During this war, they could have easily been destroyed as a people. Because of Christianity, the *Huron*-Wyandots forever changed, and were preserved as a people.

**Echoes:** Can you discuss the Methodist mission to the *Huron*-Wyandot at Upper Sandusky?

**LD:** In 1819, after observing the successes



obtained by Stewart, the Methodists sent Rev. James B. Finley to aide Stewart's missionary efforts. The Methodists also utilized a vague clause in the Wyandot Treaty of 1817. The clause stated, 'One of the said sections is to be appropriated to the use of a missionary.' This agreement with the Wyandots allowed for the U.S. government's monetary support of Finley's missionary efforts. Initially, Finley came among the Wyandots as both a Methodist missionary and a pseudo-employee of the Department of War.

In *History of the Wyandott Mission*, Finley gives an example of the government funds provided in 1826, which totaled \$2,454.47. As Finley labored among the Wyandots, he fell in love with the people, and quickly became their advocate, standing in opposition to removal. In a letter dated Dec. 15, 1825, to Gen. Lewis Cass, Finley stated, 'To remove them just at this time, contrary to their wishes, would be, in my judgment, a most cruel act. It would be undoing what has been done, and throwing them again into a savage state.'

**Echoes:** As principal chief of the Ohio Wyandot in 1840, Summundowat resisted pressure from the federal government to remove the tribe west of the Mississippi River. What were the circumstances of his death and how did it affect the Wyandot?

**LD:** In December 1840, Summundowat was returning to Upper Sandusky after a raccoon hunt in the Black Swamp of northwestern Ohio. One evening as he, along with a niece and nephew, was preparing a meal, two men entered their camp. The men appeared to be friendly, lost and hungry. Summundowat invited them in for food and rest. As Summundowat and his nephew slept, the two guests arose and, with camp axes, smashed the sleeping men's heads. Summundowat's niece experienced the same fate. The three Wyandots were then hacked into pieces and left for wild animals to devour. The destroyed bodies were found the next day. The murderers had failed to cover their trail and were promptly followed, captured and jailed; however, the murderers escaped. It has been said Summundowat was killed over raccoon pelts and hunting dogs. I personally believe the men were hired assassins, who, after fulfilling their contract, were released

to hide the identity of their employer. The death of Summundowat was a devastating blow to the morale of the Wyandots. It was then they came to realize that resisting removal, after the assassination of a Christian chief, was no longer an option.

**Echoes:** Once the Wyandot obtained a legitimate claim to lands in Kansas, how were they drawn into the sectional crisis over slavery?

**LD:** The Wyandots were not drawn into the crisis—they created the crisis. By October 1848, they came to realize their newly purchased land would soon be coveted by the whites. Therefore, they reassembled the tribes of the old Northeast Confederacy and began the process of establishing an official U.S. territory for the Indians, governed by the Indians. The problem was twofold: The Indians were not U.S. citizens, and the Missouri Compromise forbade the addition of any new territories. The Wyandots began to form their new territory in secret; however, their plan was discovered and the State of Missouri took action. The Wyandots had intended for their new territory to be a free state. Kansas and Nebraska were added as free territories after the Kansas-Nebraska Act of 1854 repealed the Missouri Compromise. The Wyandot desire to create a territory for the Indians governed by the Indians was forever disrupted.

But the organizing role taken by the Wyandots reflected their place among multiple tribes as the official "Keepers of the Council Fire," a status that continues to be recognized among American Indians.

**Lloyd E. Divine Jr.** is a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation who has served on his tribe's cultural committee for more than 25 years.



*November is National Native American Heritage Month.*

-- Article/Pages reprinted with permission from the Ohio History Connection

**'On the Back of a Turtle'  
is available at the Senior  
Turtles Gift Shop for \$10**





# What to know about the 2020 Census

By April 1, 2020, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. You will have three options for responding:

- Online
- By phone
- By mail

The 2020 Census marks the first time you will have the option to respond online. You can even respond on your mobile device. During the 2020 census, the bureau will distribute only short-form surveys, making it more critical to know how and why to fill out the form to give accurate data.

## Overall Timeline

Counting every person living in the United States is a massive undertaking, and efforts begin years in advance. Here's a look at some of the key dates along the way:

- January–September 2019: The U.S. Census Bureau opens 248 area census offices across the country. These offices support and manage the census takers who work all over the country to conduct the census.

- August 2019: Census takers begin visiting areas that have experienced a lot of change and growth to ensure that the Census Bureau's address list is up to date. This is called address canvassing, and it helps to ensure that everyone receives an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census.

- January 2020: The Census Bureau begins counting the population in remote Alaska.

- April 1, 2020: Census Day is observed nationwide. By this date, every home will receive an invitation to participate in the 2020 Census. Once the invitation arrives, you should respond for your home in one of three ways: online, by phone, or by mail. When you respond to the census, you tell the Census Bureau where you live as of April 1, 2020.

- April 2020: Census takers begin visiting college students who live on campus, people living in senior centers, and others who live among large groups of people. Census takers also begin conducting quality check interviews to help ensure an accurate count.

