• Wyandotte True Value Store nearing completion
• Park City’s newest lodging venue open for business
• Environmental events met with record success

Events in Images
Preschool Pow-Wow, Easter Egg Hunt highlight recent events

Page 8
Spring is a time of renewal. The land around us awakens and everywhere plants and trees are in bloom. Spring is an invigorating time of year as we open our minds to the great potential before us, and to the blessings, we sometimes take for granted.

The Wyandotte Nation reflects this awakening, this vitality of the season. Our Tribe is always seeking new opportunities to follow our dreams together.

For generations, the Wyandotte people were continually hopeful of eventual renewal. With the removal to our new lands, our ancestors were faced with starting new lives with very little. They were resilient and incredibly persistent, but it was a life full of challenges. It really is amazing the conditions they endured. Yet, they survived and eventually prospered, and we can be very proud of that.

The modern era of the Wyandotte Nation has seen great leaps forward. Never in history has our Tribe experienced the growth, the opportunities, and the benefits we are experiencing today.

We have achieved success in business, and we have committed the return of that success to Wyandotte people and programs, which will produce benefits far into the future.

We are proud of our advances in healthcare. We now have an outstanding healthcare clinic, which offers advanced specialties, treatments, equipment, and healthcare professionals that are producing exceptional results. The days of having to depend on government healthcare are long behind us now.

We honor our history, our culture, and our traditions. Our Wyandotte Cultural Center is a premier award-winning facility for our tribal citizens from around the world. We celebrate our Wyandotte story with this unique facility, and we share our traditions with those who seek to know more about us. Our Cultural team continues to amaze me with the new programs and opportunities they are creating for our people both locally and through virtual technology.

We continue to open tribal commercial facilities and upgrade our existing businesses. Our newest ventures are the Wyandotte True Value Hardware store opening in May, and Winds Hotel in Park City, Kansas, which opened in April. We stay on top of the ever-changing needs and desires of our customers and community and we invest in the elements that make our facilities favorite destinations.

Buildings, businesses, and facilities are important. They are material signs of our tribal growth. But it is the Wyandotte people who are the source of our most significant accomplishments.

With the essential building blocks of quality education, healthcare, housing, nutrition, and opportunity, Wyandottes have made tremendous strides in just one generation.

Our Tribe each year now is producing growing numbers of Wyandotte professionals with bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees, law degrees, and medical degrees. And, the number of highly-trained Wyandotte tradesmen and skilled workers continues to grow.

Housing conditions for Wyandotte families have been substantially improved over a generation. We continue to expand our Heritage Acres Housing development along with our new housing additions Turtle Hill Estates and Wyandotte Ridge.

When it comes to the “bottom line,” our greatest investment—and the investment that produces by far the greatest return—is the Wyandotte people! The well-being of the people is the focus of all our efforts, in every category of endeavor. Spring is well on its way and we are thankful for this annual time of growth. Let’s also be thankful for our Tribe, our families, and our friends. Together, we have accomplished much. Together, we will accomplish more than our ancestors ever dreamed possible!
Town Hall Meeting held in Texas

The Wyandotte Nation once again brought its Annual Meeting on the road – this time the Town Hall Meeting was held in Irving, Texas. The meeting was at the Omni Las Colinas Hotel and had excellent attendance.

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

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

RA Nance visits Tar Creek

(From EPA Region 6 Newsletter) -- RA Nance and team visited the Tar Creek Superfund site area recently, meeting with the Tar Creek

RA Nance visits Tar Creek

This history segment has to do with the Shawnee, Ottawa Tribe, Miami Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, and Peoria Tribe. The Modoc Nation and the Shawnee Tribe were also visited, as was the grassroots organization Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency. On April 11, site visits included a water monitoring site on Tar Creek, a chat pile, a riparian/streambank area prioritized by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe for restoration, a recycling facility, an aquatic facility for producing fish and mussels, and places where flooding has increased in recent years.

On April 12, the RA and team met with Tar Creek Trustee Council Indian Tribes leadership and staff to review the site visits and follow-up actions. The Chiefs from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Miami Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and Wyandotte Nation were in attendance, which is one of the highest-attended in-person meetings between EPA and elected tribal leadership in several years. Tribal and local partners were appreciative of the Region 6 visit and the work the Superfund Division has conducted at the Tar Creek site for many years.

2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

“The Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself.”

Benjamin Franklin

To live here in Wyandotte then you better get your name on the list. The homeownership homes on Wyandotte Ridge are almost complete and we will have two Wyandotte families moving into those shortly. The Quapaw Nation Fire Department is building a new fire station West of our Hardware Store so that will be a great addition to the area. All of this progress just adds to making this area a vibrant place to benefit the citizens in the surrounding area.

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As part of the Wyandotte Nation’s ongoing community development plan, the Tribe and its economic development enterprise, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), are close to opening a Wyandotte True Value Hardware Store. The store, located west of River Bend Casino in Wyandotte, Okla., is expected to open in May.

“After considering several hardware brands, we felt True Value was great for our company and community needs,” said Wyandotte tribal citizen Ron Brown, the Business Development Manager for WTOK. “True Value offers a large variety of products from hardware, nuts, and bolts to lawn furniture and BBQ grills. From store planning to the process of stocking the shelves, True Value has been a terrific partner, providing assistance in all stages from concept to implementation.”

