



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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Long Time Coming

Casino opens to huge crowd

Page 4-5

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Inside:

- **PUBLIC NOTICE:** Notice of Election, Annual Meeting
- Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow
- First Easter Egg Hunt a success

Board of Directors

ChiefBilly Friend
 Second ChiefNorman Hildebrand, Jr.
 Councilperson..... Ramona Reid
 Councilperson..... Vivian Fink
 Councilperson..... Juanita McQuiston
 Councilperson.....Eric Lofland

Content

Public Notice: Election 3
 FEATURE: Crosswinds Casino 4-5
 Preschool Pow-Wow 6
 WTK: Johnson Retirement 6-7
 Easter Egg Hunt 7
 New 477 Program..... 7-8
 New Tribal Administration Building.. 8
 Tribal Department Reports..... 9-16
 Important Numbers 16
 CALENDAR..... 16

Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
 Chief Billy
 Friend & CEO
 Kelly Carpino
 cut the ribbon
 at new casino.

PHOTO BY WILLIAM SWAIM

Contact Us

Have News? Share it

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

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Dealing with change

There is one element that can be counted on in our modern lives, and that one element is change.

The Wyandotte Nation and the Wyandotte people are no strangers to change. Throughout our history we have been confronted with tremendous obstacles and changes of environment.

However, the main responsibility of our Wyandotte Nation government, now and in the future, is service to the Wyandotte people and that has not changed. Before every board meeting we pray and offer thanks to God for the opportunity given to us to serve the citizens of our Tribe. Those of us who serve you in your government are working hard to continue that service despite the hardships we encountered this past year.

The lesson for us is we know change will come, and that was reinforced this

past year during a worldwide pandemic. As Wyandotte people we have become good at adapting just as our ancestors did in the past. Change is a constant the Wyandotte Nation and the Wyandotte people have faced with courage and success throughout our history.

Today, Wyandottes continue succeeding in this ever-changing world. A commitment to education has been a real key to our success. An ever-growing number of Wyandottes are professionals, trades journeymen, artists, lawyers, soldiers and so much more. Wyandottes are succeeding in these areas because we have recognized the changes in American society and stayed current with those changes.

The health and welfare of our people is what continues to drive our decision-making in every department of our tribal

government. Every team member here at the Wyandotte Nation is committed to serving the needs of our Wyandotte people regardless of the challenges and changes we encounter.

We have learned the one, true foundation to an effective and strong functioning government is serving the people well. We believe once that foundation begins to crumble, decline is inevitable. We are absolutely committed to cultivating our path of growth, service and success. We are open to change and we understand being adaptable is critical.

Thank you for your concern and your commitment to the Wyandotte Nation. Your support and involvement are vital to your effective government.

When we all work together as Wyandottes, we are bound to meet with success!

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Glimpse of Seneca Indian School history

Kweh

Hello to all Wyandotte Citizens. Needless to say the past year has been one for the record books. They will be talking about and analyzing everything that happened the past year for decades and decades to come. The events that happened will be etched in history forever. Take the Black Lives Matter movement, that's fine, but to me all lives matter no matter the color of their skin. The truth of the matter is Native Americans are killed or abused at a higher rate than Blacks. If you don't believe me, look it up, it is a small percentage higher but nonetheless it is higher. I have nothing against the Black Lives Matter movement but I think we should be concerned about all people no matter the color of their skin.

On a good note the new Administration Building is finished and everyone is moved in, the building turned out very nice hopefully it will be awhile before we outgrow this building. The temporary casino in Park City, Kansas, officially opened March 2 and it is doing very well. We have some housing projects in the works and our newest Turtle Stop outside of Seneca, Mo., should be done

sometime in June.

Let's discuss the Turtle Talk for a moment, we put it out quarterly to inform our Tribal Citizens about what is going on at the Wyandotte Nation, the programs and services that we are able to provide for our citizens. We put a lot of time and expense in putting out this piece of information every quarter to keep our citizens informed of what is available to them. All you have to do is read it, there are a lot of articles included that hopefully make for interesting reading.

Since our new Administration Building is located on the hill where the Seneca Indian School was built in the early 1870s, I thought it would be beneficial to hear what one tribal citizen by the name of Jared Silas Dawson had to say about his experience attending the school:

"At this time, there was no school here except the mission school that had been established by the Quakers at what is now Wyandotte, so my brother and I were sent there to school. We stayed at the school and were allowed to go home each six weeks and to stay from Friday to Sunday. Yes, some of us would run away; I tried it once and they came after

me that night about eleven and I had to go back, but

I would not have tried it again for the next morning mother would have taken me back and she would have made me walk, and she would have ridden along with me to see that I went. Uncle Jerry Hubbard was in charge of the school and we had good teachers, who although strict, were good to us. We had very poor clothing, food and quarters as they would be judged now-a-days but they were feeding, clothing and teaching us at no expense to our parents and what they received was allowed them from the Government.

The boys had red duck pants put together with rivets, hickory shirts of blue and white, brogan shoes, common black hats, no socks and no underwear. The girls wore blue denim all made alike with course canton flannel underwear, heavy shoes and the little girls had copper toes on their shoes.

Our sleeping room or dorm, as you



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Annual Meeting and Election

On Sept. 11, 2021, the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting and Election at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Okla. The Election will begin at 9 am.

The purpose of the election is to elect the following positions:

- Chief
- 3 Board of Director members
- 3 Grievance Committee members

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

The opening date to file for candidacy is May 14, 2021, with the

closing date June 13, 2021, at 4:30 pm. All qualified members of the Wyandotte Nation who desire his or her name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Elective Office must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" in person with the Election Board Secretary or a designated representative at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 8 Turtle Drive, Wyandotte, Okla. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office at any one time. All such filings of Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no sooner than May 14, 2021, and no later than June 13, 2021. No later than three days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board

Secretary shall cause to be posted at the Tribal Complex a complete list of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy.

A filing fee of fifty dollars (\$50) shall be assessed for each candidate filing for Chief and Board of Directors. Ten dollars (\$10) will be assessed for Grievance Committee candidates. Each candidate for Elective Office shall be assessed these fees payable to the Wyandotte Nation by Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Money Order. These fees shall be used for election purposes. The filing fee shall be paid on the same date the prospective candidate submits his or her Declaration of Candidacy. Said filing fee is non-refundable.

POLLING PLACE: The official polling place for all Tribal Elections shall be the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Classroom, Wyandotte, Okla. The polling shall be opened from 9 am until 11 am. Any voter in line at the polling place but unable to cast a ballot before 11 am will be allowed to finish voting. The polling place shall be staffed by at least two (2) polling officials designated by the Election Board.

Each voter will be required to present a photo ID and Tribal Membership Card. If the Tribal Membership Card has a photo on it, this will satisfy both of these requirements.

**Dee Killion, Chairperson
Wyandotte Nation Election Board**

NEWS & NOTES

Wyandotte Nation 1 of 24 Tribes to receive grant funding for new housing units

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced recently over \$90 million in grant awards to 24 Tribes and Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs) across the country to support new housing construction, housing rehabilitation, and critical infrastructure projects.

The funds were awarded through HUD's Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) Competitive program to help construct new housing units for low-income families living in Tribal

communities. HUD awarded the Wyandotte Nation \$1,341,647 in order to address and meet the needs of underserved populations by developing affordable housing in a safe and healthy environment for six eligible families that meet the criteria of NAHASDA and 24 CFR 1000.104.

"This past year was a stark reminder of just how important access to safe, stable housing is—especially in Tribal communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic," said Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. "The funding HUD is awarding today will support much needed affordable housing investments in Indian Country."

