



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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November 2020

Still plays with dolls

Page 4-5



Sharing a Blanket

#89 & #90

Julie West

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Inside:

- Board approves 2nd Round of COVID-19 Relief Payments, **APPLY NOW!** Page 6
- Ingram earns 'Trainer of the Year' honor

Board of Directors

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

Content

| | |
|---------------------------------------|------|
| Calendar | 3 |
| FEATURE: Still plays with dolls | 4-5 |
| Trainer of the Year | 6 |
| COVID-19 Relief..... | 6 |
| Summer youth at cultural center..... | 6 |
| Tribal Department Reports..... | 7-12 |
| Important Numbers | 11 |

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Cover Photo:
Corn husk dolls
created by Julie
Wills West
Photo by
William Swaim

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

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

State of the Nation

(State of the Nation address given at the Annual Meeting)

So today is a great day to be Wyandotte, but I think that we can also say that every day is a great day to be Wyandotte. We are a nation of people who have helped shape the history of this country. We have persevered through times of great adversity and enjoyed times of great success. Over the years we have focused on our tribal Sovereignty because it is crucial to our identity as a nation of people who have the right to govern themselves. Wyandottes have been sovereign since time immemorial. While our form of government has changed over the years, our sovereignty always remains. We understand that the power of our nation resides in our people. Many of our past leaders worked tirelessly to reestablish our government. Those before us understood that sovereignty is foundational to our government that the core purpose of our government is to secure those rights given to each of us by the Creator. We are a great nation. We honor our agreements and we live by our word. We expect others to do the same. It is our duty and responsibility to protect our sovereignty, and we will do so with diligence and with resolve to be steadfast in our defense of our nation and our rights. Our nation has made tremendous progress in a relatively short period of time.

We, as Wyandottes, are part of our great nation no matter where we live. A nation is sometimes defined by a constitution, a set of laws and a government. This is also true of the Wyandotte Nation. The Wyandotte Constitution outlines the structure, duties and powers of our government. And yet there is more to our nation than its constitution and its government. At the heart of our nation is our people - the Wyandotte people - a people who share a common heritage, a culture and traditions.

Wyandotte culture and values help shape our vision for the future. We have made great progress toward fulfilling our vision to be a nation of successful and united people with a strong cultural identity. We exercise self-determination and sovereignty to offer opportunities for our people to learn and grow and achieve individual success. We also develop essential partnerships with state and local governments, businesses, schools and

other entities. As a part of the community, we believe that is essential to work together to address challenges.

Our commitment to build community and partnerships with our neighbors makes our nation strong. We have worked hard to be good neighbors. We continue to partner with our community to provide vital resources and infrastructure that benefit all Oklahomans. The Wyandotte Nation Police Department have been a longstanding partner with local and state organizations striving to keep our communities safe. To date, we have established cross deputation agreements allowing us to partner with city, county, state and federal law enforcement agencies, maximizing our shared resources to protect and serve communities.

As our businesses have prospered, we have been able to invest in new opportunities and diversify our portfolio. This economic success has enabled us to expand existing programs and services and develop new ones. These programs and services have helped hundreds of Wyandottes to achieve their own dreams. Today, the Wyandotte Nation - our nation - is the strongest it has ever been.

Our nation is strong because we invest in people. The revenue generated from tribal businesses is used to offer more programs and services to the Wyandotte people. We continue to add to that list. We are always looking at the programs that we have to make sure they are working well and if we need to change, we make a change to those programs.

Educationally, this past year we have invested \$900,000 in scholarships and other forms of financial support to our Wyandotte students. This commitment to future generations is what makes our nation strong.

Our nation is strong because the Wyandotte Nation is committed to the health and well-being of its people. Recent remodeling and future expansion of our pharmacy and the addition of physical therapy services at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center are allowing us to serve even more patients. This year, we celebrated the 22nd anniversary of our Health Center. The Wyandotte Nation was one of the first tribes in the state of Oklahoma to build a Wellness Center to promote preventative measures to offset many of the health issues

that have plagued our people. Today Bearskin Fitness Center is one of the premier fitness centers in the area. We continue to look for opportunities to expand the reach of our health programs. As you can see, the state of our nation is strong because our people continue to become stronger and healthier.

Our nation is also strong because the Wyandotte Nation continues to respect and treasure our elders. We continue to build more elder duplexes and expand and enhance our elder service programs. This next year will begin a meal delivery service within a 10-mile radius of Wyandotte and hope to expand it over the next several years. We are also looking at the opportunity of adding a Community Health Representative to help with pharmacy deliveries and to check on the well-being of our tribal elders.

Strong homes and even stronger families make our nation strong. A safe and quality home is important to a family's individual health and their wellness, as well as a key contributor toward financial stability. Housing programs and services have helped many Wyandottes gain the benefits of homeownership. We have assisted many Wyandottes to secure new storm shelters, down payment assistance, and wells and septic systems over the past several years. We will continue searching for better and innovative solutions to help meet the housing needs of Wyandotte families.

Our nation is strong because we know who we are and continue to keep our culture, language and traditions alive. The Wyandotte Nation is strong because the Wyandotte people are strong. Many years ago, our people came together, we came together and collectively dreamt of a stronger nation. A nation with self-governance and self-determination, a nation with financial stability and economic prosperity, a nation that provides opportunities for its people to achieve their dreams. Year after year, we are fulfilling our vision. The Wyandotte Nation is positioned to do even more. We are strong, because our people are strong. Regardless of the challenges we face, we will push forward toward together. I want you to know that the state of the Wyandotte Nation is strong and getting stronger. Thank you, and God bless you and may God continue to bless the Wyandotte Nation.

From the Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr.