Wyandotte True Value Hardware is the first project in a new business development area for the Wyandotte Nation located west of River Bend Casino on Highway 60 in Wyandotte. The new store features more than 7,500 square feet of retail space and will offer

**See True Value, Page 5**

Construction on the Wyandotte True Value Store is coming along with an expected opening date in May 2023.

The Wyandotte Nation’s Turtle Stop brand added a new location last week with the acquisition of Mr. D’s Convenience Store in Fairland, Okla. The Tribe currently owns and operates four other Turtle Stop Convenience Stores.

Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) Economic Development CEO Kelly Carpino said the purchase of the Fairland location provides another boost to the retail division of our economic development for the Tribe. WTOK is the Tribe’s corporation.

“With the addition of Mr. D’s, we can start seeing the opportunity to build regional scale for this sector of our enterprises,” Carpino said. “We are also thrilled that we can be a contributing partner to the Town of Fairland’s economy.”

The store officially reopened under the Turtle Stop brand on April 7. It is located on East Hwy 60 (625 W Conner Ave, Fairland, OK 74343) next to the Family Dollar.

Turtle Stop stores are well known for their hot grab-and-go options, fresh sandwiches, and pizza.

With the addition of the fifth Turtle Stop store in Fairland, the Tribe now has two locations in Grove, a store in Seneca, Mo., and the original store in Wyandotte, Okla.

The latest Turtle Stop addition is now open in Fairland, Okla. The Fairland Turtle Stop is now the fifth Turtle Stop in the area with locations in Oklahoma and Missouri.

**Photo: William Swaim | Wyandotte Nation**
PARK CITY, KANSAS — The Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma announced the opening of WINDS Hotel, adjacent to CrossWinds Casino in Park City, Kansas, April 12.

“We are very excited to offer this new amenity to Park City and the greater Wichita area,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend.

The Wyandotte Nation purchased WINDS Hotel, the former Motel 6 in Park City, in September 2021.

“The property has been completely refreshed and renovated to provide an exemplary guest experience while visiting the area,” Chief Friend said.

WINDS Hotel features king and queen suites, double queen, king, and king handicapped rooms. The 70-room property offers a 24-hour shuttle to CrossWinds Casino, along with 24-hour front desk service, a continental breakfast, and a fitness center.

“In each room, we wanted to provide our guests with a modern and inviting atmosphere that blends contemporary style with comfort,” said Hotel General Manager Glen Lang.

Kelly Carpino, CEO of the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) which owns and operates CrossWinds Casino, said the hotel general manager, Lang, brings more than 20 years of hospitality experience and is a Wichita native. WTOK is Wyandotte Nation’s corporation and drives economic development for the Tribe.

WINDS Hotel is located at 1075 E. Turtle Court in Park City, just off I-135 North, exit 16. For complete details and offerings, visit crosswindscasino.com/hotel.

Images of the exterior and interior of the new WINDS Hotel, including a room, the front desk, and breakfast area.

True Value

Continued from Page 4

traditional products such as tools, paint, plumbing, and electrical. The store will also sell grills, pet supplies, home goods, and outdoor living items.

Kelly Carpino, WTOK CEO, said, “In considering opportunities to expand, diversify and grow our enterprises, we focus on building sustainable businesses to support the general needs and welfare of Wyandotte citizens for generations to come. We also work to support the Nation’s plan of growing the community in Wyandotte. The Wyandotte True Value Hardware store as the anchor to our new development will be a key contributor to meeting both of these goals.”

True Value stores are independently owned and operated. True Value has a long history of supporting the growth and success of independent retailers. The foundation of True Value’s business is quality products, exceptional service, and expert advice; the company understands that is still what today’s customers value.

“The addition of the True Value Hardware store is another giant step forward in our community development efforts,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. “We set out over 10 years ago with a plan to rebuild our community and feel like this addition is a key component in those efforts. It also shows that we are continually looking for ways to further diversify our economic portfolio.

“I want to congratulate our Economic Development team on another great project that will contribute to our overall mission of improving the lives of all Wyandotte citizens.”
Last week the Wyandotte Nation’s Planning & Natural Resources Department held its annual Environmental Festival Friday, April 14, at the Tribe’s Pow-Wow grounds for more than 500 students, teachers, and guests. Additionally, the department collected the most tires to date during its Spring Tire Collection event.

“The first Environmental Festival was in May of 2008,” said Kathleen Welch, Environmental Program Manager for the Tribe. “We had hosted the event every year since then, excluding two years because of COVID.”

Welch said they set up 16 booths run by 42 workers and had 27 tribal employee volunteers help at the festival. Eight northeast Oklahoma tribes participated in this event, including the Wyandottes, Eastern Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Cherokee, Modoc, Miami, Ottawa, and Peoria. She estimated 500 students, 30 teachers, and three paraprofessionals (from Wyandotte public schools) participated in the annual festival designed to educate students on the environment, environmental problems, and solutions. The students also took home some goodies.

In addition to the Friday festival, the week started with the Spring Tire Collection event during which the Wyandotte Nation collected a record 1,244 tires, according to Welch. The collection event ended Friday at the Lost Creek Recycling Center.