It is projected that this funding

will support the construction of approximately 350 new housing units, which will help spur economic opportunities in these communities. This year's IHBG competition generated a lot of interest and was very oversubscribed with a total of 141 applications submitted by Tribes and TDHEs.

Students eligible for SNAP

The Wyandotte Nation recognizes students are facing numerous challenges due to COVID-19.

Our 477 Social Service Program wants to share beneficial information with you from the U.S. Department of Agriculture:

Due to the emergency, a change in federal law has made more students temporarily eligible for SNAP, which provides nutrition benefits to supplement the food budget of individuals and families in need to move toward self-sufficiency.

We encourage you to contact your local SNAP office, visit <https://www.fns.usda.gov/snap/state-directory> for a link to the SNAP State Directory of Resources where you will find an application for your state.

NOTE: SNAP state agencies administer the program, process applications, and determine eligibility.

For more on the Wyandotte Nation's new 477 Program, see pages 7-8 in this edition.

2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

would say today was without fire, hard mattresses, coarse blankets and no sheets. What did we have to eat? For breakfast, we had boiled beef, gravy, light bread, and weak coffee. For dinner, cornbread, beans, gravy and water. For supper, two tubs were filled with sliced light bread, in one tub two slices were put together with New Orleans molasses and there were rows of pegs about two feet apart; we boys took our place

at these one boy to a peg with the larger boys in front and these led up to where two women were in charge of the two tubs of bread and as a boy moved up to the peg in front of the tub one of the women would say "with or without" and if he said "with" he was given two slices of the light bread put together with molasses and if he said "without" he was handed two slices of dry bread, these we took and went to where the pump was

for water and this was our supper.

Major Redpath who was the agent at the Seneca Agency, came to the mission one evening as we were receiving our supper and shortly after the Government took over the school. I was seven when this happened. After that we had plenty to eat, good clothes, sheets, etc. Then our clothes were grey uniforms with red stripes and the girls received blue flannel dresses."

"A great many people think they are thinking when they are merely rearranging their prejudices." --William James

This was a Works Progress Administration Indian-Pioneer Interview taken in 1937. This is an example of what life was like for students at the Seneca Indian School in the early 1880s.

I am proud and honored to serve the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation.

Crosswinds opens for business

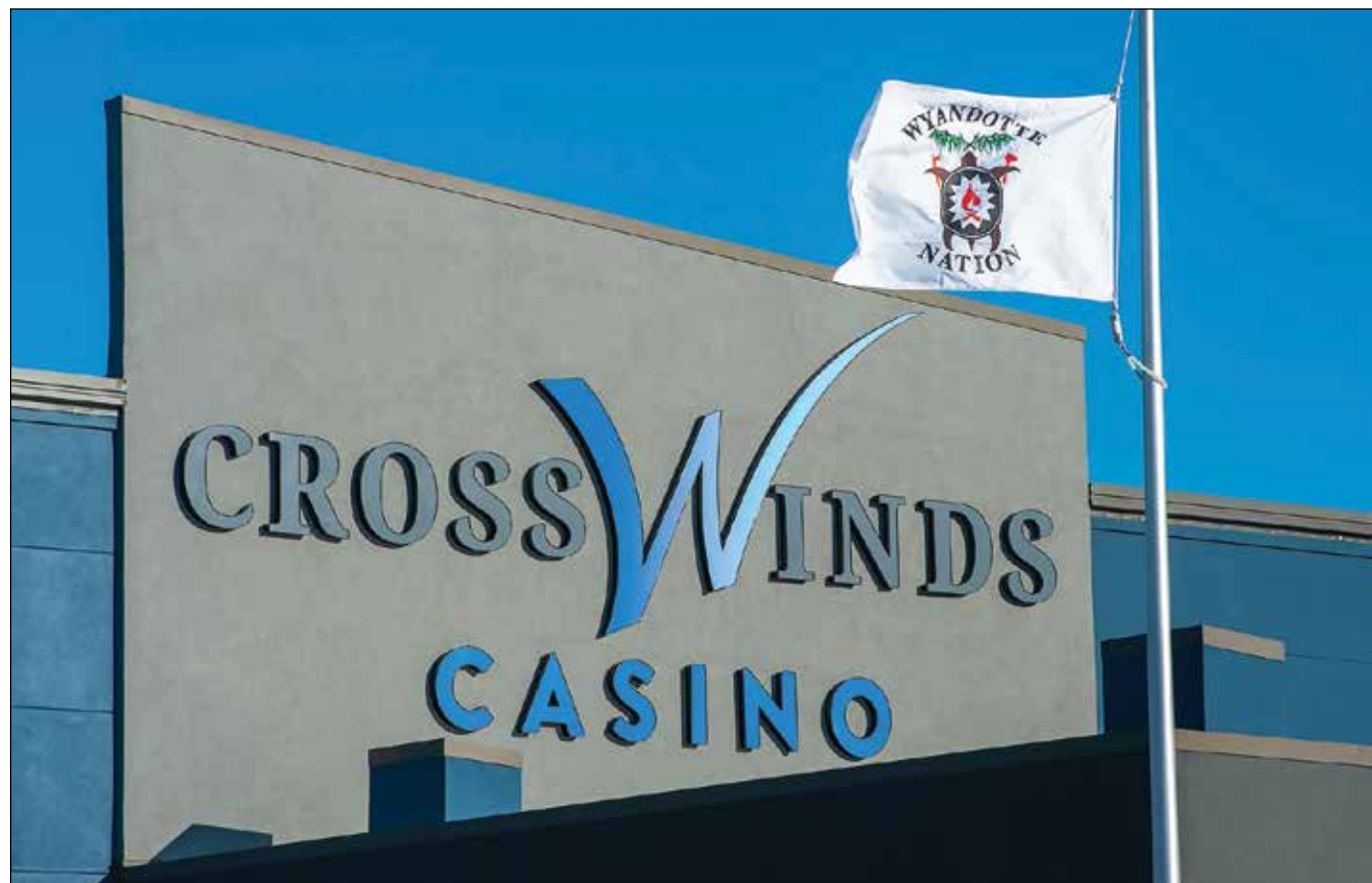
After long legal battle, casino opens to huge crowd, long lines

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

On Tuesday, March 2, after years of legal battles, the Wyandotte Nation opened the doors of the new Crosswinds Casino in Park City, Kansas. Many patrons waited in their cars for hours for the casino, located at 777 N Jackpot Way, to open. In the evening, a line of cars waiting to get to Crosswinds Casino extended out to I-135 off the 77th Street exit, and patrons waited in long lines to try out the newest addition to Park City.

“Good evening. I just want to say thank you to everybody for coming out tonight, to the ribbon cutting and the grand opening of Crosswinds Casino. It has been a long time coming,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend to applause from the crowd at the ceremony.

The new 24-hour casino features 500 new slots, 200 VGT machines with Red Spins, a High Limit Lounge, a Bar & Café, Convenient Parking, and 20,000 Sq. Feet of Excitement. The bar and café, called Bottles & Bites, serves breakfast from 6 am to 10 am, and lunch and



The Wyandotte Nation flags flaps in the breeze in front of the newly opened Crosswinds Casino in Park City, Kansas. (BELOW) Sedgwick County Commissioner Lacey Cruse joins Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors Ramona Reid, Norman Hildebrand and Vivian Fink as well as a representative from Crossland Construction during the ribbon cutting ceremony March 2.

dinner from 10 am to 2 am. It serves a variety of foods and drinks. Due to COVID-19 and safety precautions, the casino could not open to its full

capacity, creating long lines on its opening night.