Get out and vote, fill out your census

Kweh Omateru

Hello Tribal Citizens needless to say this has been a very trying year that has affected everyone's life in some form or fashion. However, the Wyandotte people are resilient and are certainly not strangers to hardships as we have endured many throughout our history and survived everything that was thrown at us. We will definitely survive this pandemic and come out stronger than ever. Before first contact in the mid 1500's there were no diseases among the native peoples of this continent. Then the Europeans made contact with us and brought many diseases with them that spread among the tribes and too many was devastating. Sounds very familiar to what is happening today doesn't it?

Here at the Wyandotte Nation it is business as usual even though just about all U.S. Government agencies are supposed to be working from home and at times is almost impossible to even get them to answer their cell phones or even to call you back. I am off my soap box now, it is very busy here at the Wyandotte Nation a lot of construction going on, some are finishing like our water line project and the new Administration building and some that we are just starting. The landscape here is constantly changing and always for the better.

As everyone is aware this is a census year, it is very important that everyone gets their information to the Census Bureau whether by mail or online on their website. We need as accurate a count as possible because it affects our grants and government funding. It is important that we are all counted.

In case no one has noticed there is an election going on and it is very important that we get the Native Vote

"All power in human hands is liable to be abused."

-- Sarah Bernhardt

out and make a difference. I'm not going to tell you how to vote but all I ask is that you do your research on the candidates and see what their plan is for Indian Country and then make your choice. It was a long hard road for Native Americans to get the right to vote so let us exercise that right.

Now for some history, I am really going back this time to when the Jesuits were in North America. Some of you have heard about this landmark in Canada and I know some have been there, including myself. The sacred rock, Ekarenniondi, "The Rock that Stands Out," was found in the land of the Tionontati, the Oskentonton and the Hannaariskwa, two of the three parent tribes of the Huron-Wyandot people. The rock is located near Collingwood, Ontario, and is today, a popular destination for hikers and adventure seekers. When viewed at the right angle the large rock clearly shows the face of Oscotarach forever chiseled in stone. Ken Haigh, in an article for Escarpment Views described Ekarenniondi. "It's easy to see why this place attracted the First Nations people of the area 400 years ago. It is hidden, gloomy and cool, the walls are damp and veiled with clumps of fern, and there are a number of dark passages leading back into the earth. It's spooky down here, especially if you have the place to yourself."

In Haigh's article Charles Garrad stated, "I would speculate that ordinary people avoided the place as too sacred," Charlie explains, "but that

shamans who specialized in out-of-body trances would frequent it. I also would speculate that propitiatory offerings were left there and sacred rituals conducted, because there were many Jesuit references to this being done at other sacred rocks. But...it is impossible to answer these questions with certainty."

The following is from the Jesuit Relations and eerily detailed what the Hurons once believed:

I asked one day one of our Savages where they thought the village of souls was; he answered that it was toward the Tobacco Nation, that is to say, toward the West, eight leagues from us, and that some persons had seen them as they were going; that the road they took was broad and well-beaten; that they passed near a rock called Ekarenniondi, which has often been found marked with the paint which they use to smear their faces.

Another told me that on the same road, before arriving at the village, one comes to a Cabin where lives one named Oscotarach, or "Pierce-head," who draws the brains out of the heads of the dead, and keeps them. You must pass a river, and the only bridge you have is the trunk of a tree laid across, and very slightly supported. The passage is guarded by a dog, which jumps at many souls, and makes them fall; they are at the same time carried away by the violence of the torrent, and stifled in the waters. "But," said I to him, "whence have you learned all this news of the other world?" "It is," he

told me, "persons brought back to life, who have reported it." Thus it is the devil deceives them in their dreams; thus he speaks by the mouth of some, who having been left as dead, recover health, and talk at random of the other life, according to the ideas that this wretched master gives them. According to them the Village of souls is in no respect unlike the Village of the Living, they go hunting, fishing, and to the woods; axes, robes, and collars are as much esteemed as among the living. In a word, everything is the same; there is only this difference, that day and night they do nothing but groan and complain. They have Captains, who from time to time put an end to it and try to moderate their sighs and groans. God of truth, what ignorance and stupidity!

Yes, that is very bazaar, even by today's standards, which isn't saying much, but to the Hurons, it was the truth and it was their fate. With Ekarenniondi lying in the homeland of the Tionontati, they would have also believed in "The Rock that Stands Out" and it's likely the Tionontati's shamans performed the sacred ceremonies. As time passed, and the ancestors of the Huron-Wyandots no longer had access to the sacred rock of Ekarenniondi, their traditions and beliefs had to change.

You have to admit that was interesting and strange, but our ancestors had a lot of customs in that time period that was considered barbaric according to the Jesuits. But they were rituals and ceremonies our ancestors had probably been doing for thousands of years so it was a way of life and a belief to them.

IMPORTANT EVENTS

2021

THE GATHERING

**SEPT.
8-10**



31ST ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.
10 - 12**



ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.
11
10 AM**



Still plays with dolls

West explores creative side, finds connection to Wyandotte tradition, ancestors

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Finding a connection to the past is done in many ways. For Julie Wills West, a Wyandotte tribal citizen, it was the exploration of her creative side that connected her to Wyandotte tradition and her ancestors.

West found her connection through the creation of traditional corn husk dolls.

"As I make them I do a lot of research on the clothing, the different things that go with it and the things behind it," West said. "It has just been an amazing learning process for me to learn about my ancestors and my heritage. There is so much to learn on the crafts that go along with it, the stories, and I think about the Creator as I am doing these.

"I give credit to our Creator for teaching me each time I make a doll that no one is perfect, each has mistakes, flaws, but is special in their own way and loved."