For the past 10 years, the department has held a collection event twice each year, one in the spring and the other in the fall. The next collection event is in October and is a great opportunity for those who were not able to drop their tires off this time to do so in the fall.

“These tires are picked up by RTR Environmental from Noble, Oklahoma, and are transported back to their facility where the tires are shredded, all metal removed and then used for various other products,” Welch said.

For more images from the event, check out the Wyandotte Nation’s Facebook page.
Tribe stands against sexual assault crimes

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, on behalf of the Tribe, signed a Proclamation Monday, April 17, to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month, to draw attention to the crimes of sexual violence, and the commitment to future prevention.

Chief Friend also recognized the work done by the Tribe’s Family Violence Prevention Program staff.

“We have a great group that works with our sexual assault and domestic violence victims,” Chief Friend said. “I get phone calls from law enforcement all over the area, talking about how great it is to work with our department and with these girls who do this daily. I want to commend you for what you do and the Wyandotte Nation appreciates you very much.”

Unfortunately, the problem with sexual assault and domestic violence is only increasing, making prevention programs essential in advocating for victims and raising awareness of this very real problem.

“We have been very, very blessed by the Wyandotte Nation,” said Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator Supervisor for the Wyandotte Nation’s Family Violence Prevention Program. “We are very appreciative of everything we’re helping the kids out, it’s just a great feeling.”

Chief Friend threw out the first pitch for the game, it was a strike of course. The Bears entertained Kansas in the season opener.

Local teams sport new fields for opening day

(By Andy Searcy, Four States Home Page) -- Opening day had an even more special feeling in Wyandotte Tuesday afternoon.

The school held a dedication ceremony for their new turf field at the baseball stadium. In fact, the baseball, softball, and football facilities will all have new turf fields thanks to the Wyandotte Nation.

The tribe footed the bill for the $2.8 million project. For the school district, it’s a dream come true.

“It’s hard to explain but just the fact that they’re willing to invest in their kids and to see a need and present that need, it’s just overwhelming actually. I’ve never experienced anything like that,” said Brad Wade, Wyandotte Superintendent.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said, “It’s a great opportunity for these kids. You know to be in a small rural school to be able to play on turf fields … some kids never have that opportunity and so you know to be able to be a part of this and that program stays alive and well so that we can continue to do the outreach in our community.”

The Proclamation stated American Indian and Alaskan Native women experience a disproportionate rate of violence at 2.5 times higher than any other ethnicity with more than 1 in 2 women experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime. The Wyandotte Nation is committed to raising awareness and combating the problem of sexual violence.

“Sexual assault results in conviction only 3% of the time,” Arnold told the crowd gathered to watch the proclamation. “This is really upsetting for us as advocates dealing with victims wanting some sort of resolution or justice for what they endured.

“For our program and clients we work with, we’ve only twice had cases that did not go to trial. I’m really proud of the work that is done in our department and the follow-through everybody has. These advocates... don’t stop, they keep making phone calls, pushing, and making sure justice is met. I am really proud of the voice that they are.”
Events in Images:

Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow & Wyandotte Nation Annual Easter Egg Hunt

PRESCHOOL POW-WOW  (TOP & ABOVE LEFT) The Wyandotte Nation Preschool hosted its annual Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow Thursday evening, April 13, at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds. Princess Sara Wright performed the 'Lord's Prayer' in sign language to kick off the event. Grand Entry and the introduction of the Tribes followed and led into the preschoolers participating in the Pow-Wow dances and songs. The Host Drum, Michael Killer & Medicine Eagle, led the preschoolers and their families in a Round Dance, Snake Dance, and Buffalo Dance. Joshua Garcia was the Head Man, Sara Wright was the Head Lady, John Webb was the Honor Guard Representative and presented the Colors, and the Emcee was Choogie Kingfisher.

EASTER EGG HUNT  (ABOVE & BELOW LEFT) Area youth participate in the egg hunt held at the Pow-Wow grounds Saturday, April 1.
The Human Resources Department has hired, Nancy Ezell, as a Human Resources Coordinator. Nancy has a B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration. She worked for 10 years at the Turnaround Ranch, then moved to Maumelle, Ark., where she worked in Human Resources. She moved back to Missouri and worked for Freeman Health System in their HR department before coming to work for Wyandotte Nation. Nancy’s hobbies include spending time with her family, reading, and playing games. She enjoys spending time with family, and friends and supporting the activities her children are involved in. Nancy has been a band parent and is now currently a “baseball mom!”

We are very fortunate to have Nancy at the Wyandotte Nation and wish her much success in her new position.

Madilynn Lyman and Hailey Hemann have joined the Education Department as After School Childcare Assistants. Madilynn is a tribal citizen and worked for Wyandotte Nation during the summer youth program. Her hobbies include making cups and t-shirts and she also enjoys watching movies.

Hailey is a junior at Wyandotte High School. She enjoys shopping, and spending time with her family, friends, boyfriend, and her dog. Hailey loves kids. She has four siblings, she loves to play with her 4-year-old brother. She has played basketball for seven years and ran track for three years.

We are pleased to have Hailey and Madilynn and wish them much success in their new positions.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Andrew Shyers as a Police Officer. Andrew graduated from Wyandotte High School. He has experience working in the jail and two years of experience working patrol. He enjoys fishing and spending time with his children.

We are very excited to have Andrew in his new position and wish him much success.

The Accounting Department is happy to welcome Kayla Friend as an Accounting Clerk II. Kayla is married and has twin boys. She attended Miami High School and studied at Northeast Technology Center. When she's not running around picking up after her boys, Kayla enjoys quiet moments with a cup of coffee, outdoor activities, and catching up with friends and family.

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

The Facilities Department welcomes Brendan Cooper as a Facilities Technician. Brendan enjoys working out, sports, and reading. He enjoys spending time with God, his family, and his friends.

We are very fortunate to have Brendan on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

If you haven’t been to Wyandotte in a few years you definitely need to make it a point to visit this year! The Tribe has experienced so much growth in the last five years that it is even hard for us locals to keep up. The new True Value hardware store will be open shortly, an Elder’s nutrition center is under construction, a new Education building will break ground soon as well as multiple housing projects, just to name a few signs of the growth. The Family Services staff is thankful for Tribal leadership who continually plan for future generations and work toward building and maintaining a strong government, economic and cultural foundation.

In the next few weeks, all adult tribal citizens will be receiving a “Programs & Services” brochure. This brochure combines all of the Tribe’s programs and services into one convenient publication. The goal is for the brochure to be updated annually to help tribal citizens become more aware of services available as well as a brief description of each program. This information is also available on the Tribe’s website www.wyandotte-nation.org along with applications, additional guideline information, and submission instructions. Please note that program applications do change with each year and the current year application must be used. If you have direct deposit set up with the Tribe, please make sure all banking information is current. If there have been any changes, you will need to submit the proper paperwork. Keeping your address current with the Tribe is also very important so you don’t miss out on information!

As a reminder, Enrollment applications must either be hand delivered or postmarked by Aug. 15 to be considered for citizenship at the Annual Meeting Sept. 9. Applications must be submitted with an original state-certified birth certificate. Hospital and county health department birth certificates are not acceptable for enrollment purposes. If at all possible, please turn in applications early in case there are errors that need to be corrected. Enrollment applications are updated each year, so be sure that you’re using the current application. We don’t include this application on our website, but one can be mailed or emailed to you when requested. The Enrollment Officer will be working with the Enrollment Committee to update the Enrollment Ordinance throughout 2023. Significant changes will be highlighted on our website and in future newsletters.

If you are an enrolled citizen who lives in Oklahoma, you may notice some changes to the motor vehicle tag policies. Any new vehicle will require proof of domicile form before a title/registration can be issued. This form can be mailed, emailed, or found on our website for your convenience.

The Supreme Court ruling that allows Oklahoma Tribes to title and register vehicles requires that they be “principally garaged in Oklahoma Indian Country,” so it is extremely important that we follow the law to protect our program. Another exciting announcement is that Wyandotte Nation Veterans will soon be able to receive special plates honoring their service to our country! The design as well as guidelines will be posted to the website once finalized.

Continued on Page 10
School Supply Program

The School Supply program is available nationwide to all enrolled tribal citizens pre-K through grade 12. Applications MUST be received or postmarked by Sept. 30 to be eligible AND the receipts MUST also be dated between July 1 and Sept. 30. NO EXCEPTIONS. Applications will be available online and can be mailed or emailed to you. However, original applications and receipts must be mailed or hand-delivered.

Eligible children will receive up to $200 for school supplies and/or clothing through either a reimbursement program or Walmart gift cards. For questions please contact Leanna Radabaugh at (918) 678-6329.

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Housed within the Family Services Department is the Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP). This program assists victims of Crime with various services. These services include, but are not limited to, advocacy, court accompaniment, housing, food, clothing, transportation, legal, counseling, etc. Services are available to anyone within a 25-mile radius as well as limited services to Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide. They also provide presentations to make the public more aware of the issues surrounding certain crimes and to help the community know more about the services they can provide. During the past 12 months, this program has assisted over 200 victims. The month of May is designated as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons awareness month. Throughout the month, the FVPP will be hosting a couple of events to bring awareness to the epidemic that is affecting Native communities across the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the murder rate is 10 times higher than the national average for women living on reservations and the third leading cause of death for Native women. Please follow the FVPP Facebook page “Wyandotte Nation Domestic Violence Program” for important information, tips, and announcements for their program events.

We encourage tribal citizens to mark their calendars and attend The Gathering of Little Turtles June 23-25, The Gathering Sept. 5-8, and the Pow Wow Sept. 8-10! The Cultural Department and Cultural Advisory Board put a great deal of effort into making each of these events memorable, entertaining, and informative. Also, the Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9. Since the national pandemic emergency will have expired, there will not be a drive-thru option this year. Tribal citizens who attend the meeting will be required to show their tribal ID to receive the meeting stipend. If the tribal ID does not include a photo, a photo ID will need to be provided as well. Additional meeting details will be announced in the August newsletter.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve the Wyandotte people. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our programs.

Family Services Staff:
wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org
- Director, Dana Butterfield, 918-678-6319
- ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg, 918-678-6355
- ICW Worker, Carmalita Ward, 918-678-6485
- Tag Administrator, Tiffany Gardner, 918-678-6353
- Family Services Specialist, Leanna Radabaugh, 918-678-6329
- Enrollment Officer, Haylee Botts, 918-678-6321

Family Violence Prevention Program Staff:
fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org – Hotline number 877-276-0669
- DV Advocate/Educator, Lisa Arnold, 918-678-6324
- FVPP Manager, Cesilie Chandler, 918-678-3269
- Crime Victims Advocate, Kristi Johnston, 918-678-6340
- DV/Elder Abuse Advocate, Jenny Reeves, 918-678-6486
- Supervised Visitation Specialist, Chelsea King, 918-678-3257
- DV/SA Advocate, Becky Maples, 918-678-6373
- DV/SA/Pandemic Support Advocate, Gabby Ezell, 918-678-6402

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Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

Wyandotte Nation’s Library is now open to the public! The library hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. You will need a Wyandotte Nation Library card to check out books and/or DVDs. If you do not have a library card, you may obtain one online by filling out the application on the website at www.wyandotte-nation.org, or you can request one in person when visiting the library. If you cannot make it into the library, we are a member of Oklahoma Virtual Library, and if you have access to the internet, you may create an account using your phone, tablet, or PC and visit our virtual library at www.okvirtuallibrary.overdrive.com. You can also download the “Libby” app to access the virtual library. By doing this, you will gain access to several different eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and videos. You may contact the Librarian, Madeline Harnar, at mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org or by calling the library at (918) 678-6332 for more information.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is currently processing the spring 2023 semester scholarships. At this time, the undergraduate and master’s scholarships are awarded in the amount of $3,000, for full-time enrollment. Beginning in the fall of 2023, the scholarship amount for undergraduate and master’s scholarships will increase to $5,000 per semester for students enrolled full-time. If you are enrolled in less than 12 hours, your scholarship will be prorated to the number of hours you are attending. If you are currently in the scholarship program, please remember to send in your latest transcript, which will have your spring grades and fall schedule listed. An unofficial transcript is required at the end of each semester in order for us to process your next semester’s scholarship. If you are new to the scholarship program, we want to inform you of some guidelines that you are required to meet to maintain the scholarship:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to 8 semesters.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the program’s duration.
- The deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is May 1.

To obtain an Undergraduate, Master’s, or Vocational Scholarship application, they are now available on our website, or 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. You may also contact Evan for a Wyandotte Nation Stole application. Stoles are available to college graduates that have participated in the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program. The stoles are also available to Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens graduating from college, but who did not obtain a scholarship from the Wyandotte Nation. You will be required to fill out the stole application, located on the website, and submit all documenta-
Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House,
Elder Services Director

It is so nice to see the trees and flowers blooming, birds tweeting, and the grass turning green.

Our new Elder Services (Title VI) Building is coming along. The walls for the safe room are up and everything is moving quickly. We are getting so excited!

Our Mother’s Day Dinner is Thursday, May 11 and Father’s Day Dinner is Thursday, June 15.

We will be collaborating with other members of the Northeast Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition to host a prom for our Elders at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Gym Friday, May 12, from 10 am to Noon. Lunch will be provided.

CAREGIVER

We hold a Caregiver Support Group on the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the Title VI Safe Room. We provide lunch following the meeting. This group is for all current and former caregivers. It is also for grandparents raising grandchildren.

We are continuing to provide respite care vouchers for Caregivers to have a much-needed break.

It is always a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens. Please feel free to call us anytime.

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

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

Housing

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese,
Housing Director

The Heritage Acres Housing Area provides rental units for elders and families. Two family duplexes are in the process of construction, and one Elder duplex is in the beginning stage of construction. This area now has 60 rental units with future plans of expanding even more. If you are interested in a rental unit, the application is available online or in the housing office. This program is based on federal income guidelines. If you have questions, contact the housing department.

If you are 55 and older, our senior housing may be for you. The duplexes are all two-bedroom, 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 it to the housing office.

The new equipment will be installed at Heritage Acres Park this summer. The projected date will be in June. The Community uses the park and it is a great place for family reunions or birthday parties.

Wyandotte Housing Assistance Fund, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021, is available...
Planning & Natural Resources

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

Environmental

The New Year has started off with a bang as staff continues to monitor eight local water bodies for water quality parameters. The staff has also been attending online GIS/GPS training that will enhance the department further with mapping capabilities for our program and other tribal departments.

Various meetings that department staff attended were NATURE (Native American Tribes Understanding Resources in the Environment), TECO (Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma), and RTOC (Regional Tribal Operations Committee).

February was a month filled with regular daily activities plus training. On Thursday, Feb. 2, Myron Shield participated in Fire Extinguisher Training. On Feb. 14, Kathleen Welch and Water Utilities Tech Braulio Ramirez traveled to Catoosa, Okla., for a Lead Service Line Inventory Training that pertains to the three tribal water systems.

The month of March brought the excitement of spring. On March 8, John Gerhard and Myron held an Environmental Education Class with the Tribal Turtle Tots Preschool. They developed and presented a video and PowerPoint that showed the importance of recycling and how it affects water pollution. Approximately 45 kids were in attendance. On March 24, Kathleen and John attended an Elder’s Spring Health Fair in Miami, Okla. Our department had an informational booth on environmental services and issues. Approximately 250 elders were in attendance and visited the booth.

With the warmer temperatures, our outside recycle bins have been filling up almost as quickly as they are emptied.

Below are the totals collected for the months of January thru March:

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<th>Waste Type</th>
<th>Tons</th>
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<tr>
<td>Heavy Metals</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
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<td>1078</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paper</td>
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<td>Newspapers</td>
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<tr>
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<td>671</td>
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<td>Aluminum</td>
<td>271</td>
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<tr>
<td>Plastic</td>
<td>285</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cardboard</td>
<td>1623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>19742</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Other Environmental Duties:

Each month, department staff performs monitoring and sampling on eight (8) sites within the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdictional area streams and water bodies. During this timeframe, staff also performed nutrient sampling on three lost creek sites, metals and e-coli sampling on all 8 sites.

The tires collected during the Spring Tire Collection Event in mid April.

Services Provided
-- Private Well Drinking Water Sampling
-- Private Home Owner’s Septic Assessments
-- Lost Creek Recycle Center

Note: For private well sampling appointments, contact Kathleen Welch, John Gerhard or Myron Shield.

Planning

Grants Submitted:
- Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS): To fund a School Resource Officer, as well as provide a vehicle, equipment, and training for the officer. A Needs Assessment will be conducted, to identify training gaps and prioritize training needs.

- Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA): This program provides direct services, housing assistance, and emergency shelter, as well as outreach/awareness.

- Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG): The beneficiaries of this new housing construction project are families of low- and moderate-incomes that meet the criteria of NAHASDA and 24 CFR 1000.104, NAHASDA Sec. 202, and 24 CFR 1000 Subpart B. Ten (10) eligible families will benefit from the new housing construction project by providing safe, decent, and sanitary housing, which will be assisted with funding under this NOFA and other leveraged resources.
  - Construct ten (10) single-family housing units
  - Make one (1) of the ten (10) housing units accessible for individuals with disabilities.

- Solid Waste and Infrastructure

Continued from Page 11

to homeowners affected by COVID.

able for help with water utilities in the state of Oklahoma. This program is based on income. Applications are available on the website or by calling our office. If you qualify for LIHEAP, you also qualify for this assistance.

IHS -121 Program

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

Continued on Page 13
for Recycling Project (SWIFR):  Wyandotte Nation’s proposed SWIFR project encompasses several features that expand and improve the Lost Creek Recycling Center. This would include: planning and constructing major renovations and permanent improvements to the facility, purchasing collection bins for recyclables, purchasing recycling equipment and other items for post-consumer materials management recovery, and hiring a full-time recycling technician to assist in recycling the increase in solid waste materials. Once implemented, the proposed project will help reduce solid waste generated in the tribal community by enhancing, improving, and maintaining the recycling program.

- Basic Library Grant: Increase literacy and learning services for youth and their families.

- Native American Services Enhancement Grant: Develop and enhance library events and educational activities in order to enhance the Wyandotte Nation Library.

- Story Walk Project at Bear Park for parents, teachers, and other adults to take young children to enjoy reading stories together in order to promote early learning while providing a service for children and families.
  - Incorporate one (1) Reading Buddies Program to encourage and improve reading by younger students with their older peers in order to create civic literacy.
  - Conduct six (6) outdoor movie nights based on either a book, season, or native theme in order to advance community and civic engagement as well as provide a service for the rural community.

- Tribal Opioid Response (TOR): Increase access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder, reduce unmet treatment needs, and develop and implement a comprehensive Tribal Opioid Response Program to address the opioid crisis in our tribal community.

Tribal Transportation:
The Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) was submitted in March. This is a five-year plan that is submitted annually, to prioritize road construction and maintenance. We submit annually because priorities may change from year to year.

- Submitted new routes into Road Inventory Field Data System (RIFDS). All roads and parking lots must be in inventory with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in order to use the funding. Wyandotte Nation has new parking lots and roads that have been submitted for approval. There are also two (2) county roads that are next to the new Turtle Hill Estates that have been submitted. We attended a County Commissioner’s meeting to have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in order to submit the county roads, this allows us to improve the county roads for better accessibility, and for our tribal citizens to receive services.

Department Contacts:
Christen Lee (Planning and Natural Resources Director) 918-678-6341
Kathleen Welch (Env. Department Manager) 918-678-6335
Myron Shield (Env. Technician I) 918-678-6345
John Gerhard (Env. Technician II) 918-678-6396
Jon Quick (Recycling) 918-678-6352
Debbie Dry (Grant Writer/BIA Self-Governance Coordinator) 918-678-6315
Michael Lowery (Grant Writer/477 Coordinator) 918-678-6309

Healthcare & Wellness
Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

Annual Wellness Visits - Medicare Part B
The Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is a yearly appointment with your primary care team to create or update a personalized prevention plan. This plan may help prevent illness based on your current health and risk factors. Keep in mind that the AWV is not a head-to-toe physical.

Also, this service is similar to but separate from the one-time Welcome to Medicare preventive visit.

Eligibility
Medicare Part B covers the Annual Wellness Visit if:
- You have had Part B for over 12 months
- And, you have not received an AWV in the past 12 months

Additionally, you cannot receive your AWV within the same year as your Welcome to Medicare preventive visit.

Covered services
During your first Annual Wellness Visit, your care team will develop your personalized prevention plan. Your care team may also:
- Check your height, weight, blood pressure, and other routine measurements
- Give you a health risk assessment: This may include a questionnaire that you complete before or during the visit. The questionnaire asks about your health status, injury risks, behavioral risks, and urgent health needs.
- Review your functional ability and level of safety: This includes screening for hearing impairments and your risk of falling: Your care team must also assess your ability to perform activities of daily living (such as bathing and dressing), and your level of safety at home.
- Learn about your medical and family history
- Make a list of your current providers, durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers, and medications: Medications include prescription medications, as well as vitamins and supplements you may take
- Create a written 5-10 year screening schedule or checklist: Your care team should keep in mind your health status, screening history, and eligibility for age-appropriate, Medicare-covered preventive services
- Screen for cognitive impairment, including diseases such as Alzheimer’s and other forms of dementia: Medicare does not require that care teams use a test to screen you. Instead, care teams are asked to rely on their observations and/or on reports by you and others.
- Screen for depression
- Provide health advice and referrals to health education and/or preventive counseling services aimed at reducing identified risk factors and promoting wellness: Health education and preventive counseling may relate to weight loss, physical activity, smoking cessation, fall prevention, nutrition, and more.

AWVs after your first visit may be different. At subsequent AWVs, your care team should:
- Check your weight and blood pressure
- Update the health risk assessment you completed
- Update your medical and family history
- Update your list of current medical providers and suppliers
- Update your written screening schedule
- Screen for cognitive issues
- Provide health advice and referrals to health education and/or preventive counseling services

Costs
If you qualify, Original Medicare covers the Annual Wellness Visit at 100% of the Medicare-approved amount when you receive the service from a participating provider. This means you pay nothing (no deductible or coinsurance). Medicare Advantage Plans are required to cover AWVs without applying deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance when you see an in-network provider and meet Medicare’s eligibility requirements for the service.

During the course of your AWV, your care team may discover and need to investigate or treat a new or existing problem. This additional care is considered diagnostic, meaning your care team is treating you because of certain symptoms or risk factors. Medicare may bill you for any diagnostic care you receive during a preventive visit.

Source: https://www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/medicare-covered-services/preventive-services/annual-wellness-visit

To schedule a Medicare Wellness Exam Contact:
Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center
1 Turtle Drive
Wyandotte, OK 74370
918-678-2282


**Language Notes**

**By Beci Wright**  
**Wyandotte Nation**

Kweh ʔomatęʔ! (Hello, friends!)  
So glad to see yerähké:deh (spring) arrive but before you know it, wayętá:yeh (summer) will be here!

We are excited to share tribal citizen Ruthy (Emily) Logan’s seasonal drawing for anyone to color! Yawahshih! (It’s great!) Pronunciation for all vocabulary words can be found at www.wandat.org along with the file to print more copies as needed (click on the Turtle Speaks Audio button).

Join me every third Wednesday of the month at Wandat Wednesdays (on ZOOM) to practice together. Our topics range from body parts to seasonal activities to learners’ requests.

Titamay! Etsiskwaye? (I will see you all again)!

Pronunciation Reminders: ? is a glottal stop, like in the middle of “uh-oh!”; the little hook under a vowel means it is nasal – try to pronounce it using your nose rather than the back of your throat. The colon : is a lengthener – say the vowel that comes before it twice as long as you would normally. And the little accent tells you where to put the stress.

---Language support courtesy of our Wyandotte Nation Linguist, Dr. Craig Kopris. All mistakes are my own. – Beci

Interested in learning our language?

Many language classes fill up before we can advertise them in Turtle Speaks. If you would like to be notified of future offerings when they first become available, please add your name to our mailing list and take a few minutes to tell us your learning preferences at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LangInterest-

---Language support courtesy of our Wyandotte Nation Linguist, Dr. Craig Kopris. All mistakes are my own. – Beci

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**Cultural Division**

Submitted by Kim Garcia (Tetsiʔaraʔt), Cultural Preservation Officer (Inyomarihúʔtęʔ Ahęhtastaʔ)

Staff from the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Division were invited to an event at the Seneca Art & Culture Center – Ganondagan in Victor, NY. The event was to welcome 18 rare and important objects associated with wampum from the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, France. One wampum belt was a gift from the Hurons to the Immaculate Virgin. The Seneca people held a ceremony to welcome all the visitors from other nations and then to welcome the wampum pieces back to their lands. The people in attendance were then allowed to photograph and hold these items that were made by their ancestors. The experience was emotional and helped to heal relationships that were damaged many generations ago. The exhibit for the public is now open through Sept. 16 and we encourage all Wyandottes to visit.

In March, we finished tapping the trees and did a sap boil. We also had a basic sewing class taught by the “Sewing Auntsie” at the same time – participants learned to sew a bag. We had a nice chili dinner prepared by the Elder Nutrition staff and then we had a social dance. The Wa’dat singers have been meeting every Thursday evening to learn our traditional longhouse songs. Having these social dances every few months pushes the singers to learn new songs and to take turns leading. It’s such a good thing these Wyandotte men have stepped up to learn our traditional songs. Yawahshih!

April began with the Easter Egg Hunt at the Pow-Wow Grounds and then a pottery class taught by Wyandotte Citizen Nathan McAlister. The pots will be fired April 29. We hope they all make it! The preschool pow-wow was led by our own Josh Garcia serving as Head Man and Princess Sara Wright serving as Head Lady. The 2nd sewing class will be April 22 – learning how to make a ribbon skirt.

May is our first Graduation Pow-Wow! Wyandotte Citizen Caleb Garcia is serving as Head Man and we will be honoring all high school and college graduates. Please join us!

May 13 will be the day to honor women. We will have a shawl class in the afternoon and a Mother’s Day Social Dance in the evening after dinner.

We will have our Lacrosse Camp June 19-22. This camp is open to all kids ages 12 and older. In the evenings, we plan to host a mini-camp for kids 11 and younger. June 23-25 is our Gathering of Little Turtles. This year we will be learning about plants used for food, medicine, and tools. This is geared towards all kids from zero to 15 (with older kids helping as mentors to the younger kids).

Sept. 5-8 will be our Gathering. (We are planning a kayak trip on Sept. 4.) Pow-Wow will be Sept. 8-10.

There are lots of opportunities for all Wyandottes to learn and participate in cultural activities. We have people from all over the country joining us via Zoom and in-person. Please check out the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center Facebook page for more information and links to register for events. If you’re not from around here and are visiting, please come visit. Let us know beforehand so we can prepare for you.

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**Department Contacts:**

Kim Garcia  
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918-678-6344

Chris Houk  
chouk@wyandotte-nation.org  
918-678-6480

Beci Wright  
bwright@wyandotte-nation.org  
918-678-6385

Teresa Wilson  
twilson@wyandotte-nation.org  
918-678-6385
Wyandotte Book Club!

The Cultural Center hosts an online book club using ZOOM every quarter. We encourage anyone who is interested to sign up and attend our sessions – whether you finished the book or not! The focus is on how the book impacts us as Wyandot(te)s & relatives so our discussions are amazing. Every selection is available in paperback and audiobook and you are invited to choose which format works best for you.

Our May title will be The Inconvenient Indian by Thomas King and Book Club will be held WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023 at noon and 7:30 PM Central Time.

Our next selection is Motorcycles and Sweetgrass by Drew Hayden Taylor for MONDAY, AUG. 7, 2023 at noon and 7:30 PM Central Time.

To register for Book Club (if you never have before) and receive the zoom link, please go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBookClub.

If you’d like to suggest future titles, they 1) must be written by a native author, 2) must be available in paperback, and 3) must be available as an audiobook. If you are interested in leading a future session, please let us know at bwright@wyandotte-nation.org.

Directory of Wyandotte Names

Being gifted a traditional name in our Wandat language means that no other Wyandotte has the same name. Names are the property of the Nation and in contemporary times are bestowed by our Chief after consultation with close family & friends. Currently, the recipient hears their name for the first time during the ceremony at the Blessing of the Pow Wow Grounds every September.

If you have been gifted a traditional name in the past, please be sure to add it to our Directory at https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WNames so we can ensure it is not used by anyone else during your lifetime. (Over the years, records have been kept in several places and we don’t want to accidentally overlook anyone!) Tižamęh!

If you cannot access the online Directory, please send: your English name, address, birthday, Wyandotte name, when & where you received it, and any story associated with it you’d like to share to the Cultural Center. We’d appreciate it!

Please send name questions & inquiries to bwright@wyandotte-nation.org.
Important Numbers

Family Services Enrollment
wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org
Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319
Leannna Radabaugh (918) 678-6329
Haylee Botts (918) 678-6321

Tags
Tiffany Garner (918) 678-6353
tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org

Family Violence Prevention Program
Lisa Arnold (918) 678-6324
fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org
Hotline: 877-276-0669

Indian Child Welfare
Tara Gagg (918) 678-6355
tragg@wyandotte-nation.org
Carmalita Ward, (918) 678-6485
cward@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Nutrition & Caregiver Services
Brenda House (918) 678-6327
bhouse@wyandotte-nation.org

Education/Library/Child Care
Cristi Hudson (918) 678-6334
chudson@wyandotte-nation.org

Environmental/Planning/Development
Christen Lee (918) 678-6341
clee@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Police Department
Ronnie Gilmore (918) 678-6365
rgilmore@wntpd.com
Non-emergency: (918) 678-3100
police@wntpd.com

Cultural Division
Kim Garcia (918) 678-6317
kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org
Sherri Clemons (918) 678-6344
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
Kelly Friend (918) 678-3299
kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org

Clinic Appointments
Dee Dee Clapp (918) 678-3228
dclapp@wyandotte-nation.org

Dental/Vision
Ashley Crawford (918) 678-3222
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
bhart@wyandotte-nation.org

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

All events in Wyandotte, Okla., unless otherwise noted. ALL EVENTS SUBJECT TO CHANGE!