“Our team is so excited to introduce Crosswinds Casino to Park City and the surrounding communities,” said Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO Kelly Carpino. WTOK is the federally chartered corporation of the Wyandotte Nation.

“Our focus with all of our gaming properties is to provide a fun, clean atmosphere with fan favorite slots and great customer service. Crosswinds Casino is ready to deliver that same experience to all of our guests.”

Chief Friend said it is was not only a great day for the people of the Wyandotte Nation, but also for the people in the community as the Tribe looked forward to being in Park City.

“This is a great night, it’s a great night for the Wyandotte Nation, a great night for the Wyandotte people. Everything we do on the economic side, the gaming side, it

enables us to further improve the quality of life for our tribal citizens; through scholarships, healthcare, housing, through everything we do. This money goes right back into supporting the lives of our people, and the people in our communities as well,” Chief Friend said.

“We look forward to being here in Park City, and becoming a stable part of this community and giving back to the programs here.”

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, Chief Friend discussed what it took to bring the casino to Park City.

He said the Wyandotte Nation in 1991 purchased 10 ½ acres where they currently stood, and finally closed on that land Nov. 25, 1992. At that time, he said, the Tribe received what we now know is a wrongful opinion from the U.S. Government from the Bureau of Indian Affairs



"This is a great night, it's a great night for the Wyandotte Nation, a great night for the Wyandotte people. Everything we do on the economic side, the gaming side, it enables us to further improve the quality of life for our tribal citizens..."

-- Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend

CROSSWINDS

Continued from Page 4

that the land did not qualify for gaming.

Following that, the Tribe went on to focus on the land in Kansas City, and eventually opened up a casino after 12 years of litigation there, now known as 7th Street Casino.

"Going through that legal process, what it proved was, the Wyandottes had bought the right piece of land the first time," Chief Friend said. "The 10 ½ acres did qualify for gaming. In 2006, we reapplied with the Bureau of Indian Affairs for an application to take this land into trust for gaming purposes. From 2006-2020 I spent a lot of time in Washington DC fighting a lot of people and against a lot of ridiculous arguments."

It was May 20, 2020, when Chief Friend received a phone call from the Bureau of Indian Affairs saying the land had been put into trust and that the land also qualified for gaming.

Chief Friend thanked a great many people who supported the Tribe and its efforts at the ribbon cutting. He gave a special thanks to the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors, some of who were on hand for the ceremony including Vivian Fink, Ramona Reid and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., as well as Carpino, new General Manager Kevin Lien and his Crosswinds Casino staff. He went on to thank staff from the Tribe's 7th Street Casino in Kansas City and staff from the River Bend Casino & Hotel in Wyandotte. He also thanked Crossland Construction, the Bank of Oklahoma, the vendors, and officials representing the city, county and chamber of commerce in Park City and Sedgwick County for supporting the Tribe



ALL PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
A long line of patrons wait to get in the casino around midnight the day of the grand opening. (BELOW and RIGHT) A look at the interior before the casino opened to the public, including some of the food served at Bottles & Bites.

all these years.

"The Wyandottes — there is one thing about us in our history, we have always been known as a people who adapt and persevere," he said. "It doesn't matter the situation we found ourselves in, our people were always good at adapting and always good at persevering... we continue to do that today."

For more, visit the Crosswinds Casino website: www.crosswindscasino.com.



Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow



**Photos By
William Swaim**



The Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow was held April 13, at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds. Head Man Joshua Garcia (pictured above), a Wyandotte tribal citizen, goes around to the students to congratulate them. Tribal Princess Sara Wright (pictured bottom left) was also the Head Lady at the Pow-Wow. The Host Drum was Michael Killer & Medicine Eagle with Emcee Choogie Kingfisher.

Johnson retires as GM from River Bend Casino & Hotel

Longtime GM led casino through rebranding, renovation

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

River Bend Casino & Hotel General Manager Gary Johnson retired after 12 plus years with the property. Johnson began when it was the Wyandotte Nation Casino and guided the casino through a massive renovation and expansion to what it is now -- the River Bend Casino & Hotel.

"When I look across our property and the things we have done over 12 years, everywhere I look I can see Gary's handprint and where he has had an impact," said Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO

Kelly Carpino to Johnson during his retirement celebration. WTOK is the federally-chartered corporation of the Wyandotte Nation. "I think even more rewarding is the impact you have had on people."

During the retirement celebration, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and River Bend Casino & Hotel employees thanked and presented Johnson with several gifts.

"I just want to say how much we appreciate Gary and what he has done for the Wyandotte Nation," Chief Billy Friend said at the celebration. "He bought into what



Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, right, presents Gary Johnson, retired General Manager of River Bend Casino & Hotel (formerly Wyandotte Nation Casino) with a gift during a retirement ceremony at the casino. Johnson helped get the casino off the ground and later through its rebranding and renovation

WILLIAM SWAIM |
WYANDOTTE NATION

See **JOHNSON**, Page 7

New 477 Program offers services to assist citizens

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation has a new program that may be beneficial to you.

The Tribe provides services under Public Law 102-477, which allows it to combine certain formula-funded federal grants into a single plan.

The ultimate goal of the new Wyandotte Nation 477 Program is to create safe and stable families, raise educational achievement, develop and enhance employment opportunities, integrate employment and training services, and increase self-sufficiency.

The 477 Program provides services for job training and work experience as well as educational assistance. The Program provides

financial assistance for classroom training, vocational training, and other job readiness services.

"With our program, you can take a free online Career assessment to help determine the best career path for you," said Michael Lowery, Grant Writer/477 Coordinator for the Wyandotte Nation.

The 477 Program also provides funding assistance to the Native American community in order to increase the availability, affordability, and quality of childcare services. Each family is able to select an approved childcare provider that fits their needs, which allows families to maintain or achieve self-sufficiency through work or education.

See 477 Program, Page 8

Wyandotte Nation
P.L. 102-477 Service Area Map



Counties serviced by Wyandotte Nation's 477 Plan are included in the 100-mile radius area.

Wyandotte Nation hosts first Easter Egg Hunt



The Wyandotte Nation hosted an Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, March 27, at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow grounds for children ages 12 and under.

The Easter Bunny was on hand to see kids race for the 6,000 Easter eggs that were scattered and filled with candy.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said based on the success of the first event, the Tribe will consider making it an annual. The event was sponsored by the Wyandotte Nation Family Services, the Cultural Division, Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, and CCDF.



Photos By William Swaim

JOHNSON

Continued from Page 6

we were doing. Everything here we do economically, the casino side, we reinvest everything not only back into our tribal citizens, we reinvest it back into our properties and into our employees."

Chief Friend presented Johnson with one of the highest honors the Tribe gives to those who have had a substantial impact, a handcrafted knife, carved by tribal citizen Deryl Wright.

In addition to the Tribe's gift, employees presented several gifts to their former boss.

"It has been a heck of a ride, we are going to miss you boss," said Casey Ellett, Marketing Manager for River Bend Casino & Hotel. "The thing we are proud of here is where you have taken us. You have directed us, been our leader for 12 years, we couldn't have asked for anything more. We are going to miss you and good luck on your next step."

Johnson spoke to all who came out to wish him well, cracking a few jokes, but also thankful for the help as well the retirement well wishes.

"I thank everyone for all the things you have done for me. It was not a one-man show. Whatever I did I couldn't have done without you," Johnson said. "I will miss everyone here. I will never forget this experience."

River Bend Casino & Hotel has another Gary in charge, this time Gary Stella, who took over as the new GM for the retired Johnson.