West has created 120 corn husk dolls since she picked up the craft in 2015, 44 of which were recently on display at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center & Museum from

Sept. 1-30. One is permanently displayed at the museum.

"Every year I make a list, I am a list person," she said. "So I have goals every year. This year, my goal at the first of the year was to get on the Indian Arts & Crafts Board Source Directory. The other one was to have an exhibit, and I really didn't think that was going to happen. I would really like to thank (Tribal Heritage Director) Sherri Clemons for putting this altogether and this has just been a dream come true." The source directory promotes Indian artists and guards against people claiming to be Indian artists.

"It just authenticates you," West said. "When people are buying art, and it is stated Native American art, they don't want to be hoaxed, they want to get the real thing."

Finding Inspiration

West's passion for corn husk dolls began in 2012 when visiting a Wyandotte and Seneca-Cayuga exhibit 'Gathering Traditions.' There she saw corn husk dolls over 100 years old. At the time she thought



WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION

Julie Wills West with her exhibit display of corn husk dolls at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center & Museum. The dolls were on display during the month of September and one doll will be on permanent display there.

they were cool and thought she could make them.

Two or three years went by before I settled down to do it. The summer of 2015 I made my first one and I was instantly obsessed," she said. "They have so many possibilities, it is endless what you can do with them."

She created several that year, entered one in the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Artisan Showcase – and won.

"It was special to me because my daughter (Jamie Brown) helped me with that, she made the actual doll, and it was a Pow-Wow doll, and I did the regalia on it," West said. "That was an award we won together. That is what got me started and there has been no end since then."

The time it takes to make a doll varies. West said a simple doll takes her about two weeks but she has also worked on more complicated dolls and worked on them for six weeks. For West, it's all in the details.

"It has been fun learning to do all those different things on a scale of about half the size of a Barbie doll. I put a lot of detail in them," West said of making anything from stethoscopes to moccasins. "When I start a doll, it may start out simply enough, but I keep adding to it: 'oh it needs this, oh I can do that to it, oh I can put that with it.' Before I know it, I have spent days on it and it is pretty detailed but people seem to like that."

West's inspiration for dolls comes in different forms.



WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION

(ABOVE LEFT) Larry Hamilton of the Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard. (MIDDLE) Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. (RIGHT) Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Dolls

Continued from Page 4

“My daughter says I can’t teach her anything because I am always winging it. So I do a lot of winging,” West said. “I have a thought in my mind or maybe I look at pictures on Pinterest or I look at Northeastern Woodland Indian photos to see how they all are.

“I get an idea, but I start making the doll and the doll turns out totally different a lot of times. It’s just, you start one thing and something else happens, and I always say the dolls kind of make themselves, they tell me what they want and how they are supposed to end up.”

One thing West enjoys doing most are custom dolls where the creativity lies in duplicating a doll that accurately reflects the subject. West usually has pictures of the individual and researches to get to know them better.

One example she gave is a doll she did of Wyandotte Nation Second Chief Norman Hildebrand Jr.

“He sent me a picture of his moccasins, and here you have full grown man moccasins, and I am trying to make two of them alike just about an inch wide,” she said. “I like challenge, and that gives me a challenge.”

Telling a story

Each doll has its own story. West said the doll story is similar in many tribes that used corn husk dolls as play things for their young and a way of teaching things like beading and sewing, and also a lesson on vanity.

One of the dolls most special to West was one she created as a tribute doll to Rachel Marie Wright, who passed away several years ago.

“She was a young Wyandotte girl. She was fearless, fun and loving,” West said as she tried to hold back tears. “It was hard to do that, it was a real emotional attachment to that one.

“I didn’t know her real well, but did know her some. That was just awesome to do that, just pray for her family and smile at the great things remembered about her.”

The stories behind the custom dolls are some she enjoys most.

“When I am doing custom dolls of other people, while I am doing the doll I think about them and I research them, and I found out there are a lot of amazing people out there I have



(ABOVE LEFT) A special tribute doll West made in honor of Rachel Marie Wright, who passed away several years ago. (RIGHT) The Turtle Princess. (BELOW) West's display at the Cultural Center & Museum featured 44 of her dolls.

done some dolls for,” West said. “It has really been a learning process.”

The doll West created with her daughter also had a story behind it as the ‘Chicken Dancer’ wasn’t supposed to be a chicken dancer at all.

“I didn’t know it was going to be a chicken dancer doll. It started out to be a fancy dancer and she made the body and I started putting it all together, and it didn’t look like a fancy dancer.”

West then looked at different dancers on the internet, found an image and it was a chicken dancer that most resembled the doll.

Other than custom dolls, she likes to do Pow-Wow dolls because they have so much color.

Inspiring others

For West, no one is too old for dolls. West found her connection to the past through the creation of the corn husk dolls and hopes others might find their connection that way too.

“I would love for other people to take it up because everyone does things differently, so it would be awesome to see them continue with this since it is a traditional craft,” she said, adding she has now taught a few classes, including one to Wyandotte youth.

“My first class - I am a very nervous person - it could have been a lot better, I will put it that way, but I am getting used to it.”

As far as current projects, she is working on another collaboration project.

“Other than the first one with my daughter I have not collaborated with anybody on the dolls, but I have made one of Joshua Garcia and he is Wyandotte grass dancer. I like to do different things, new things, learn everything about everything,” West said. “So I made the doll and his mother, Kim Garcia, she did his original beadwork on his regalia, so she is going to do the tiny beadwork on his doll.

“I think that is going to really look awesome when we get finished. I’ve done part of it, she has got it now, she will do her part, give it back to me and I will do some finishing things on it. I hope to get that finished soon.”

While West hopes to inspire others, there has been no shortage of people who have both supported and inspired her as well.