- May 2020: The Census Bureau begins visiting homes that have not responded to the 2020 Census to make sure everyone is counted.

- December 2020: The Census Bureau delivers apportionment counts to the President and Congress as required by law.

- March 31, 2021: By this date, the Census Bureau will send redistricting counts to states. This information is used to redraw legislative districts based on population changes.

## Why We Conduct This Count

The census provides critical data that

lawmakers, business owners, teachers, tribes and many others use to provide daily services, products, and support for you and your community. The government determines how to distribute millions of federal dollars to programs, grants and Native American tribes through the data collected by the U.S. Census Bureau. Filling out the form truthfully and accurately remains one of the best ways to ensure the Tribe remains vibrant and an essential part of the broader community.

## Counting Everyone

Participating in the census is required by law, even if you recently completed another survey from the Census Bureau. A complete and accurate count is critical for you and your community, because the results of the 2020 Census will affect community funding, congressional representation, and more. One quarter of Native Americans, live in areas described by the census as 'hard to count.' An inaccurate count has far-reaching effects most-often carried by our most vulnerable citizens.

## Who To Count

The 2020 Census will count everyone living in the United States and the five U.S. territories.

## Who Counts as Part of Your Home?

If you are filling out the census for your home, you should count everyone who is living there as of April 1, 2020. This includes anyone who is living and sleeping there most of the time. If someone is staying in your home on April 1, and has no usual home elsewhere, you should count them in your response to the 2020 Census.

## Counting Young Children

It is important to remember to count any children who are living with you. This includes:

- All children who live in your home, including foster children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, and the children of friends (even if they are living with you temporarily).
- Children who split their time between homes, if they are living with you on April 1, 2020.
- Newborn babies, even those who are born on April 1, 2020, or who are still in the hospital on this date.

## Data Protection and Privacy Program

Law does not only require being responsible stewards of your data, it is embedded in Census Bureau culture. Strict policies and statistical safeguards help protect the confidentiality of your information. Before releasing data products, the Census Bureau verifies that they meet its confidentiality standards.

## Avoiding Scams Online

Phishing is a criminal act in which someone tries to get your information by pretending to be an entity that you trust. Phishing emails often direct you to a website that looks real but is fake—and may be infected with malware.

It is important to know that the Census Bureau WILL NOT send unsolicited emails to request your participation in the 2020 Census. Further, during the 2020 Census, the Census Bureau will NEVER ask for:

- Your Social Security number.
  - Your bank account or credit card numbers.
  - Money or donations.
- In addition, the Census Bureau will not contact you on behalf of a political party.

## Staying Safe at Home

If someone visits your home to collect a response for the 2020 Census, you can do the following to verify their identity:

- First, check to make sure that they have a valid ID badge, with their photo-

graph, a U.S. Department of Commerce watermark, and an expiration date.

- If you still have questions about their identity, you can call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative.

## Reporting Suspected Fraud

If you suspect fraud, call 800-923-8282 to speak with a local Census Bureau representative. If it is determined that the visitor who came to your door does not work for the Census Bureau, contact your local police department.

## 2020 Census Jobs

The U.S. Census Bureau is recruiting to fill hundreds of thousands of temporary positions across the country to assist with the 2020 Census count. For more information about 2020 jobs, please go to [2020census.gov/jobs](https://2020census.gov/jobs).

If you have any questions, you may contact Debbie Dry (918) 678-6315 or [ddry@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:ddry@wyandotte-nation.org)



## WYANDOTTE NATION



64700 East Highway 60  
Wyandotte, OK 74370-2098  
(918) 678-2297, Fax: 918-678-2944  
[www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STATEMENT

December 12, 2019

### NOTICE TO ALL INTERESTED CITIZENS

### RESPONSE REQUESTED

Wyandotte Nation is applying for a Community Development Block Grant Program for Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages with U.S. Housing and Urban Development funds. Awards in the amount of \$900,000 are available to Federally-recognized Native American tribal governments for community development activities.

The purpose of the ICDBG program is the development of viable Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the creation of decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities primarily for persons with low- and moderate- incomes as defined in **24 CFR 1003.4**. The Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) in HUD's Office of Public and Indian Housing administers the program. Applicants can use these funds for a multitude of community development purposes, including those that improve the lives of tribal youth by creating and providing protective factors that build an individual's resiliency.

In fulfilling the **Citizen Participation** requirements as stated in **24 CFR 1003.604**, information regarding the proposed project shall be posted in the form of a community development statement in order for the community to have the opportunity to submit comments.

Any person desiring to make recommendations or suggestions should contact the Planning and Natural Resources Director by email at [clee@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:clee@wyandotte-nation.org) or by phone at (918) 678-6341. You may also mail or FAX them to Wyandotte Nation.

#### NOTE: This Notice shall be posted in the following:

Administration Building  
Wyandotte Nation Library  
Bearskin Clinic  
Community Center  
Cultural Center and Museum

Title VI  
Wellness Center  
Education Building  
Housing Department  
Family Services Building



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director*

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome tribal citizen, Ashley Buss to her new position as Early Childhood Toddler Program Lead Teacher. Ashley has her AA in Early Childhood, Certificate of Mastery in Early Childhood Education, BA in Sociology and eight years' experience in childcare. She enjoys reading and spending time with family in her spare time. We are happy to have Ashley on our team.