477 Program

Continued from Page 7

477 Program Eligibility Requirements

1. Complete, signed, and dated application;
2. Member of a Federally Recognized Tribe;
3. Selective Service Registration Card (if applicable);
4. Proof of Residency in Service Area.

Additional Required Documents Include (Financial/Educational Assistance):

1. Driver's License;
2. Social Security Card;
3. Financial Aid Needs Analysis;
4. Personal Statement for Service;
5. FAFSA Report.

Additional Required Documents Include (Childcare Assistance):

1. Social Security Card (all household members);
2. Birth Certificate of Children in Daycare;
3. Verification of Income; and
4. Class schedule, if attending classes.

The Program provides a childcare subsidy for eligible families that meet income guidelines based on their family size. Parents are responsible for a co-pay to the daycare and the Tribe covers the remaining childcare costs.

Wyandotte Nation's 477 Plan serves all counties within a 100-mile radius from Wyandotte, Okla.

"Reach out to our office and let us help you reduce or remove barriers in your life preventing you from

reaching your educational or employment goals," Lowery said.

The Wyandotte Nation is the only Tribe of the nine tribes in Ottawa County that offers the program.

For more information on the program, including an Introduction Video, Testimonial, service area map, brochure and all applications, visit the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation477Program

or website: www.wyandotte-nation.org/477program.

On the Facebook page, job fairs, events and other useful information will be posted so make sure to 'follow' the page. You can also find the 477 Program on Twitter: www.twitter.com/477Nation.

You can also contact the 477 Program staff (call: 918-678-3268 or email: wn477@wyandotte-nation.org

org) or visit during office hours Monday – Thursday from 8 am - 4:30 pm and Friday from 8 am – 3:30 pm. The offices are located at 64790 East Highway 60 Wyandotte, OK 74370. The Wyandotte Nation is closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Federal Holidays.

NOTE: All services are contingent upon the availability of funds and no services are guaranteed.

We have moved: New Tribal Administration Building



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Tribal government staff has moved into the new Tribal Administration Building, located at 8 Turtle Drive, Wyandotte, OK 74370, and just across from Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. **NOTE:** Housing and Courts are located in the old administration building located at 64700 E. Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370.



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.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Family Service Department is very happy to welcome tribal citizen Katie Griffin.



GRIFFIN

Katie will serve as our Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Elder Abuse Advocate. She graduated from Seneca High School and attended MSSU. Katie is a Certified Nursing Assistant, and also participated in our Summer Youth Intern program for three years. She enjoys spending most of her time having fun with her family, friends, and her 2-year-old son. In her free time, you can find her crafting, cooking, and playing pickle ball. We are very fortunate to have Katie on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Accounting Department is happy to welcome Eric Fonseca. Eric



FONSECA

will serve as the Controller for the Wyandotte Nation. Eric graduated from NEO A&M College and LLC with an Associate's Degree in Forestry and Accounting. He earned his Bachelor's Degree in Accounting from Ashford University, and has his Master's Degree in Accounting from MSSU. He brings a wealth of experience in Accounting. His hobbies include basketball, golf, NCAA, and watching TV, movies. His spare time includes spending time with his family, traveling, playing soccer, basketball and tennis. We are very fortunate to have Eric on our team and wish him much success in his new position.



DESHA

The Accounting Department is also happy to welcome Shelby Desha. Shelby will serve

as the Accounting Specialist for the Wyandotte Nation. Shelby graduated from NEO with an Associate's Degree in applied Science with an emphasis in Accounting. In her spare time, she enjoys stand up paddle boarding, video games, kickboxing, hiking, and running. She loves spending time with her husband, daughter, two dogs and her cat. We are very fortunate to have Shelby on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome back Krisha Arnall to her new position as Infant Caregiver, Chloe Sikes as a Substitute, and Allie Briggs and Ethan Krebs as part-time After-school Childcare Assistants.



ARNALL

Krisha graduated from Picher High School, and attended Labette Community College where she played softball. She enjoys working out, puzzles, coloring, taking pictures, softball, basketball and shopping in her spare time. Krisha also loves spending time with her two kids, friends and family, being outdoors in the summer, bowling, dancing, and going on fun adventures. We are happy to have Krisha back on our team.



BRIGGS



KREBS

Allie is a Wyandotte tribal citizen. Allie has experience with children as she worked for the Wyandotte Nation in our Summer Youth Program. She attended Neosho High School and is currently at MSSU, with a major in Psychology. Her hobbies include spending time with her family, cooking and traveling. We are happy to have Allie on our team.

Ethan has experience in childcare, including baby-sitting for many

years, and also served as a paraprofessional for Fairland Public Schools. His hobbies include music, video games and working out. We are happy to have Ethan join our team.



SIKES

Chloe attends Seneca High School. Her hobbies include band, spending time with family and attending church. We are pleased to have Chloe and wish her much success in her new position.



FRIEND

We are excited to have Caleb Friend in his new position as IT Technician. Caleb is a tribal citizen and has worked for different entities of the Wyandotte Nation for almost six years. He is eager to get started in his new role after recently going back to school and receiving his CompTia A+ and MTA Networking Fundamentals certifications. Caleb has excellent customer service skills and has done a great job assisting wherever he is needed, and helped to get several departments up and running in our new Administration Building. We are very excited and wish Caleb much success!

The Planning and Natural Resources Department welcomes John



GERHARD

Gerhard, who previously worked for the Tribe in Maintenance. John, a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation, received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. In his spare time, John enjoys playing sports and is a musician. He also likes construction projects. We are very fortunate to have John join our team.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome R.

Mickey Rogers. Mickey has nearly three years' experience with Law En-



ROGERS

forcement. He attended NEO A&M and graduated from Miami High School. Mickey enjoys spending time with his family and chasing the kids from one activity to the next. In his spare time enjoys fishing, golf and floating on Grand Lake. We are very fortunate to have Mickey and wish him much success in his new position.

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome Jade Robertson, RN, Tanya Jackson, and Casey LeadingFox, RN, as PRN Clinic Staff.

Jade grew up in Wyandotte. She has a nursing degree, and graduated



ROBERTSON

nursing school at NEO and received her Bachelor's Degree in Science in Nursing from Oklahoma Wesleyan University. She has worked in healthcare as Clinic Liaison from 2015-2019. Jade spends all her free time with her family, husband and two girls. She is excited to come back and serve the community. We are very fortunate to have Jade on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

Tanya graduated from Fairland High School and received her



JACKSON

Medical Laboratory Tech from NEO. Tanya also received her Bachelors in Psychology. She has worked in the health industry for a number of years. In her spare time, she enjoys time with family and watching her daughter in Marching Band. Tanya also enjoys reading and gardening.

Continued on Page 10

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 9

We are very fortunate to have Tanya on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

Casey has worked for five years as an LPN and five years as an RN.



LEADINGFOX

In her spare time, she enjoys reading, sewing, gardening, and cooking. Casey also enjoys spending time with her family; they work together outside, take care of their animals and property and attend Pow-Wow's where her husband dances and other family members sing. We are very fortunate to have Casey on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Gaming Department is very happy to welcome Jennifer Mead. Jennifer will serve as



MEAD

a new Background Investigator/Compliance Officer in Park City, Kansas. Jennifer comes to us from Crosswinds Casino in Kansas. Jennifer brings with her a wealth of knowledge. She has WTI Computer, Networking and Administration background. Jennifer enjoys Camping, outdoors and sports. She loves spending time with family and friends. We are very fortunate to have Jennifer join our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Facilities Department is very excited to welcome Joe Vance as custodian. Joe graduated from East Newton High School. He has over 20



VANCE

years' experience in customer service. In his spare time, he enjoys horseback riding and playing video games. Joe also enjoys spending time with friends and family. We are very happy to have Joe on our Facilities team and wish him much success in his new position.

Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,
Family Services Director*

The Family Services staff, along with other administrative departments, have settled into the new Administration Complex located on the hill near the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center and Cultural Center. We are excited to be in our new space and look forward to seeing more of our tribal citizens face-to-face. The past 12 months have certainly been a challenge for us all, but we as Wyandotte people have persevered, just as our ancestors did.

We are looking forward to attending in-person events this year starting with Little Turtles, which will be held June 25–27. Planning for The Gathering, Annual Meeting and the Pow-Wow are also in the works for Sept. 7–12. This is an election year, so please be sure to have your tribal card with you at the Annual Meeting Saturday, Sept. 11.

If you don't have a citizenship card that includes your photo, you will also need to have a photo ID. If you are in need of a citizenship card with your photo, stop by our office or give us a call and we can provide you with options on how to obtain one. We do get several questions regarding the "expiration date" and why the citizenship cards expire. There are a couple of reasons why an expiration date is included, first is so the card can be used as an official form of ID (when a photo and signature are included) and the second being a way to keep our tribal citizen records up-to-date.

Town Halls are still pending with possible plans to host them in October in both Northern and Southern California. More information will be available in the August issue of the newsletter. If we are able to move forward with the meetings, citizens who reside within a 200-mile radius of the meeting sites will be mailed post card announcements with details.

We encourage tribal citizens to read the newsletters in detail. There is so much good and useful information shared here. Unfortunately, we have citizens who miss tribal services and programs. Program and service announcements are also posted on our website www.wyandotte-nation.org and the Facebook page so it will be helpful for citizens

to utilize those resources as well.

Below you will find details about all of the programs available through the Family Services Department. Family Services program information can also be found on the website under the Community/Family Services tab. If you have questions or need additional information please don't hesitate to contact a member of the staff.

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

School Supplies – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY-INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED FOR CORRECTIONS:

Applications will be available beginning July 1 on the Wyandotte Nation website, at the Family Services office or can be faxed/emailed to you. Tribal citizens residing in the 4-state area (OK, KS, AR, MO) can receive a \$100 Walmart gift card or submit receipts for reimbursement up to \$100. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement. The correct application must be used.

Tribal citizens who reside outside of the 4-state area will be eligible for the \$100 reimbursement program. Eligible items for the program are school supplies, clothing, shoes, socks and school supply fees charged by schools. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2021 no exceptions. Applications and receipts must be original documents and a separate receipt for each child is required. Faxed or emailed applications and receipts will not be accepted. There will be additional information available with the applications beginning July 1.

Senior Energy – Tribal citizens 55 and older nationwide are eligible for this program. Applications will be available July 1 for \$100 assistance to be paid directly to the utility provider. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept 30.

Elders Assistance – One-time expense for \$250 for tribal elders aged 55 and over who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, AR, MO) Applications

must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2021 to be eligible.

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

Jr/Sr Benefit - \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School. This benefit is available to Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR) and applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2021.

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

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

Continued on Page 11

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) 678-6353

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 10

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

Enrollment – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2021 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate. Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year and birth certificates will be returned within 10-14 business days. Applications received after this date will be held until the 2022 Annual Meeting so it's extremely important to get the applications to us in a timely manner.

New Enrollee Benefit - If a child's application is received prior to their first birthday, they will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card and a blanket with the Tribal Turtle.

Tribal Tags – Please note that Tiffany Garner is the new Tag Administrator for this program and the primary contact. Her contact information is listed later in this article. Tribal citizens must reside in Oklahoma AND the vehicle must be "primarily garaged" in Oklahoma Indian Country to be eligible for this program. Passenger, RV, Motorcycle and Handicap tags are available. Please call the office for prices and additional information. Things to keep in mind when renewing tags and purchasing new vehicles:

- Tribal citizen's name MUST be on the title at the time of sale. Staff cannot add or delete names.
- Renewal notices are mailed as a courtesy by the 15th of the month prior to the expiration, but it is the responsibility of the tribal citizen to renew their vehicle regardless if they receive the notice.
- Current insurance verification is required. Please have a paper copy of this when coming to the office. If you need to email it, please send to

wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org BEFORE you come to the office.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card) - \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens beginning Jan. 1 each year. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Please note that this program is only for enrolled Wyandotte Nation citizens and does not cover spouses, step-children, etc. Quarterly statements are mailed by Trustmark and account balances can be obtained at any time via www.mytrustmark.com or by calling 800-990-9058 ext 42086. Family Services staff can also answer questions about the program, but may need to refer you to Trustmark in some instances. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRS is currently allowing purchases for such items as PPE, hand sanitizer, ibuprofen, aspirin, cold medicine, etc. that are not normally allowable purchases.

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

Family Violence Prevention Program – Program provides advocacy and services to victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking and elder abuse. This program is available to any person residing within a 25-mile radius of the tribal headquarters and limited advocacy can be provided for Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide. The Program also hosts quarterly culture events in conjunction with the Cultural Department as well as several outreach and awareness events throughout the year for the community. This program continues to expand based on the increased needs within the local community. If you are in a situation where you feel helpless, please call one of our Advocates and they will do their best to help you either through our program or by connecting you with a program in your area.

Foster Family Recruitment – Indian Child Welfare social workers

are actively seeking foster families. If you think this might be something you would be interested in please contact the office for more information.

Family Services Staff:

Director, Dana Butterfield, 918-678-6319, dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg, 918-678-6355, tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org

ICW Worker, Carmalita Ward, 918-678-6485, cward@wyandotte-nation.org

Tag Administrator, Tiffany Garner, 918-678-6353, tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org

Family Services Specialist, Leeanne Radabaugh, 918-678-6329, lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org

DV Advocate/Educator Supervisor, Lisa Arnold, 918-678-6324, lisaarnold@wyandotte-nation.org

DV/SA Advocate, Cesilie Hale, 918-678-3269, chale@wyandotte-nation.org

DV/Elder Abuse Advocate, Katie Griffin, 918-678-6486, kgriffin@wyandotte-nation.org

Family Services email: wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org.

Family Violence Prevention Program: fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org.

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

On March 22, after over a year of serving drive thru meals, we were finally able to open our dining room for congregate meals. Everyone was so happy to see each other again face-to-face. We have not brought the salad bar back yet but are hoping to sometime in the near future.

Since the weather is getting warmer we were able to start our Car Bingo once again. We held our first one March 31 at the First Christian Church parking lot in Miami, Okla. Our next ones will be April 30, May 20, June 11 and June 25. We will alternate between the Border-town Casino parking lot and the First Christian Church parking lot. Duke Mason will sing from 2-3 pm and Bingo will begin at 3 pm. There will be a lot of door prizes and fun! Participants must be 55 or older. Come out and play with us!

Our beading classes will resume Wednesday and Thursday, May 5-6, and will continue every week.

Our Mother's Day Dinner will be Thursday, May 6, and our Father's

Continued on Page 12

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. 11
Children's Christmas Party: Dec. 11

Note: All applications must be in our office or post marked on or before the last day of the program.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 11

Day Dinner will be Thursday, June 17.