“I want to make sure I give credit and gratitude to my VIP husband, Danny, who is my Chief Inspector.

My daughter Jamie Brown and son John Gerhard, and my sister Karen Bowman have given me



WILLIAM SWAIM / WYANDOTTE NATION



support, encouragement, and ideas from day one. And to all my family and friends, some I haven’t met, that encourage me and give opinions on the doll Facebook page, Still Plays With Dolls,” she said.

“Last but not least, I am forever grateful to Sherri Clemons for making the exhibit possible and to Chief Friend for suggesting an exhibit.”

To purchase or for more information on West’s corn husk dolls, you can visit her Facebook page, www.facebook.com/stillplayswithdolls or shop on Etsy, www.etsy.com/shop/WestNativeDolls.

To see the extended video interview with West, visit the Wyandotte Nation YouTube page: www.youtube.com/wyandottenation or watch for the link on our Facebook page when the video is posted.

Board approves second round of COVID relief

The Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors have approved a second COVID-19 relief payment due to the public health emergency. **Applications must be submitted by Nov. 15, 2020.** See the following for more information:

*APPLICATIONS CAN BE FOUND ON THE WEBSITE (WWW.WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG), THE WYANDOTTE NATION FACEBOOK PAGE, CAN BE PICKED UP FROM THE FAMILY SERVICES OFFICE OR EMAILED

UPON REQUEST. APPLICATIONS WILL NOT BE AUTOMATICALLY SENT TO TRIBAL CITIZENS.

*EACH CITIZEN MUST COMPLETE AN APPLICATION TO RECEIVE THE PAYMENT.

*DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS NOVEMBER 15, 2020. APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED IN THE OFFICE BY THIS DATE IF BEING HAND DELIVERED OR EMAILED. MAILED

APPLICATIONS MUST BE POST-MARKED BY THE 15TH. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DATE WILL BE NOT BE PROCESSED.

*APPLICATIONS MUST BE COMPLETE. INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL SLOW THE PROCESS AND POSSIBLY RESULT IN DENIAL OF PAYMENT.

*APPLICATIONS WILL BE PROCESSED AS THEY ARE RECEIVED. PLEASE ALLOW UP TO

4 WEEKS FOR PROCESSING.

*PLEASE NOTE THE APPLICATION SUBMISSION OPTIONS ON THE FORM. THE CORRECT EMAIL ADDRESS IS WNFS@WYANDOTTE-NATION.ORG. THERE WERE SEVERAL ERRORS ON THE LAST ROUND THAT RESULTED IN DELAYED APPLICATIONS. THE ERRORS WERE GENERALLY "WNFS" WAS TRANSPOSED AND/OR THE HYPHEN WAS LEFT OUT.

Youth spend summer time at Cultural Center



Some Wyandotte Nation youth spent part of their summer up at the Cultural Center for cultural classes and took part in various activities. Here are a few pictures from the activities, including making clay animals (above), and checking out their garden (below). (Courtesy Photos)



Ingram honored as 'Trainer of the Year'

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

BizLibrary honored Edie Ingram with its 'Training Professional of the Year' award. Ingram, Manager of Training and Organization Development at the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), helped spearhead the launch of the company's corporate university.

"It was quite a surprise to actually win the award and I am thrilled," Ingram said of the honor.

The BizLibrary Awards honor companies and individuals who exemplify creativity, results-oriented thinking, and show great enthusiasm for learning and development. According to BizLibrary, the 'Training Professional of the Year' is awarded to someone who is progressive in thinking around training and development, an experienced professional, engaged in outside training associations, enthusiastic about training, and is constantly looking to improve and achieve results.

Ingram this year developed Wyandotte YOUNiversity, which graduated its first two classes this past spring at River Bend Casino & Hotel in Wyandotte, Okla., and 7th Street Casino in Kansas City, and was also a top three finalist for BizLibrary's 'Program of the Year.'

"As a company, we have many great ideas," said WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino. "Too often, great ideas are lost in failure to execute. With Edie's leadership and hard work, Wyandotte YOUNiversity, did not become



COURTESY PHOTO

Edie Ingram, pictured middle, was honored as Training Professional of the Year recently for her work in developing Wyandotte YOUNiversity.

one of those lost great ideas. Quite the contrary, the program is a great success."

The Brandon Hall Group recently recognized Wyandotte YOUNiversity for its Bronze Award for 'Best Launch of a Corporate University.' Ingram played a huge part in the launch of the university.

"I want to recognize and thank Edie for her commitment and hard work to make this happen. While I know what the program means for us, I am so pleased to see Wyandotte YOUNiversity receive acknowledgement from Brandon Hall Group," Carpino said. "This happened because of Edie's dedication to our

organization, our people and our values. So well deserved. Many thanks to Edie for working to develop, inspire and motivate our team!"

About BizLibrary

BizLibrary is a leading provider of online learning for growing organizations. Our award-winning micro learning video library engages employees of all levels, and our learning technology platform is a progressive catalyst for achievement. Partnered with our expert Client Success and Technical Support teams, clients are empowered to solve business challenges and impact change within their organizations.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Courts Department is proud to welcome Samantha Proctor as our Court



PROCTOR

Administrator for the Wyandotte Nation District Tribal Court. Samantha attended Miami High School and NEO A&M College. In her spare time she enjoys reading, riding horses, and playing with her kids. She enjoys

spending time with her family, attending church, and teaching her kids to ride horses. Samantha brings a wealth of knowledge and experience with her. We are very fortunate to have Samantha and wish her much success in this new position.

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is happy to welcome Tim Jackson as the new Health Services Laboratory Manager, and Lynn Percy, RN, and tribal citizen Lynette (Shelly) Oakley, LPN, who both will serve as PRN Clinic Staff.

Tim has worked in health care setting since 2004. He has his Associates' degrees in Art and Applied Science, and his medical laboratory degree. In his spare time, he enjoys playing the guitar, hunting, and fishing. We are very fortunate to have Tim join the clinic and wish him much success in this position.



JACKSON

Lynn has a general education degree, nursing degree and is certified in cosmetology.



PERCY

In her spare time she enjoys decorative things, paint furniture, flower arrangements, and to sing. Lynn also enjoys spending time with her family and friends doing these activities.

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



OAKLEY

Shelly graduated from Miami High School then from NE Tech Center Nursing Program. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and riding motorcycles with friends. Shelly also enjoys camping and

time with her grandbabies. We are very fortunate to have her fill in for the clinic and wish her much success in this position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome tribal citizen Alexis Webb as a part-time Afterschool Childcare Assistant, tribal citizen Kortney Murray as the Early Childhood Nurse, and Diane Friend, who has joined the Education/Title VI Departments as a Substitute.

Alexis is a sophomore at Wyandotte High School, an honors student and is a member of NSHSS, she is woodwind captain of the Wyandotte HS Band. Alexis hobbies include drawing, playing music, jewelry making, working out, and shopping.



WEBB

spending time with her dog, Duke, family and friends in her spare time. We are happy to have Alexis join our team.

Kortney has her BSN from Missouri Southern State University and has been an RN for 12 years. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her three children with school activities, dance and piano lessons. She also enjoys reading. We are very fortunate



MURRAY



FRIEND

to have her fill in our Education Department and wish her much success in this position.

Diane graduated from Seneca High School and attended Crowder College in Neosho. Diane's hobbies include nature photography,

gardening, and bowling. She enjoys spending time studying God's word, leatherwork, and helping elderly parents. We are pleased to have Diane and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Gaming Department is very happy to welcome Bruce Carter and Jordan Jenkins. Bruce will serve as Background/Compliance Internal Audit Officer. Bruce comes to us from 7th Street Casino where he has been since 2008 and



CARTER

brings with him a wealth of casino knowledge. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends, listening to music. In his spare time he enjoys singing, songwriting and sports. We are very fortunate to have Bruce on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

Jordan will serve as our new Executive Director for Park City. Jordan comes to us from Gaming Commission in Kansas City, KS where he has been since 2016 and he worked at the 7th Street Casino from 2007. Jordan brings with him a wealth of



JENKINS

knowledge. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends in his spare time. Jordan also enjoys golfing, reading, fishing and volunteering. We are very fortunate to have Jordan on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

The Family Services staff continue to be located in what we have dubbed "the Little House on the Rez," but we will be moving in late 2020 or early 2021 to the new Administration building and look forward to having some additional space. Information about the move will be posted on the website and social media in regards to updated mailing and physical addresses.

Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the Pow-Wow and Cultural days were both cancelled for 2020, but the constitutionally mandated Annual Meeting was able to be held with social distancing guidelines and limited to tribal citizens only. Approximately, 150 citizens attended the meeting and, for the first time ever, the meeting was streamed live on Facebook. We've heard from many citizens across the country that this was a success and plan to continue this service in the future. If you weren't able to view the livestream you're still able to watch the recording on the Wyandotte Nation Citizens Facebook group.

The staff have been extremely busy since July 1st processing school supply, COVID-19 Relief and CARES

Continued on Page 8

TAG REMINDERS:

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

For questions, please call (918) 678-6329 or (918) 678-6319

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 7

Computer applications and beginning Oct. 15th the 2nd COVID-19 Relief program. Please see the information found in this newsletter regarding the 2nd COVID payment. This program is going to have a very short turn around (4 weeks) so it's important to get your application in early.

The Family Services Department has many programs and services to offer tribal citizens. In the remainder of this article you will find highlights of those programs. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact us: Dana Butterfield, Director, (918) 678-6319; Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, (918) 678-6355; Leeanna Radabaugh, Family Services Specialist, (918) 678-6329; Tiffany Garner, ICW Social Worker, (918) 678-6353; Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator, (918) 678-6324; and Cesilie Hale, DV/SA Advocate, (918) 678-3269. Be sure to visit the Wyandotte Nation website www.wyandotte-nation.org and follow the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page to stay up-to-date on events and program announcements that will be posted in between issues of the newsletters.

Winter Programs:

Children's Christmas Party – Like most every other event in 2020 the Children's Christmas party is going to look different. The party will be held Saturday, Dec. 14 from 10 am to Noon at the Carla Culver Education Center and will be a drive through event. Be sure to watch the website and Facebook for details about traffic flow and what to expect. Each enrolled Wyandotte Nation child ages birth to 12 will receive a gift from Santa and tribal parents, who are present with their eligible children, will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card (1 per household). Santa will be on-site to wish the children Merry Christmas as they pass through the line!

Winter Clothing – Starts Nov. 1st and ends Feb. 28th. This program is available to OK, MO, AR, KS residents for reimbursement or Walmart gift card of \$100 per student. Applications, along with guidelines, will

be available on the home page of the Tribe's website. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement program. Please be sure to read the instruction letter that will accompany the applications as there are changes for the program. If you did not return your receipts for either the School Supplies or last year's Winter Clothing gift cards, you will be required to use the reimbursement program this year. Incomplete applications will be returned to the sender.

Senior Energy (Winter) – This program is available nationwide. \$100 will be paid directly to the utility provider for citizens who are 55 and older. Program dates are Oct. 1st through Feb. 28th. Citizens are encouraged to continue to pay their bills as normal and a \$100 credit will display on their statement when the payment has been processed.

LIHEAP – LIHEAP is a federal grant funded program, if funding is received, services will be available beginning Dec. 1st for tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma. This program is income based and proof of income is required, along with other required documentation.

APPLICATIONS FOR THE ABOVE PROGRAMS MUST BE RECEIVED OR POST MARKED BY FEB. 28TH TO BE ELIGIBLE AND BILLS/RECEIPTS MUST BE DATED BETWEEN OCT. 1, 2019 AND FEB. 28, 2020, NO EXCEPTIONS.

The Following programs run throughout the year for residents in

OK, MO, AR, KS. Applications must be received or post marked by Sept. 30th:

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

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

Jr/Sr Benefit - \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School. Benefit can be used for both Jr and Sr year.

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

Continued on Page 9

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

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

New Tribal Citizen

Welcome **Weston Drake Cloninger**, new tribal citizen! We will be posting the *list of all new tribal citizens* in the *February issue*. So check back for the welcoming of all our newest tribal citizens.



TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 8

Other Programs provided by the Family Services Department:

Child Safety Seats - Each child is eligible for three seats in different sizes and must be picked up at the tribal office. Staff try to keep all sizes on hand, but if you are traveling from a distance please call in advanced to ensure the correct seat is available.

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 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 either of the ICW Social Workers. The Tribe is continually seeking foster families. If you're interested in sharing your home with a child in need, please contact Tara or Tiffany at the numbers listed above.

Enrollment - Aug. 15th 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 during the year and birth certificates will be returned within 10-14 business days.

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

Tribal Tags - Available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma. Passenger, RV, Motorcycle and Handicap tags are available. Please call the office for prices and additional information. All new requests must be accompanied by the original title and proof of insurance. Renewals require a proof of insurance. Incomplete requests will be returned to the tribal citizen.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card) - This program has

been renewed and accounts will be re-loaded on Jan. 1, 2021. The benefits will be 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. Individuals who were voted into citizenship at the Annual Meeting will receive their account information in December and accounts will be active on Jan. 1, 2021. Quarterly statements are mailed by Trustmark to show remaining balances, and account balances can be obtained by calling (800) 990-9058 ext 42086.

Burial Assistance - \$1,500 to be paid to the funeral home or to the family representative if the funeral is paid in full. Applications must be submitted within 90 days of the tribal citizen's death.

Family Violence Prevention Program: This program is funded through grants from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), Family Violence Prevention Safety Act/Administration for Children and Families and Office of Victims of Crime. Funds can be used to provide advocacy to individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, human trafficking and stalking. Services for victims include shelter, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, court accompaniment, counseling, legal assistance, etc and can be provided to any victim who resides within a 25-mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation. Victims do not have to be Wyandotte or Native to reserve services. There will also be awareness campaigns, events and cultural activities to educate the community regarding these issues.

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

Kweh,

The Wyandotte Nation Child Care and Development Fund program is accepting new applications for families that are seeking childcare

assistance. We would be happy to assist in getting an application to you and answer any questions you may have. To be eligible for the Wyandotte Nation CCDF program, a household member must obtain a CDIB or tribal card, parents must be working or attending school, and you must live within certain counties in Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. To request an application, or if you have any questions, you can email Sami Butterfield, our Child Care Coordinator, at sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org; or you can call her office at (918) 678-6330.

The Wyandotte Nation Library is currently open. The hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. New books have recently been added with more arriving soon. Be sure to let Madeline, our new librarian, know if there is a certain book or movie you would like to see added to our collection. Madeline's email address is mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org, and her office phone is (918) 678-6332. Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program and WIOA are currently processing fall 2020 semester scholarships.

Here are a few Wyandotte Nation Undergraduate Scholarship reminders:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight 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.

Wyandotte Nation Stoles: Any Wyandotte Nation tribal member that is currently on our scholarship program and are graduating college is eligible for a stole. You will need to email proof of applying for graduation to Evan Hotulke.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department also oversees the WIOA program. These funds are available to assist members of federally recognized tribes residing in Crawford and Cherokee Counties in

Southeast Kansas or Barry, Barton, Dade, Jasper, Lawrence, Newton and McDonald Counties in Southwest Missouri.

WIOA eligibility requirements include:

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

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

Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is currently operating on an AB schedule, attending preschool on Monday through Thursday, with childcare for school age children available daily along with childcare for preschool aged children offered on Fridays. Our infant, 1-year old, and 2-year old programs are operating Monday through Friday. If you have a child, ages 3-5, and live in the Wyandotte, Okla. area, we still have a few openings for the upcoming preschool year. The first day of preschool for the 2020-2021 school year will be Thursday, Aug. 13, 2020. Applications 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, 1-year old and Toddler programs are currently full. To be added to the waiting list, please contact Lindsay.

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

Department Contacts:

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

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

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

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Important Numbers

Police Department

Glenn Johnston (918) 678-6365
gjohnston@wntpd.com

Family Services / Enrollment / Tags

Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
Leeanna Radabaugh, (918) 678-6329, lrada-
baugh@wyandotte-nation.org
Family Violence Program
Lisa Arnold, (918) 678-6324, lisaarnold@
wyandotte-nation.org; Cesilie Hale, (918) 678-
3269, chale@wyandotte-nation.org

Tribal Social Workers

Tara Gragg (918) 678-6355
tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org
Tiffany Garner (918) 678-6353
tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org

Human Resources

Deana Howard (918) 678-6320
dhoward@wyandotte-nation.org

Nutrition & Caregiver Services

Brenda House (918) 678-6327
bhhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

Education / Library / Child Care

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

Tribal Heritage

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

Environmental / Planning / Development

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

Housing

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

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center

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

Clinic Appointments

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

Dental / Vision

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

Pharmacy (call-in only)

(918) 678-3244

Fitness Center

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

Contract Health

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

Diabetes Clinic

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

Housing

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese,
Housing Director*

This year has been like no other. Due to the COVID virus, many projects have been delayed. Hopefully, we are on the road to recovery and ready to move forward.