**BUSS**

Ally Bartley has joined the Wyandotte Nation as a Substitute in our Education Department. Ally currently attends Wyandotte High School. Ally enjoys spending time playing softball, crocheting, and weightlifting. She gives softball-catching lessons, she loves to hunt, be outdoors, and spend time with her family. We are pleased to have Ally and wish her much success in her new position.



**BARTLEY**

Kamrie Bunce joins Wyandotte tribal citizens Jennifer Burwell and Jill Hawkins as Infant Caregivers for the Wyandotte Nation. Kamrie graduated from Miami High School and has several years of experience working with infants. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time painting with her friends, watching football, and cheering her son on at all his sporting events. Kamrie has two boys that are or have been a part of the Turtle Tots Program and she is thankful for the program and opportunity to be a part of the Education Department. We are happy to have Kamrie join the Education Department and wish her much success in her new



**BUNCE**



**BURWELL**

Education Department and wish her much success in her new position.

Jill has an Associate's Degree and a Bachelor's Degree with several years' experience with infants. She enjoys spending time with her family, and has been married for 15 years and has three children. In her spare time, she enjoys baking and reading. We are pleased to have Jill join the Education Department and wish her much success in her new position.



**HAWKINS**

The Bearskin Fitness Center is very happy to welcome Thatcher Smalley and Liz Mensink.

Thatcher graduated from Fairland High School and is currently attending NEO A&M College. Thatcher will serve as a Fitness Front Desk Assistant. He enjoys spending time with his friends and family, fishing, sports, and video games. We are very fortunate to have



**SMALLEY**

Thatcher on our team and wish him much success in this position.

Liz will serve as a Front Desk Assistant. Liz is currently attending college and her field of study is Physical Therapy Assistant. She attended Independence Community college on a softball scholarship and then transferred to NEO for the PTA Program. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends. She likes to play



**MENSINK**

position.

Jennifer has an Associate's Degree from NEO. She enjoys spending time watching movies with her family, playing outside with them and reading bedtime stories. We are pleased to have Jennifer join the

softball, workout, shop, and walk her dog. We are very fortunate to have Liz on our team and wish her much success in this position.

The Wyandotte Nation Planning and Natural Resources Department is very happy to welcome Brittany Crowe. Brittany is our new Environmental Technician II. She has her AA from NEO and her Bachelor of Science from MSSU. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and animals on their 5-acre farm. She also loves making homemade gifts and enjoys spending time



**CROWE**

outdoors or hanging out in the barn. We are very fortunate to have Brittany join our team and wish her much success in her new position.

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director*

It's hard to believe that we're in the year 2020! The Wyandotte Nation has seen so many changes and has experienced such amazing growth over the past 20 years. The Tribe now has many programs available to citizens nationwide such as the Supplemental Health card, senior energy, school supplies, burial assistance and scholarships. The Family Services staff are thankful to Tribal leadership for expanding these programs and look forward to the future and being able to continue to expand programs and services.

The annual children's Christmas party was held Dec. 14 with 160 children who attended along with their families. Each child received a gift from Santa, enjoyed cookies and milk, and worked on crafts. A special treat this year, to help keep attendees warm during their wait, was a food truck with hot chocolate, coffee and donuts. This is always such a fun event for all involved. Be sure to check out the pictures in this newsletter and on our Facebook page.

Town Hall meetings have been set for March 28 in Newport Beach, Calif., and March 29 in Sacramento, Calif. As always, we are excited to be assisting

Tribal leadership with these meetings and look forward to seeing old friends and making new ones. Postcards will be mailed to citizens who live in California. However, if any citizen would like to attend, they are more than welcome. More information can be found in the Town Hall article elsewhere in this newsletter.

Some of the events we are working on this coming year are: April quarterly Domestic Violence Cultural event, April 11; The Gathering of Little Turtles, June 26-28; The Gathering, Sept. 9-11; Pow-Wow, Sept. 11-13; and Annual Meeting, Sept. 12. Be sure to visit the Nation's Facebook page and website for events and activities happening here at the Nation.

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

## Winter Programs:

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

**Senior Energy** – This program is available nationwide for citizens who are 55 and older! \$100 will be paid directly to the utility provider. Program began Oct. 1 and ends Feb. 28. Please continue to pay you bill as normal and the payment from the Tribe will show as a credit when it has been applied. This process can take between 2-4 weeks, especially if it's the first time applying for the program.

**APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE WINTER PROGRAMS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POST MARKED BY FEB. 28 TO BE ELIGIBLE AND BILLS/RECEIPTS MUST BE DATED BETWEEN OCT. 1, 2019 AND FEB. 28, 2020.**

Continued on Page 14



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 13

The following are programs that run throughout the year for residents in OK, MO, AR, KS.

*Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30:*

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

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

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

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

### Other Programs provided by the Family Services Department:

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

**Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare** – This program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families and is designed to help

keep children in their homes with their family or ensure that if there is a need for removal that federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is first and foremost. If your family is in a situation where the state is involved, please contact one of the Tribal Social Workers.