CAREGIVER

Our in-person Caregiver Support Group will resume Thursday, May 6, and will be held 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 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, Robyn Beaty and Ashley Webb, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328

Menu, (918) 678-6326

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

Kweh,

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program will begin processing fall 2021 semester scholarships soon. If you are currently on the scholarship program, you will need to email, mail, or fax our Education Specialist, Evan Hotulke your latest transcript. Your transcript will need to include your spring 2021 grades and your fall 2021 schedule.

Reminder: the deadline for fall submissions is May 1, 2021.

Here are a few Wyandotte Nation Undergraduate Scholarship reminders:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight semesters.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the programs duration.

- Deadline for spring submission is Feb. 15.

- Deadline for fall submission is May 1.

To obtain an Undergraduate or Masters Scholarship application the Wyandotte Nation offers, you can email your request or any questions you may have to Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist at ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org; or by calling his office at 918-678-6331.

Wyandotte Nation Honor Stoles: Wyandotte Nation honor stoles are distributed to graduates of a post-secondary institution. The Stole Program is available for college students who have participated in our scholarship program and are a Wyandotte Nation Citizen. Students graduating from high school and vocational programs are not eligible. Tribal citizens may request a stole by contacting the Education Department to request an application for the stole. The student will need to supply proof of graduation along with the application and your latest transcript during the final semester.

Children enrolled in the Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is back to attending our programs Monday through Friday. If you have a child, ages 3-5, and live in the Wyandotte, OK area, we are accepting applications for the upcoming preschool year.

Applications are available by emailing Lindsay Cooper at lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org or you can request one by calling Lindsay at 918-678-3267. Our Infant, One-year old and Toddler programs are currently full. You may contact Lindsay to request an application to get your child on the waiting list.

The Wyandotte Nation Library is operating full time. The hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. Our Librarian, Madeline Harnar, has been busy planning different STEM activities for our toddler class, preschool classes, and afterschool program.

The children have loved participating in these activities with Madeline. Madeline's contact information: mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org, and her office phone is 918-678-6332, you may contact her with library needs

you may have.

Wyandotte Nation is providing services under Public Law 102-477, which allows us to combine certain formula-funded federal grants into a single plan. Our goal is to create safe and stable families, raise educational achievement, develop and enhance employment opportunities, integrate employment and training services, and increase self-sufficiency.

Wyandotte Nation's 477 Program services all counties within a 100-mile radius from our Tribal Headquarters in Wyandotte, Okla. Services provided under the 477 Program include: job training and work experience, educational assistance, and childcare assistance. Eligibility requirements:

- Complete, signed, and dated application
- Member of a federally recognized tribe
- Selective Service Registration Card
- Proof of residency in Service Area

Additional required documents will be needed once you are placed with a service. You may request an application to apply for any of our 477 services by emailing wn477@wyandotte-nation.org or by calling Kasey Lewis at 918-678-3268.

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

Department Contacts:

Cristi Hudson – Education Director, 918-678-6334 or chudson@wyandotte-nation.org

Sami Butterfield – Caseworker/Childcare Specialist, 918-678-6330 or sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org

Lindsay Cooper – Early Childhood Program Coordinator, 918-678-3267 or lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org

Madeline Harnar – Librarian, 918-678-6332 or mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org

Evan Hotulke — Caseworker/Education/Employment Specialist, 918-678-6331 or ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org

Kasey Lewis – Intake Clerk, 918-678-3268 or klewis@wyandotte-nation.org

Planning & Natural Resources

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

The 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 homeowners. 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.

Thank you for recycling so many materials during the winter months! Usually we see a decrease in recyclable products during late winter and early spring, but many of you continue to bring us your metals, plastics, and paper.

Amounts collected for the months of January through March are listed on page 13 in this article.

Our department stays busy with monthly and quarterly sampling as well as monitoring of eight sites on area lakes and streams within Wyandotte Nation's Historic Jurisdiction. We adjusted our schedule due to measureable amounts of snow and heavy rain, but the staff presses on to ensure all sampling is completed in accordance with our Water Grant. We also stay busy sampling several private wells and overseeing the process of getting Well #1 back online for the Wyandotte Nation Utilities Department.

In January, staff worked with a Certified Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) Contractor to assess and replace a failing septic system located within approximately 0.25 miles from the Neosho River. Thankfully, we were awarded a Non-point Source Water Pollution

Continued on Page 13

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 12



Grant from EPA that allows us to replace one failing system a year. Spring is here! The birds are singing. Grass is green, and flowers are blooming. Enjoy warmer temperatures and the great outdoors, but be mindful of snakes and ticks. Many in the community are beginning to request permission to fish around the Lost Creek area. Please contact the Land Management Specialist if you need any hunting or fishing permits on tribal property.

Meet the Department

Each newsletter provides you with names, information, and duties performed by our department. We will begin highlighting a different staff member each quarter. This quarter we are showcasing John Gerhard.

We welcomed John Gerhard as our new Water Tech II employee. John is a Wyandotte Nation tribal citizen



GERHARD

who is a great asset to our department. John will help with water sampling and monitoring, assisting at the recycle center, and learning ArcGIS mapping, which is used for creating maps, compiling geographic data, analyzing mapped information, using maps and geographic information in a range of applications, and managing geographic information in a database.

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 com-

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Wyandotte Nation received Emergency Rental Assistance, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021. If you are in need of help with past due rent, current rent, or utilities, please fill out and return the application for assistance, which is found on the Wyandotte Nation website. Income guidelines do apply. This is a nationwide program.

The Community Center received water damage after the big freeze we had in February. The Housing Offices were temporarily moved to the old administration building. By the time you are reading this, we hope to be back in our offices at the Community Center.

If you are in need of a rental home, please fill out an application and return it to the Housing Office. Federal income guidelines apply.

If you are 55 and older, our senior housing may be for you. The duplexes are all two bedrooms, are equipped with appliances, and a garage. All yardwork is done for you. Title VI (Elder food program) and Bearskin Clinic are close by. If you are interested, please fill out an application and return it to the housing office.

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. assistance, as well as the day-to-day activities of the department. community. Projects often serve tribal citizens within a 50-mile radius of tribal headquarters; however, some formula funded grants may serve citizens within a 100-mile radius. Ultimately, the department's desire is to serve and create a positive impact on all Wyandottes across the United States. Feel free to contact

Solid Waste Collected from January - March	
Aluminum	314 lbs.
Cardboard	15,116 lbs.
Magazines	975 lbs.
Plastic (#1 & #2)	1,284 lbs.
Shredded Paper	1,069 lbs.
Tin	693 lbs.
Combined Total	19,451 lbs.

Housing

Emergency rental Assistance Program

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021 created the Emergency Rental Assistance Program and makes available \$25 billion provided directly to States, U.S. Territories, local governments, and Indian Tribes. This program is utilized to administer assistance to renters, landlords and utility providers that have been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic and economic insecurity.

Wyandotte Nation is a participant in the program and announces to tribal citizens that have been affected by this pandemic, the availability of funding to lessen the burden of rent and utilities.

What is covered:

- Past due rent
- Past due utilities including, water, gas, propane and electric
- Rental assistance up to three months forward

Who qualifies:

- Tribal members 18 years and

- older who are renting
- Demonstrated risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability
- Experienced a reduction in household income, incurred significant costs, experienced a financial hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic, or have qualified for unemployment benefits since March 13, 2020.
- Household income at or below 80% of the area median income, in the county you reside.

Applications are available on the Wyandotte Nation website, www.wyandotte-nation.org. You may also call 918-678-6339, or 918-678-6336, or email kde-weese@wyandotte-nation.org.

Please contact us for any questions or concerns you may have. We are here to assist you.

assistance, as well as the day-to-day activities of the department.