Wyandotte Nation received a Competitive Grant, which will allow us to build two family duplexes and three family homes. We are in the bidding stage of this project.

If you are interested in renting, please fill out an application and return 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-bedroom, are equipped with appliances, and a garage. All yard work 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 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.

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.

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*

Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House, Elder
Services Director*

With COVID-19 still hanging around we are continuing to serve the drive thru and home delivered meals. We purchased a new pick up for the home delivered meal route. Half of it is refrigerated and the other half is heated. Hopefully the meals will be at the proper temperature when they arrive at their destination.

We are very anxious to reopen our dining room and see everyone's smiling faces. We are missing you all and hope that we can all be together again soon!

We will honor our Veterans during lunch on Nov. 12, 2020.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner will be Thursday Nov. 19, 2020. We will have turkey and dressing, green beans, cranberry salad, devilled eggs, hot roll and pumpkin pie.

Our Christmas Dinner will be Thursday, Dec. 17, 2020. We will have brisket, baked potato, baked beans, hot roll and Angel food delight.

CAREGIVER

(Suspended due to COVID-19) The Caregiver Support Group meets the

first Thursday of each month in the Artie Nesvold Community Center (Title VI) Safe Room beginning at 10:30 am. This group is for all 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, (Of-
fice) 6390
Seth Higginbotham, Chris Rhodes
and Robyn Beaty, Food Service Team
Members (918) 678-6328
Menu, (918) 678-6326*

Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Kim Garcia, Cul-
tural Preservation Officer*

Our ancestors lived through wars, government removals, diseases, poverty, and so much more. For so long, our people struggled to survive; but now is a time to thrive.

For years, Wyandotte Nation was separated into two divisions: economic development and the government; culture was a department under the government. Now that we are doing well as a Tribe, our Chiefs and Board of Directors made the decision to make Culture its own division in order to grow that area.

I am now the Cultural Preservation Officer, Sherri Clemons is the Tribal Heritage Director, and Teresa Wilson is the receptionist. Recently, Courtney Cummings, the Tribal Heritage Specialist, transferred to the Education Department to pursue her dreams of being a teacher. Currently, we have the Tribal Heritage Specialist position open as well as a new position - Cultural Researcher.

At this time, staff and the Cultural Advisory Board are working toward finalizing the Strategic Plan for the Cultural Division for the next three to five years. The plan has been split into three areas of focus: Heritage Preservation, Historic Preservation, and Facilities, Memorials, and Land. This design includes much more participation from tribal citizens and community members. For example, we have an open survey for artists to

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 10

fill out (look for it on Facebook). This will allow us to create a list of artists we can use for various activities like teaching classes, doing demonstrations, participating in art shows, selling their artwork, and creating commissioned pieces.

While we were unable to host many events this year due to COVID-19, we are using this time to restructure and prepare for an even better future! Our grandmothers and grandfathers always found a way to keep moving forward and so are we. There will be many more classes, demonstrations, art shows, and more! The work is exciting and we will be sharing some new things soon! Be sure to "Like" the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center page on Facebook. If you would like to share ideas, please contact me at kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org.

Tižamēh!

Thank you!

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 as and septic assessments for private home owners. We also encourage and provide a place to recycle. Lost Creek Recycling Center is open to the community and surrounding area Monday through Thursday from 8 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.

The month of July was a busy month with Virtual EPA, DOI and Tribal calls/meetings. Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch attended the Tribal Caucus/ROTC Virtual calls on the 21st and 22nd. Staff



COURTESY PHOTO

Brittany Crowe and Janice Wilson hand out give away bags during educational event.

was also busy with fish and mussel counts and sampling on our two bio-assessment sites on Warrens Branch and Sycamore Creek. Along with that was our monthly and quarterly water monitoring and sampling on eight sites within Wyandotte Nation's Historic Jurisdiction.



COURTESY PHOTO

Crowe and Wilson conduct video on how an aquifer works.

With so many education events having to be canceled due to COVID19, the Department Staff came up with innovative ways to reach tribal citizens and the community on Environmental Education. On Aug. 4th, Janice Wilson and Brittany Crowe held a Drive Thru Education Event with tribal elders. They prepared give away bags with environmental information and goodies that was handed out to the elders, as they picked up their meals through the Title VI Elders Meals Program. Approximately 125 Elders came thru and received a bag.

Continued on Page 12

Tribal Police Department

Submitted by Glenn Johnston, Chief of Police

The Shop With a Cop program is still up and running... with a little twist. Due to the pandemic, we will be putting together the makings of a very nice meal, which will be presented to the families, along with gifts for each of the children. We are looking at 30 girls and 33 boys, which covers 25 total families. Wyandotte Nation Officers will deliver the meal and gifts. All donations are accepted as well as volunteers. We will be making a special Christmas Tree Ornament, which will be given to each child.

Recently the department have received numerous cards and letters from both local and tribal citizens, thanking us for our service. With the pandemic and people being quarantined, the number of calls have increased along with domestic violence related calls. We are very blessed to have Lisa Arnold on call. She has responded without fail when the time for an advocate is needed.



| Approved Projects | | |
|---|--------------------|--|
| GRANT | AWARD AMOUNT | SUMMARY |
| Institute of Museum and Library Services | \$10,000 | Support our library's existing operations and maintain core services. |
| Indian Health Services | \$35,426 | Support our fitness center's remodeling and additional classroom. |
| Office of Victims of Crimes-Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside. | \$694,698 | Provide funds to Family Services for one additional Advocate, vehicle, and substance abuse/mental health counseling. |
| Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration | \$250,000 | Reduce unmet treatment need and opioid overdose-related deaths through the provision of prevention, treatment, and recovery support. |
| Indian Health Services | \$76,401 | Continue providing supportive services for substance use and suicide prevention. |
| Environmental Protection Services | \$265,796 | Implement environmental programs that include a Quality Management Plan |
| Department of Justice | \$882,819 | Provide supplies, equipment, and trainings as well as revise or amend tribal codes for the Tribal Court |
| Department of Justice | \$125,071 | Provide supplies, equipment, and trainings for the Tribal Police Department |
| TOTAL AWARDED | \$2,340,211 | |

| Pending Applications | | |
|----------------------------|------------------|---|
| AGENCY | REQUEST | PURPOSE |
| Affordable Housing Program | \$400,000 | Secure funds for the construction of affordable rental housing units. |
| TOTAL PENDING | \$400,000 | |

| Department Contacts | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|
| Title | Name | Email |
| Director | Christen Lee | dee@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 | Jon Quick | jquick@wyandotte-nation.org |
| Land Management Technician | Robby Graham | rgraham@wyandotte-nation.org |
| Water Utilities Operator | Braulio Ramirez | bramirez@wyandotte-nation.org |
| Grant Writer / | Debbie Dry | ddry@wyandotte-nation.org |
| BIA Self-Gov. Coordinator | | |
| Grant Writer / 477 Coordinator | Michael Lowery | mlowery@wyandotte-nation.org |

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 11

Wilson and Crowe provided an education video to the Shawnee Tribe for their Virtual 2020 Water Festival. The video explained about how clean ground water and the aquifer are important to our drinking water wells and systems.

This month staff finished up the 4th round of E-coli sampling for our area lakes and streams per EPA recommendations. We are happy to say that in spite of COVID19, we were able to get our Quality Assurance Project Plan goals accomplished.

The Planning and Natural Resources Department is also dedicated to researching and applying for federal, state, and foundation grants to benefit the Tribe and tribal community. Projects often serve Tribal citizens within a 50-mile radius of tribal headquarters; however, some formula funded grants may serve citizens within a 100-mile radius. Ultimately, the department's desire to serve and create a positive impact on all Wyandotte's across the United States. Selecting grants is based upon community and departmental needs as well as the availability of funding opportunities. A summary of approved and pending applications can be seen in the tables (*see tables in this article on Page 11*).

Department Contacts:

Director Christen Lee, cle@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Environmental Technician 1 Janice

Wilson, jwilson@wyandotte-nation.org
 Environmental Technician 2 Brittany Crowe, bcrowe@wyandotte-nation.org
 Recycling Center Coordinator John Quick, jquick@wyandotte-nation.org
 Land Management Technician Robby Graham, rgraham@wyandotte-nation.org
 Water Utilities Operator Braulio, Ramirez bramirez@wyandotte-nation.org
 Grant Writer Debbie Dry, ddry@wyandotte-nation.org
 Grant Writer 2/ 477 Coordinator Michael Lowery, mlowery@wyandotte-nation.org

Healthcare

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

As with most everyone and everything, 2020 has been an unusually exciting year at Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. COVID-19 has wreaked havoc on patient visits, scheduling and the health of all. Protocols have been put in place to try to minimize exposure for all involved. These include scheduling of 30-minute appointments to allow less individuals to be in the waiting room at one time, questioning patients upon scheduling and in person on exposure risks and requesting masks to be worn by patients and clinical staff during all visits.

Testing has been available for COVID-19 at Bearskin Healthcare since July 2020 via the Abbott ID

Now Modality. This is a molecular point-of-care rapid test. Results are given in the same day. This testing is by appointment only. As of Oct. 14, 2020, over 901 tests had been performed with a 16.5% positive rate overall for Bearskin Healthcare alone. Providers have requested that patients with any symptoms mimicking COVID-19 symptoms be tested before entering the building for visits. This appointment will be set up at the same time as when you schedule your regular visit.

News worthy announcement –Bearskin Healthcare addition of physical therapy services! NEO Orthopedics and Rehabilitation, Inc. began, Sept. 1, providing compassionate and quality care to the Wyandotte and surrounding community. These services have surpassed expectations. Currently, Space is limited for these services, with a change coming in the future.

Bearskin Healthcare will be undergoing construction in the near future! With this tentative construction plan, the pharmacy will relocate to the front of the building where the existing classroom is. Added to it will be a drive-thru window! This will eliminate the need for patients to walk in and be exposed to illness and weather elements. Additional space will be added to the north side of the building that will house additional exam rooms and physical therapy will move to the existing space that the pharmacy encompasses.

A Community Health Representa-

tive (CHR) will soon be added to the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness team. This position will serve as an extension of the clinic to individual homes and serve citizens of the Wyandotte Nation. Services provided by this position will include health promotion and disease prevention such as education, patient advocacy, case management, screenings, vitals, home health visits and even transportation to healthcare appointments organized through Bearskin Healthcare that are non-emergent and scheduled in advance. Transportation services will be limited to individuals who are homebound or disabled and live within Ottawa County.

A part-time Benefit Coordinator has been added to the clinic team. Duties include enrolling all eligible population with alternate resources, serving as a patient advocate and acting as a liaison between federal, state, local and tribal agencies. This position has assisted multiple already by securing health insurance or assistance for individuals to receive specialty services that may be a low priority or excluded through Indian Health Services.

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center has recently completed a remodel project. This included the initial locker rooms from 1998, adding more shower space and lockers, a new conference room and a new kitchen in the gymnasium for special occasions, such as The Gathering and Little Turtles. Be sure to come visit and check it all out.



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.