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

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

**Tribal Tags** – Available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma. Passenger, RV, Motorcycle and Handicap tags are available. Please call the office for prices and additional information.

**Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card)** – The company that is contracted to manage this program for the Nation has changed their name from CoreSource to Trustmark. This change should not cause too many issues, but if you have problems feel free to give us a call or call Trustmark directly. New Wyandotte Nation citizens should have received their Benny cards in December along with any replacements for cards that have expired. The new cards being sent are now blue in color. All accounts were loaded on Jan. 1, 2020 and the benefits are the same as previous years with a \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and

over) tribal citizens. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Please keep in mind that this benefit is only for enrolled citizens of the Nation and is not to be used for spouses, step-children, etc. CoreSource will be following up more closely with accounts this year and asking for receipts periodically.

Quarterly statements will continue to be mailed by Trustmark and account balances can be obtained at any time via [www.trustmarkbenefits.com](http://www.trustmarkbenefits.com), by calling Trustmark at (800) 990-9058 ext42086 or via the mobile app. If you have a smart phone I strongly encourage you to download and use the app. With the app you can see balances, file claims, see purchases/expenses, see if any receipts are required and scan items to see if they are an eligible expenses.

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

**Family Violence Prevention Program:** The Wyandotte Nation receives grants from the Office of Violence Against Women, Office of Victims of Crime and the Administration for Children and Families to help support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking within a 25 mile radius of the tribal headquarters. A victim is not required to be Wyandotte or Native to receive services from this program. Services offered include advocacy,

court accompaniment, assistance with obtaining protective orders, relocation expenses and other basic needs. The Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator regularly makes presentations to schools and organizations providing education and awareness about these issues. Program staff, in conjunction with the Cultural Advisory Board, also hosts quarterly cultural events. The next event will be Saturday, April 11. If you are in the area we'd love to have you join us.

February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month and Lisa Arnold will be providing educational outreach at

Continued on Page 15

## TAG REMINDERS:

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

## 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.

**CORESOURCE**  
A Trustmark Company  
PERSONAL. FLEXIBLE. TRUSTED.



**Trustmark**  
benefits beyond benefits

Our benefits administrator, CoreSource, is changing their brand name to Trustmark Health Benefits. This name change does not affect your benefits. Between now and Jan. 1, 2020, you'll start seeing the name Trustmark Health Benefits in places like:

- New ID Card
- Explanation of Benefits (EOB)
- Letters and Communications
- Your Web Portal
- Mobile App
- Customer Service



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 14

local high schools and colleges. The Month of April will be observed as Sexual Assault Awareness month. Lisa has several activities planned for this month so be sure to watch Facebook for any opportunities to help support victims of sexual assault.

## Family Services Staff:

Director, Dana Butterfield, (918) 678-6319, [dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org)

ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg, (918) 678-6355, [tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org)  
ICW Worker, Tiffany Garner, (918) 678-6353, [tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Assistant, Leeanna Radabaugh, (918) 678-6329, [lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org)

DV Advocate/Educator Supervisor,  
Lisa Arnold, (918) 678-6324, [lisaarnold@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:lisaarnold@wyandotte-nation.org)

DV Advocate, Cesilie Hale, (918) 678-3269, [chale@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:chale@wyandotte-nation.org)

## Child Abuse Prevention Month

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. This month and throughout the year, we encourage all individuals and organizations to play a role in making our communities a better place for children and families. By ensuring that parents have the knowledge, skills, and resources they need to care for their children, we can help prevent child abuse and neglect by creating strong and thriving children, youth, and families in our communities. Research shows that protective factors are present in healthy families. Protective factors are conditions or attributes of individuals, families, communities, or the larger soci-

ety that reduce risk and promote healthy development and wellbeing. Promoting the following protective factors is one of the most effective ways to reduce the risk of child abuse and neglect:

- Nurturing and attachment
- Knowledge of parenting and of child and youth development
- Parental resilience
- Social connections
- Concrete supports for parents
- Social and emotional competence of children

Don't be afraid to reach out for help and support or to offer support for others!

## Education

Submitted by **Cristi Hudson, Education Director**

*Kweh,*

The New Year is off to a great start for us at Wyandotte Nation and we hope it is for you as well. The Education Department is happy to announce the opening of the Infant and One-year old program. The program began Jan. 7 with five children ages 0 to 12 months, five children ages 12 to 24 months, and five staff members.

The preschool building has received a makeover by adding the new classrooms and nursery for the Infant and One-year old program, new cabinets for storage, cubbies, paint, flooring, and expanded the library for our education programs. The back playground is in the process of a makeover as well and will be ready for the children to enjoy very soon.

With the addition of the new Infant and One-Year old program, we have added more staff members. We would like to welcome back Twylia Stone. Twylia transferred from the Title VI kitchen to the preschool kitchen as the lead cook. We would also like to welcome Tammy Sherwood, who transferred from the preschool kitchen to the Infant and One-year old program.

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](mailto:sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org); or you can call her office at (918) 678-6330.

The Wyandotte Nation Library has new hours. The hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 5:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. New books and movies 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. Deb's email address is [dhaynes@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:dhaynes@wyandotte-nation.org), and her office phone is (918) 678-6332.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program and WIOA are currently processing spring 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

Continued on Page 16

## 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.**

## NEW LIBRARY HOURS

(beginning January 6th, 2020)

The Wyandotte Nation Library will be open:

<b>Mondays</b> .....	<b>8:00—5:30</b>
<b>Tuesdays</b> .....	<b>8:00—5:30</b>
<b>Wednesdays</b> .....	<b>8:00—5:30</b>
<b>Thursdays</b> .....	<b>8:00—5:30</b>
<b>Fridays</b> .....	<b>8:00—3:30</b>

Phone # **918-678-6332**

for information, book and DVD renewal or  
E-mail Deb at [dhaynes@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:dhaynes@wyandotte-nation.org)



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 15

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](mailto: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](mailto:chudson@wyandotte-nation.org)*

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

*Lindsay Cooper – Early Childhood Program Coordinator, (918) 678-3267 or [lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org)*

*Evan Hotulke—Education Specialist, (918) 678-6331 or [ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org)*

## Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director*

The Elder Services Department is happy to welcome Robyn Beaty to our Food Service Team. Robyn began her tenure with the Wyandotte Nation in the Education Department Kitchen. She enjoys spending time on her farm with her husband Charlie and her three grandchildren.

Our Valentine Party is Thursday, Feb. 13, during the noon hour. Prizes will be given to the Oldest Valentine, Couple married the longest, the Newly Weds, and the one that has been married the most times and is willing to admit it.

The Senior Turtles Gift Shop will be having their 4th Annual Flower and Candy sale in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI) Safe Room Feb. 13-14. (See Advertisement)

## Tribal Police Department

*Submitted by Glenn Johnston, Chief of Police*

We have a few upcoming events. The National Crime Victims' Rights Week takes place April 19-25. In addition, we will be holding a Pancake Breakfast Saturday, March 14, from 7:30 to 11:30 am in the Title VI Building (64700, E. Hwy 60 in Wyandotte). See the flyer in this issue for more information. Proceeds from the event go to support our 'Shop With a Cop' program.

We shopped for 14 families with a total of 46 children during 'Shop With a Cop' last December. Thirty-two children went shopping but we bought for 46. We also shopped for 21 Angel Tree Kids later in the month. We had 44 volunteers, seven Wyandotte Nation Officers, one Park Ranger and two Quapaw Marshalls involved in the shopping.

The following were sponsors: Lions Club, Bank of Wyandotte, WTOK, Allgeier – Martin, Education Department, Tribal Heritage Department, River Bend Casino & Hotel, 7th Street Casino, Title VI, Turtle Stop, Mike Meinikoff, Crossland Construction, The Garrettes, and Metal Fab of Miami.



Our Easter Party is Thursday, April 9, during the noon hour. Prizes will be given for the prettiest bonnet, funniest bonnet and men's leg contest. We will have an Easter Egg Hunt and prizes given to the one that finds the prize egg and one that finds the most eggs.

Mother's Day Dinner will be held Thursday, May 7.

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

## CAREGIVER

The Caregiver Support Group 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 current and former caregivers. It is also for grandparents raising grandchildren.

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

## Department Contacts:

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

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

*Seth Higginbotham, Chris Rhodes and Robyn Beaty, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328*

*Menu, (918) 678-6326*

## Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director*

Kweh, kweh! Happy New Year!

The Cultural Center is gearing up for some fun times this coming year. The Cultural Committee is making plans for Little Turtles Kids Camp June 26-28. The Lacrosse camp is held in conjunction with the Kids Camp. The Lacrosse Camp is Tuesday, June 23 through Friday, June 26 the same week. Last year coaches and players from Springfield, Mo., worked with the kids, and they had an outstanding week.

If you know of a boy or girl who would be interested in learning more about the game, we have a chance to do some offseason practices and maybe get a team going. Contact Teresa Wilson at

Continued on Page 17

♥ Happy Valentine's Day ♥

Senior Turtles Gift Shop,  
operated by our elders,  
will offer free delivery with purchase of  
**Valentine Roses and Candy**  
to any business address in Wyandotte,  
OK, Fairland, OK, or Seneca, MO, on  
**February 13 and 14th ONLY!**  
Orders must be in by noon for delivery that day.  
**417-439-9356**





TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 16

the Cultural Center, (918) 678-6318.

River Bend Hotel & Casino has blocked off 15 rooms for Little Turtles at a rate of \$59 for the weekend. Make your reservations soon (918)-678-4946.

The Gathering is Sept. 9-11 with Pow-Wow starting Sept. 11-13. This is also a very busy time, so reserving your room now is wise.

We have a few other events coming up:

- May 25, 10 am, we will have a Memorial service honoring a veteran for their unselfish act for our freedom. All are welcome.
- July 2, starting around 7 pm, Fireworks display. Vendors, live music and beautiful fireworks. Bring your chairs and come enjoy. No personal fireworks please. This keeps everyone safe.

I hope to see all of you at these events.

Health

—Submitted by Kelly Friend, Director of Health Services

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

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

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

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

**ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS FOR BEARSKIN HEALTH CLINIC PURCHASED/REFERRED CARE**

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

2. Non-Indians may be eligible in these situations: A non-Indian woman who is pregnant with an eligible Indian's child through pregnancy and postpartum; A non-Indian member of an eligible Indian's household who resides within the Purchased/Referred Care service area is eligible for Purchased/Referred Care if the Medical Officer in charge determines that services are necessary to control a public health hazard or an

acute infectious disease; A non-Indian under 19 years old who is an adopted child, stepchild, foster child, legal ward or orphan of an eligible Indian under specific circumstances.

3. Patient must reside within the Bearskin Health Clinic 12 county Purchased/Referred Care service area. Out-Of-State residents are not eligible for Purchased/Referred Care funds.

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

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

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

**TITLE 42--PUBLIC HEALTH**  
**CHAPTER I--PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE,**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**PART 136\_INDIAN HEALTH--Table of Contents**  
**Subpart G\_Residual Status**  
**Sec. 136.61 Payor of last resort.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

Optometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service</li><li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider</li><li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic</li><li>• <b>AS FUNDING ALLOWS</b></li></ul>	<p>\$175 for single vision -- includes exam and one pair of glasses <b>OR</b> contacts</p> <p>\$225 for multi-focal vision -- includes exam and one pair of glasses <b>OR</b> contacts</p> <p>\$50 towards fundoscopic exam for retinopathy - for participants in the Bearskin diabetic clinic only</p>
Audiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service</li><li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider</li><li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic</li><li>• <b>AS FUNDING ALLOWS</b></li></ul>	<p>\$1000 per ear towards hearing aids</p> <p>\$75 per hearing exam</p> <p>(Hearing aids will only be replaced every five years. If they are lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed before reaching the five-year mark, it will be the tribal member's responsibility to replace these appliances.)</p>
Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare</li><li>• Fills prescriptions written by Bearskin providers or providers that patients are referred to from Bearskin Healthcare.</li><li>• Prescriptions from practitioners outside of Bearskin Healthcare are only filled if approved and re-written by a Bearskin Healthcare physician under his/her authority</li></ul>	
Wyandotte Adult Reserve Dental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service</li><li>• Up to \$750 per year</li><li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic</li><li>• <b>AS FUNDING ALLOWS</b></li></ul>	<p>Services excluded: orthodontics, whitening, IV sedation, conscious sedation and general anesthesia.</p>
Adult Emergency Dental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service</li><li>• Up to \$750 per year</li><li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider</li><li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic</li><li>• <b>AS FUNDING ALLOWS</b></li></ul>	<p>Services provided: Emergency adult dental consists of limited exam, limited x-ray, re-cement of crowns, extractions, partials and/or dentures and wisdom teeth removal, as approved as being necessary, only.</p> <p>Dentures and partials will only be replaced every five years. If they are lost, stolen, damaged, or destroyed before reaching the five-year mark, it will be the tribal member's responsibility to replace these appliances.</p>
Children's Dental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years prior to appointment for service</li><li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Clinic</li><li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin Contracted Provider</li><li>• <b>AS FUNDING ALLOWS</b></li></ul>	<p>Services excluded: orthodontics, whitening, IV sedation, conscious sedation and general anesthesia.</p>



# 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  
bhouse@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*

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 Nahasda 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.

Wyandotte Nation Housing has received a competitive grant. This was a nationwide competition with only 200 tribes receiving the grants. This grant will build three homeownership units, and two family duplex rental units.

The Heritage Acres Community Center is available for rent. The cost is \$50 for tribal members and \$75 for non-tribal. There is also a \$25 deposit, which is returned if the building is left clean. Several dates are already filled for next year. If you are interested in renting, it is best to reserve early.

Before we know it, it will be spring. The Splashpad will be opening May 18.

### 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 members must reside in the following counties: Craig; Creek; Delaware; Mayes; Nowata; Okfuskee; Okmulgee; Ottawa; Rogers; Tulsa; Wagoner; 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*

### Continued from Page 17

[64 FR 58322, Oct. 28, 1999]

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

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

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

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

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

### EMERGENCY CALL-IN PROCEDURES:

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

- This call should be made when a patient has an emergency and is unable to go to Bearskin Health Clinic or the nearest IHS facility. The patient must call the Purchased/Referred Care office within 72 hours after the beginning of the treat-

ment (THIS DOES NOT GUARANTEE PAYMENT. The Purchased/Referred Care Committee will follow the medical priorities and make determination).

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

### REFERRAL PROCESS:

- The patient must be seen by a provider at Bearskin Health Clinic.
- If a referral is necessary, the Nurse/Provider will direct referral to the Purchased/Referred Care office.
- Purchased/Referred Care Specialist will counsel regarding eligibility, alternate resources such as Medicare, Medicaid, insurance, VA, Workman's Comp, Sooner Care, and Title 19, and schedule the appointment, if necessary.
- Patient will need a referral from Bearskin Health Clinic for each additional procedure, test, follow-up exams, and or hospitalization. It is the patient's responsibility to contact the Purchased/Referred Care Specialist each time!
- If a patient schedules or reschedules an appointment, without proper Purchased/Referred Care authorization, the patient will be responsible for payment.
- If you receive a bill from the facility or physician we have scheduled you with, you have 10 days to provide Bearskin Clinic with the bill or you may be denied. The Purchased/Referred Care Specialist

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

### Audiology, Dental & Optometry

- Tribal citizens must be seen by a physician at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center once every three years to maintain an updated medical record. If patient has not been seen in the clinic within the last three years, they will not be eligible for these benefits until appointment is completed. Information needed at visit includes: tribal membership card, insurance card (if available), social security card, driver's license and medical history form.
- All appointments must have prior authorization with the providing facility. Failure to do so is subject to declination of payment for services rendered. Please provide a minimum of three business days' notice on appointments regarding referrals to ensure that proper protocol can be followed in sending documentation to providers.
- All treatments must be pre-authorized by Bearskin Healthcare. It is the patient's responsibility to verify that treatment plans have been authorized, before treatment is rendered.
- In the event an appointment must be cancelled or rescheduled, Bearskin Healthcare should be notified. Habitual failure to show for a scheduled appointment may result in revocation of dental services for one fiscal year. Habitual is defined as failure to call or attend three consecutive appointments.



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 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 am to 4:30 pm and 8 am to 3:30 pm on Friday. The facility can accept the following materials: paper, plastic, cardboard, tin and aluminum.

On Oct. 25, the Department provided education information during Bearskin’s Health and Wellness Fair regarding private drinking water wells, septic systems, and other environmental issues.

Our department also participated in the Tribal Preschool Halloween Carnival with a bean bag toss.

The weather for October was beautiful with a hint of cool weather in the night air. The Neosho Jr. High, students from the Wyandotte Public School students toured our Lost Creek Recycle Center in late October. The students learned the importance of recycling and were shown the day-to-day process.

Lost Creek Recycle Center held a tire collection event in early November. We collected 360 tires, which were collected by a Qualified Applicant for Collection & Transportation from Bristow, Okla. These tires will be refined and reused for other projects.

On Nov. 12, Kathleen Welch attended the Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma (TECO) Meeting in Stroud, Okla. At this meeting, elections were held for the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) and Wyandotte Nation as voted to retain their seat on the RTOC Board of Members.

On Nov. 19-20, Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch attended the Tribal Caucus and RTOC Meeting in Catoosa, OK.

Christmas cheer invaded our hearts in December as we welcomed our new-

est employee, Brittany Crowe. Brittany will assist other department staff in water sampling, recycling duties and environmental education events.

Department staff continues to sample eight ambient water sites on area lakes and streams on a monthly basis. Staff also provides private drinking water sampling within a fifty-mile radius of Wyandotte Nation offices.

Environmental Staff are working with contractors to complete the Bearskin Fitness Center Remodel and Well House #1 Improvement Project. We anticipate this project will be complete before the end of March. The State Line Water Project was sent out for contractor bid in late December and early January. This project will be awarded during the next quarter.

Staff also continues to work on rental properties, trust land leases and Fee-to-trust projects.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Northeast Oklahoma Tribal Resilience Workshop, Quapaw Nation, Feb. 4-5
- Tire Collection Event, Lost Creek Recycle Center, May 4-8
- 13th Annual Environmental Festival, Heritage Acres Park, May 8

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. Grants often serve the 1,470 citizens residing in the 641 households within a 50-mile radius of tribal headquarters; however, it is the department’s desire to serve and positively affect all 6,609 Wyandotte citizens across the United

Approved Projects		
GRANT	AWARD AMOUNT	SUMMARY
Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive Program	\$1,385,745	This grant-funded project will allow the tribe to provide safe, decent and sanitary housing for eligible families in the new Wyandotte Ridge housing development and Heritage Acres.
TOTAL AWARDED	\$1,385,745	

Pending Applications		
AGENCY	REQUEST	PURPOSE
Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$90,776	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.
Office for Victims of Crime	\$5,000	Resources to help raise awareness in our community about crime victims' rights and the services available to victims of crime.
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.
National Parks Service	\$473,374	Provide preservation assistance to nationally significant historic properties and collections.
Oklahoma Native Assets Coalition	\$3,500	Establish asset-building initiatives and programs in Native communities for creating greater opportunities for economic self-sufficiency of tribal citizens.
TOTAL PENDING	\$1,773,380	

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 above.

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 1 Debbie Dry, ddry@wyandotte-nation.org  
Grant Writer 2 Michael Lowery, mlowery@wyandotte-nation.org





# TRIBAL CITIZEN & COMMUNITY NEWS

## NEW TRIBAL CITIZEN ENROLLMENT

**NOTE: The following names of new citizens were inadvertently omitted from the November newsletter. Here are the rest of the new tribal citizens:**

Battle, Cheyna Christine  
Battle, Montgomery Sloan  
Brown, Allison Colleen  
Brown, Amanda Sue  
Brown, Collins Taylor  
Brown, Landon Scott  
Brown, Nolan Timothy  
Cloninger, Easton Duke  
Cloninger, Myla Jade  
Cloninger, Natalie Michelle  
Crouch, Isaac Cooper  
Crouch, Lafonda Gail  
Crouch, Thera Cade  
Douthit, Morgan Saige  
Elbert, Addison Blake  
Elbert, Brock Michael  
Elbert, Christopher Michael  
Elbert, Madilyn Grace  
Elbert, Marissa Ryann  
Elbert, Meadow Brooke  
Elbert, Miranda Lynne  
Elbert, Timothy Scott

Elbert, Tracie Lynn  
Enyart, Erik Layne  
Montgomery, Donna Jean  
Mosby, Hailey Rena  
Nesvold, Kecia Rena  
Onstott, Elliot Jayce  
Onstott, Jill M  
Onstott, Thayer Brooks  
Onstott, Troy Jace  
Sams, Angela Dawn  
Sams, Lindsey Dawn  
Sams, Parker Macauley  
Sams, Peter Mackenzie  
Stork, Abigail Lane  
Stork, Jacob Michael  
Stork, Logan Dale  
Stork, Rhonda Renee  
Weisinger, Lucas Dale  
Winkler, Taylor Irene  
Young, Emory Lyn  
Young, Kristen Linn  
Yousey, Leslie Lynn

## Tribal citizen achieves Eagle Scout rank



Wyandotte tribal citizen Ricky Adams achieved Eagle rank in May 2019. Recently, the Scouts recognized Ricky during his Eagle Court of Honor, held Nov. 2, 2019.

Ricky has always been a hard worker and this was no different. He joined scouts when he was 10 and worked hard to move through the ranks. He was senior patrol leader twice as well as assistant to the Senior Patrol leader. Scouting has helped him to become a leader in so many aspects of his life including within his marching band, at work and his scout troop. He has made some lifelong friendships. He plans to continue as an adult leader within his troop and be there for the next generation of scouts. His family is very proud of him.

## OBITUARY

### Jacob Franklin Fischer

*April 4, 1938 – November 30, 2019*

Jacob "Jake" Franklin Fischer, 81, died November 30, 2019 at Claremore, Oklahoma. The son of Benjamin and Ruth Long Fischer was born on April 4, 1938 in Pawnee, Oklahoma. Following graduation from Pawnee High School, Jake completed an Associate of Science, Bachelor of Science, and Doctor of Education at Oklahoma State University. While in Colorado he taught for Denver Public Schools, Jefferson County Public Schools and Metropolitan State College. In Oklahoma he taught for Okmulgee Public Schools and Central Area Vo-Tech in Drumright. After 30 years working as a teacher and administrator in public education, Jake retired January 3, 1995.

He was preceded in death by his parents. Survivors include his wife of 57 years, Ruth, of the home; one daughter, Carol Lynn McMurtrey and husband Robert of Carl Junction, Missouri; one son, John Edward Fischer and wife Gerlynnnda of Eureka, Missouri, five grandchildren, Hailey Nicole McMurtrey, Tanner Wayne McMurtrey, Jodi Gabrielle Fischer, Jessica Grace Fischer and Jackelyn Greer Fischer.

Services were held Saturday, December 7, 2019, at Eshelman Memorial Chapel and interment was at Highland Cemetery in Pawnee, Oklahoma. Pallbearers were John Fischer, Robert McMurtrey, Tanner McMurtrey and Jack Smith.

## Invitation to Youth Movement Event at OSU

On behalf of Oklahoma State Athletics, we would like to cordially invite you to the 6th Annual Youth Movement Event presented by the OSU Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and Chickasaw Nation, with sponsorship from the Native American Students Association (NASA), Orange and Black Gives Back, Cherokee Nation Businesses, CSN, Endodontic Associates, and Nike N7.

Students in grades 3rd-8th can participate in a field day that incorporates both Native American culture and fitness activities. Event activities include: team sports, traditional Native games, guest speakers, performers and much more. The event will take place Monday, March 30, in Boone Pickens Stadium at Oklahoma State University. Limited spaces are available, so please sign up now to save your spot.

The goal of the event is to bring Native American youth together from across the state to celebrate culture and promote a healthy active lifestyle.

**N7 Youth Movement Field Day: Students Grades 3rd- 8th, Tuesday, March 30, 8 am - 1:45 pm, Oklahoma State University (Boone Pickens Stadium)**

Wyandotte Nation will provide transportation to the event for participants. Please contact Kelly Friend at (918) 678-3259 or email [kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org) to secure a spot for your student before Feb. 18.

### Wyandotte Nation Police Department

# Pancake BREAKFAST



**Join us for  
Pancakes, Sausage, Scrambled Eggs  
Hashbrowns and Biscuits & Gravy**

**Saturday, March 14, 2020**

**7:30 am to 11:30 am**

**Title VI Building**

**64700 E Hwy 60,**

**Wyandotte, OK 74370**

**\$7.00 PER PLATE**

**ALL PROCEEDS GOES FOR  
OUR "SHOP WITH A COP" PROGRAM**