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 Maintenance Technician

our department if you have a community project idea for a grant.

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 John Gerhard, jgerhard@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@wyandotte-nation.org
Grant Writer / BIA Self-Governance Coordinator Debbie Dry, ddry@wyandotte-nation.org
Grant Writer 2/ 477 Coordinator Michael Lowery, mlowery@wyandotte-nation.org

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Healthcare

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) American Indian/Alaska Native (AI/AN) People have the highest COVID-19 hospitalization rate at 281 per 100,000 – a rate 5.3 times higher than for non-Hispanic Whites. Aggregated national data on death rates shows that AI/AN People are experiencing the second highest COVID-19 death rate, at 60.5 deaths per 100,000. Everyone 16 years of age and older is now eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination. Widespread vaccination is the critical tool to helping stop the pandemic.

Here at Bearskin Healthcare, since Dec. 22, 2020, over 5,019 individuals have completed or begun the vaccination process. Over 9,400 injections have been given!

Moderna and Pfizer vaccinations are available.

What's the difference in Moderna and Pfizer?

Per the CDC, Pfizer

General Information

Name: BNT162b2

Manufacturer: Pfizer, Inc.

Type of Vaccine: mRNA

Number of Shots: 2 shots, 21 days apart

How Given: Shot in the muscle of the upper arm

Does NOT Contain: Eggs, preservatives, latex

The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is recommended for people aged 16 years and older.

Based on evidence from clinical trials, the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine was 95% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people without evidence of previous infection.

Per the CDC, Moderna

General Information

Name: mRNA-1273

Manufacturer: ModernaTX, Inc.

Type of Vaccine: mRNA

Number of Shots: 2 shots, one month (28 days) apart

How Given: Shot in the muscle of the upper arm

Does NOT Contain: Eggs, preservatives, latex

The Moderna vaccine is recommended for people aged 18 years and older.

Based on evidence from clinical trials, the Moderna vaccine was 94.1% effective at preventing laboratory-confirmed COVID-19 illness in people who received two doses who had no evidence of being previously infected.

Possible Side Effects for both vaccinations include:

In the arm where you got the shot:

• Pain • Redness • Swelling

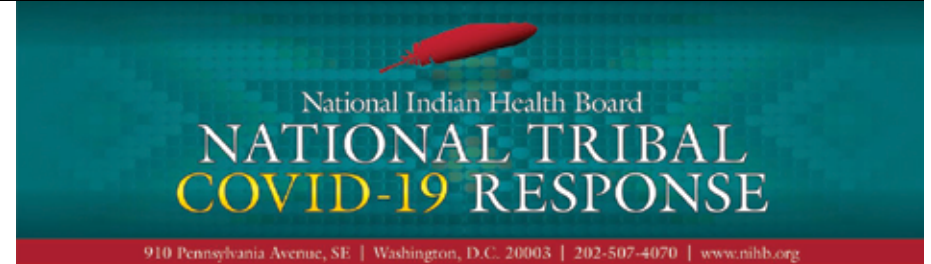
Throughout the rest of your body:

• Tiredness • Headache • Muscle pain • Chills • Fever • Nausea

These side effects usually start within a day or two of getting the vaccine. Side effects might affect your ability to do daily activities, but they should go away in a few days.

Who Should NOT Get Vaccinated

If you have had a severe allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) or an immediate allergic reaction, even if it was



3/3/2021

COVID-19 Variants: Facts to Know

Several variants of the virus that causes COVID-19 have been documented in the United States (US) and globally during this pandemic. The press frequently uses the terms "variant," "strain," "mutant," and "lineage" interchangeably. New variants of a virus are expected to occur over time, since viruses continuously change through mutation. Sometimes new variants appear and then disappear. Other times, new variants develop and infect the population.

Scientists are researching whether SARS-CoV-2 Variants:

- Spread more easily among individuals.
- Produce milder or more severe disease in individuals.
- Can be identified by currently available viral tests.
- React to current treatments being used to treat COVID-19 patients.
- Will currently authorized vaccines protect individuals against them.



Emerging Variants		
B.1.1.7 or United Kingdom (UK) Variant	B.1.351 or South Africa Variant	P.1 or Brazil Variant
First Detected: September 2020 in the United Kingdom	First Detected: Early October 2020 in South Africa	First Detected: January 2021 in Japan and Brazil
Transmissible: This variant is related with increased transmissibility (spreads more easily and quickly than other variants) as of 3/1/2021.	Transmissible: There is no data to indicate that this variant has any effect on disease severity, as of 3/1/2021.	Transmissible: There is data to indicate that some of the changes in the P.1 variant may impact its transmissibility that affects the ability of antibodies generated through a previous natural infection or through vaccination to identify and neutralize the virus, as of 3/1/2021.
Reported cases in the US: 2506 confirmed cases as of 3/2/2021 found in 46 jurisdictions in the US.	Reported cases in the US: 65 confirmed cases as of 3/2/2021 found in 17 jurisdictions in the US.	Reported cases in the US: 10 confirmed cases as of 3/2/2021 found in 5 jurisdictions in the US.

For more information, or to learn more about SARS-CoV-2 Variants, visit the CDC at the links below.

<https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2021/s0301-covid-19-variants.html>

Disclaimer: This fact sheet is supported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) as part of a financial assistance award totaling \$2,800,000 with 100 percent funded by CDC/HHS. The contents are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the official views of, nor an endorsement by CDC/HHS, or the U.S. Government.

For more information, visit NIH's National Tribal COVID-19 Response page at www.nihb.org

not severe:

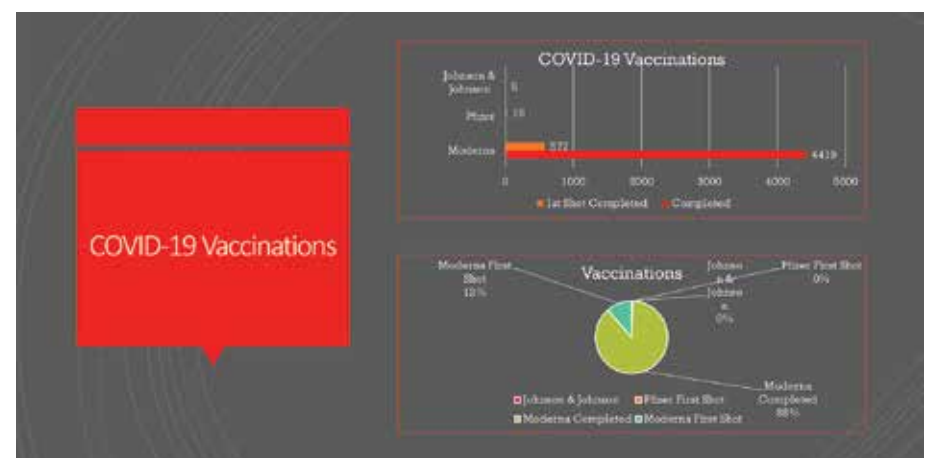
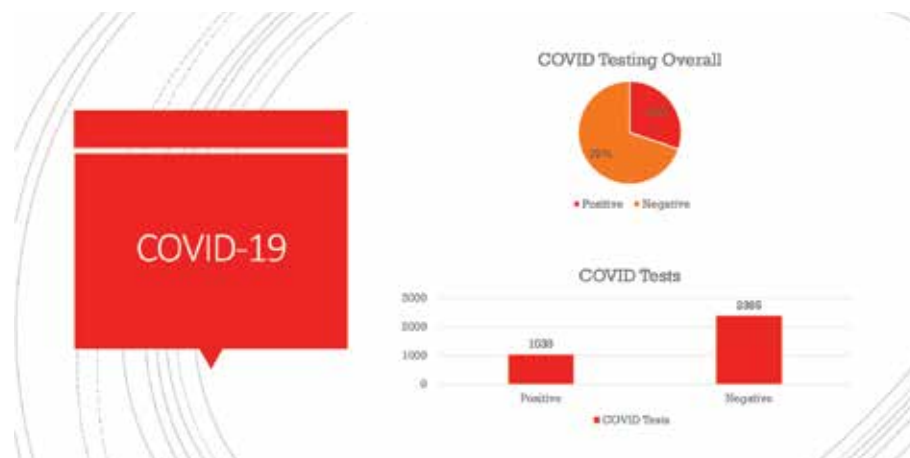
• to any ingredient in an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (such as polyethylene glycol), you should not get an mRNA COVID-19 vaccine.*

• or after getting the first dose

of the vaccine, you should not get a second dose of either of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines.

An allergic reaction is consid-

Continued on Page 15

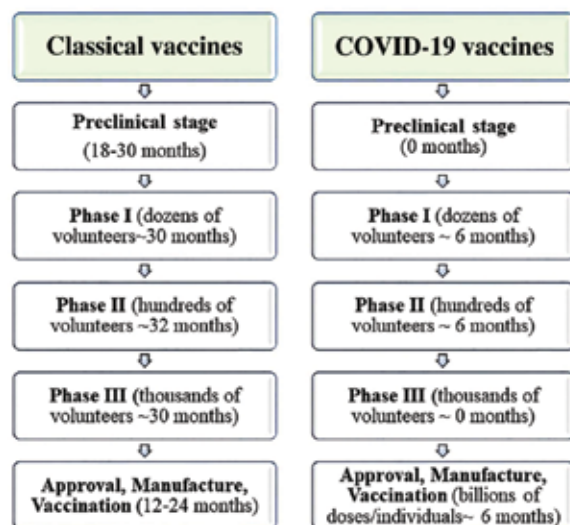


TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

SARS-CoV-2 (COVID-19) Vaccine Trial

In Operation Warp Speed (OWS), scientists sped up the development, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, diagnostics, and therapeutics. The goal is to produce and deliver 300 million doses of effective and safe vaccines in early 2021. How did OWS manage to speed up the process?

1. Known information and experience with previous coronaviruses like severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) and Middle East respiratory syndrome (MERS).
2. No financial risk to the companies, because of government financing that permit development, trials, manufacturing, and distribution of COVID-19.
3. Simultaneously performed all trial phases (the figure below shows that the Preclinical and Phase I, as well as Phases II and III were conducted at the same time).



Source: <https://www.spendidos-publications.com/10.3892/jimm.2020.4596>

For more information, visit NIH's National Tribal COVID-19 Response page at www.nih.gov

Continued from Page 14

ered severe when a person needs to be treated with epinephrine or EpiPen® or if they must go to the hospital. Learn about common side effects of COVID-19 vaccines and when to call a doctor.

An immediate allergic reaction means a reaction within 4 hours of getting vaccinated, including symptoms such as hives, swelling, or wheezing (respiratory distress).

Vaccinations are still available! Call 918-678-3228 to schedule yours today!

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John Bearden, Compliance Officer / Vaccines 918-678-6482

Sheryl Hogan, Business Services Manager 918-678-3226

Ashley Crawford, Eastern Shawnee Liaison / Dental, Optometry, Audiology 918-678-3222

Bridget Hart, Purchased/Referred Care 918-678-3227

Deana Sweatt, Pharmacist 918-678-3247
 Refills, Automated Pharmacy Refill Line 918-678-3244

Tribal Heritage

Submitted by Kim Garcia, Cultural Preservation Officer

A lot of work has been done during our restructuring phase at the Cultural Division. We are diligently working on updating procedures, learning new crafts to teach, preparing language curriculum, contacting artists to teach classes, and more. Some of the highlights of what we've been doing are:

- **Revisions to the cemetery** – We have contracted to add a columbarium in the cemetery that can hold urns from cremations. This will be completed during the summer. We are also updating the cemetery

records in order to better serve the community.

- **Learning new crafts** – Chris has been working on pucker-toe moccasins (our traditional style) and wampum belts. We also joined the Eastern Shawnees and learned about tapping maple trees and boiling down the sap to make syrup.

- **Building a raised beds garden** – Chris built several raised beds and has planted traditional 3 sisters garden (corn, beans, and squash). He also planted tobacco, sage, and sweet grass to be used for our own ceremonial purposes. He hopes to use the garden for an educational experience for tribal citizens and the community. Also, he hopes to harvest from the garden and provide traditional recipes.

- **Restructuring the library** – Beci has been making additions to the library to make it a research library for Wyandotte Citizens.

- **Language** – Beci is working with our linguist, Dr. Craig Kopris, to revamp our language program. They are making corrections to older material and creating curriculum to be coming out in the summer.

- **Ancestors' Project** – Beci has organized this project to work with Wyandotte Citizens on their genealogy. She has begun by creating several family trees through ancestry.com.

- **Facebook Live classes on the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center Facebook Page** – Every other Wednesday, at noon (CST), Kim teaches beading classes through Facebook Live. If you're not able to make it at that time, the classes are recorded and posted to the page.

- **Zoom meetings** – We have had several Zoom meetings to discuss the Wa'dat language, Ancestors' Projects, Social Hours, and craft classes. We want to continue using Zoom for classes even once we go to in-person so we can include more people. It's been fun getting to know people from all over.

- **Scheduling for in-person classes** – In May, we are transitioning to hosting classes in-person at the Cultural Center. We have been contacting teachers for crafts, dance classes, and more. Our intentions are to do as much as we can through Zoom as well.

- **Golf Scramble** – this year's golf

scramble is June 11. Contact Sherri Clemons for more information.

- **Independence Day Celebration** – the fireworks will be held on July 2. Plan on joining us for live music, food vendors, and a great fireworks show!

Also, this summer we are hosting lacrosse camp June 22-24, 9 am to 2 pm each day. Please check the website for registration or go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/LAX2021 to register.

Gathering of Little Turtles 2021 will begin at 9 am on Friday, June 25 and will last through Sunday, June 27. Our theme this year is turtles and we are planning a lot of fun activities for our kids. If your little turtle (child) would like to learn more about being Wyandotte, please check the website for registration or go to www.surveymonkey.com/r/GLT2021 to register. We have a book of rooms at the River Bend Casino for \$59 a night. Mention Little Turtles while booking to get the rate.

Lastly, we are excited to announce a scholarship that we are providing to one lucky family to attend the Gathering and Pow-Wow this year. Visit www.surveymonkey.com/r/PowWow2021 for more details and to apply.

Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/Wyandotteculturalcenter for updates. If you don't have access to the internet to register for any of the above events, you can contact any of us at the Cultural Center and we can assist you to get you registered. We can also put you on a list to be contacted for future classes.

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Important Numbers

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Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
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Dental / Vision
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Fitness Center
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Diabetes Clinic
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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2021

MEMORIAL DAY HONORING

MAY
31



POW-WOW GOLF SCRAMBLE

JUNE
11



LACROSSE CAMP

JUNE
22-24



GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

JUNE
25-27



FIREWORKS DISPLAY

JULY
2



GATHERING

SEPT.
7-10



31ST ANNUAL POW-WOW

SEPT.
10 - 12



ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT.
11



ALL EVENTS IN WYANDOTTE, OKLA. UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED. ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE.