



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 26, Issue 2

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

May 2022

Easter Egg Hunt

## Kids enjoy thrill of the hunt

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

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### Inside:

- **Preschool returns to newly renovated facilities**
- **Newest Turtle Stop opens doors in Grove**
- **Notice of Annual Meeting & Election**

## Board of Directors

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

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



**Cover Photo:**  
 The Easter  
 Bunny holds  
 a baby at the  
 annual Easter  
 Egg Hunt.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM SWAIM

## Contact Us

### Have News? Share it

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

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Phone: (918) 810-0089



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## From the Chief

## Billy Friend

# Strength in unity defines us

I hope this quarter's Turtle Talk finds all of our Wyandotte people doing well and enjoying the spring season. While for us here in Oklahoma, the threat and many times the reality of strong storms and severe weather ushers in spring, it is also a time of growth, brilliant colors, and new life. Everything begins to awaken and everywhere plants and trees are in bloom. Spring is an exciting time of year as we open our minds to the many possibilities before us, and to the blessings, we have received.

Just as the seasons change, throughout history Wyandotte people have been able to successfully adapt to constantly changing situations. One reason we have been able to succeed as a people and a nation is our shared belief in certain core values.

Today, our values continue to set the standard for how we do the things we do. Those values also serve as the foundation for our mission "to improve the overall quality of life of the Wyandotte people."

That mission was developed because the Wyandotte people

have always placed a high value on enhancing the well-being of our family, our fellow Wyandottes, and the Wyandotte Nation.

We are committed to helping one another and working together because we have long understood there is strength in unity. That belief in the power of unity is an important aspect of our vision. The name given to one of our ancestors was "Quindaro," which meant a bundle of sticks. Loosely interpreted, it means there is "strength in unity."

Our employees at the Wyandotte Nation have always understood that teamwork, honesty, and integrity have always been essential to the success of our Tribe. Teamwork is as important today as ever because it is the only way to fulfill our mission of "improving the overall quality of life of the Wyandotte people."

For those who have not heard, this past year the Board of Directors separated our Cultural Department from under the government division and created another Division within the Tribe. We did this because we place a high value on cultural

identity. Culture binds us together as a people. We have no future without our history. Therefore, we must strive to preserve our cultural history and incorporate it into everything we do. Kim Garcia has been appointed to lead this effort, and she and her staff have done an outstanding job this past year.

While new projects are important, and they are material signs of our tribal growth, it is always the Wyandotte people who are the source of our most significant tribal growth.

With the key building blocks of quality education, jobs, housing, and quality health care, our Tribe has made tremendous strides in just one generation. The greatest investment we make and the investment that produces by far the greatest return is always in the Wyandotte people.

As I stated in the beginning, spring is here and we are thankful for the change of seasons. Let us also be thankful for our Tribe, our families, and our friends. United together, we have achieved a great deal, and possibilities are never-ending when working together in the future.

## From the Second Chief

## Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

# Good changes happening at Tribe

Kweh Omateru

Hello my friends, well I guess the tornado season is upon us here in Oklahoma, the temperature has been like a roller coaster, and we are getting into the wind and rainy part of the season. Well in Oklahoma that could almost be any time of the year, global warming has been messing with our seasons the last several years, we never know what we are going to wake up to every morning.

Enough about that, here in Wyandotte, Okla., the Nation has been progressing at a rapid rate. We were talking to the engineering firm that we use for a lot of our projects and they said they are working on 10 dif-

ferent projects with us, so there will be a huge change in the landscape here in the Wyandotte Nation and the surrounding area. These changes will not only benefit our tribal citizens but everyone in the area as well. We will be building affordable rental housing available to the public, an addition to the preschool, a new Elder Services facility (Title VI), a building for our domestic violence department, and improving some of the roads in our area. With all this growth, we are working with the Town of Wyandotte to increase the size of the sewage treatment plant. When you come in September for the Gathering, Annual Meeting, and

Pow-Wow, you will see some of the changes already completed and hopefully some under construction. Yes, you heard me right we are having a Pow-Wow this year, things are getting back to normal here slowly but we are seeing improvement in the daily lives of everyone in Oklahoma and elsewhere.

There has been a lot of talk in the news lately about the Indian Boarding Schools and the investigation the Federal Government has started on this issue. It should have been done





## PUBLIC NOTICE

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

On Sept. 10, 2022, the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting and Election at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The election will begin at 9 am.

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

- **2nd Chief**
- **1 Board of Director member**
- **2 Grievance Committee members**

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

The opening date to file for candidacy is May 13, 2022, with a closing date of June 12, 2022, at 4:30 pm. All qualified members of the Wyandotte Nation who desire his or her name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Elective Office must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" in person with the Election Board Secretary or a designated representative at the Wyandotte

Nation Administration Building located at 8 Turtle Drive, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office at any one time. All such filings of Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no sooner than May 13, 2022, and no later than June 12, 2022. No later than three days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board Secretary shall post a complete list of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy at the Tribal Complex.

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

didacy. Said filing fee is non-refundable.

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

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

**—Zach Shockey, Chairperson  
Wyandotte Nation Election Board**

## 2nd Chief

### Continued from Page 2

decades ago, but they have started one now. Hopefully, something good will come of it, but I will not hold my breath. My history portion will be about the Seneca Indian School that existed here in Wyandotte. But first, a little excerpt to explain why the boarding schools were established, to begin with.

"Kill the Indian, save the man" was the motto of Capt. Richard Henry Pratt, the most prominent Indian educator of the late 1800s. Progressive reformers like Pratt believed it was essential to get Indian children away from their families and nations to prevent parents from raising the children in their own cultures. So the reformers founded boarding schools where children could be isolated from Indian languages, values, and traditions. Culture erasure was the stated goal.

The rest of this article is an interview with Jared Silas Dawson in 1937:

*"There was no school here except the mission school that had been established by the Quakers at what is now Wyandotte, Okla., so my brother*

*and I were sent there to school. We stayed at the school and were allowed to go home each six weeks and to stay from Friday to Sunday. Yes some of us would run away; I tried it once and they came after me that night about eleven and I had to go back, but I would not have tried it again for the next morning mother would have taken me back and she would have made me walk, and she would have ridden along with me to see that I went.*

*Uncle Jerry Hubbard was in charge of the school and we had good teachers, who although strict were good to us. We had very poor clothing, food and quarters as they would be judged now-a-days but they were feeding, clothing and teaching us at no expense to our parents and what they received was allowed them from the government. The boys had red duck pants put together with rivets, hickory shirts of blue and white, brogan shoes, common black hats, no socks and no underwear. The girls wore blue denim all made alike with coarse cotton flannel underwear, heavy shoes and the little girls had copper toes on their shoes.*

*Our sleeping room or dorm, as you*

**"Responsibility is the thing people dread most of all. Yet it is the one thing in the world that develops us, gives us manhood or womanhood fibre."**

---Frank H. Crane

*would say today was without fire, hard mattresses, coarse blankets and no sheets. What did we have to eat? For breakfast we had boiled beef, gravy, light bread and weak coffee. For dinner cornbread, beans, gravy and water. For supper two tubs were filled with sliced light bread, in one tub two slices were put together with New Orleans molasses and there were rows of pegs about two feet apart, we boys took our place at these one boy to a peg with the larger boys in front and these led up to where two women were in charge of the two tubs of bread and as a boy moved up to the peg in front of the tub one of the women would say "with or without" and if he said with he was given two slices of the light bread put together with molasses and if he said without he was handed two slices of dry bread, these we took and went to where the pump was for water and this was our supper.*

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

I gave this as a presentation at a middle school in Michigan a few years ago. The Quakers received \$165 per student per year to house, clothe and feed them. I am sure the Quakers really cut corners with these children to increase their profits -- it seemed that way to me, what do you think? I am sure the Quakers thought they were doing good for these children but taking them from their families for weeks at a time was not right.





# Easter Egg Hunt



Despite the chilly morning, families made their way to the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow grounds Saturday, April 9, to take part in the 2nd Annual Wyandotte Nation Easter Egg Hunt. Children from a few months old to 12 years took part in the race to gather eggs filled with candy, money and prizes. Staff and volunteers were on hand early in the morning to lay out the 5,000 eggs for the community, who came out in droves for the pre-Easter fun. The event was sponsored by Family Services, CCDF, the Cultural Division and Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION





Students, staff settle back into newly renovated facility after flooding

# Overcoming adversity

By WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Rain is nothing new to Oklahoma. However, heavy rainfall last summer caused unusual flooding and left the Wyandotte Nation Education staff adjusting to a new reality.

"It was disbelief," said Education Director Cristi Hudson of the flooding that forced the school's closure. "The amount of water on the back playground was unreal. Just to know areas flooded that normally don't, and areas that normally flood didn't -- it was just a dark cloud that hung over us for a while between COVID and the flood. Hopefully, that dark cloud has moved on."

The flooding also impacted their next-door neighbors, the Elder Services Department, who were also displaced and had to close their doors for a time as well.

Education staff was already dealing with closures due to COVID-19 outbreaks and was adjusting again after being displaced by the flood June 26.

Now, after nearly nine months, and several renovations later, staff and students settled back into their new and improved classrooms. It has also helped that everything has started to return to normal following the pandemic.

"Great feeling just knowing we were going to have everybody together under the same roof," Hudson said of the return on March 21 to the new and improved facilities.

The flood forced a shutdown for a week before reopening July 6 last year -- at several locations.

The biggest challenge Hudson



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

(Pictured Above and Below) The Wyandotte Nation Education building underwent flooding and the newly renovated building now features expanded classrooms, additional bathrooms and much more.

said was finding locations for everything they do -- preschool, infant/toddler, library, before/after school programs, and more.

One of the most challenging aspects was finding a kitchen to work out of, however, River Bend Casino & Hotel stepped in to help, opening up the Twin Bridges Restaurant kitchen for use. Twin Bridges was only open for dinner, so staff could prepare breakfast and lunch there and were able to clean up before the restaurant started serving dinner.

"Just finding locations for everything was the most challenging, but once we found the location, we were able to make everything work," Hudson said, commend-

ing her staff for stepping up and coming together to make it work despite the not ideal situation.

She said she was also appreciative of the Tribe's different departments coming together and opening up their spaces for staff and classrooms.

"Everybody was willing to pitch in and do what they could to help. It wasn't the best-case scenario, but we made everything work and everyone worked together -- and that is the Tribe as a whole," Hudson said. "Other departments opened up their saferooms and classrooms to us. Everybody was willing to step in and help in any way they could."

Some of the highlights of the

## Renovations included:

- New flooring throughout the building.
- New paint throughout.
- Knocked down non-load bearing walls to expand the infant, one-year-old, and toddlers classrooms, and allowed more storage area for kitchen supplies and food.
- Remodeled the cubby room to allow more room for more cubbies.
- Added bathrooms to one-year-old and toddler classrooms.
- Updated sinks and faucets in all bathrooms.
- Added a flex room for library activities.
- Remodeled the library and completed lab.
- Added a vestibule to the pre-school entry.
- New teacher work area/copy room.
- Moved offices to the Title VI building.
- Enclosed walkway to new offices

renovation include increasing the size of rooms the kids are in, as well as having new bathrooms in the infant/toddler area, so each classroom has its own bathroom. Hudson said this is great for potty training, and the toilets and sinks are kids' sizes.

The Wyandotte Nation Library remains closed as they continue some of the renovations, but Hudson said she is hopeful it is also open soon. In the meantime, people can visit the Library section on the Wyandotte Nation website (<https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/education/library/>), fill out an application to become a patron, and visit the virtual library (<https://okvirtuallibrary.overdrive.com/>) to check out titles and more.

You can also check out the different programs and services provided by the Education Department on the Tribe's website ([www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org)).







Turtle Stop Expansion

# Newest Turtle Stop opens in Grove

BY WILLIAM SWAIM  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation’s newest Turtle Stop location in Grove held the official ribbon-cutting with the Grove Chamber of Commerce Wednesday, March 2. The Turtle Stop added a fourth store recently after purchasing the OnCue Convenience Store, located at 1101 E Hwy 10, for its second location in Grove.

“We’re very excited for this day to be here. We thank everybody for coming out,” said Kelly Carpino, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) CEO. “We are really excited to open our second store in Grove. We have a lot of continued plans for the store.”

Carpino said upcoming plans include updates to the interior of the store and expanding the food service program to include pizza and hot deli items already known by Turtle Stop customers. This location will also continue to operate as a Phillips 66 property.

Operational staff from WТОK, Turtle Stop staff and Wyandotte tribal leadership were on hand for the ribbon-cutting, including Board of Directors Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Vivian Fink, Eric Lofland, and Ramona Reid, who made the official cut to signify the opening.

The newest Turtle Stop was closed for the transition but had a soft



(ABOVE) Wyandotte Nation tribal leadership, along with economic development operational staff (WTOK) and representatives of the Grove Chamber of Commerce, officially cut the ribbon at the newest Turtle Stop location in Grove, Okla. It is the second Turtle Stop location in Grove.

opening Monday, Feb. 28.

In addition to the two stores in Grove, Turtle Stop currently has

locations in Wyandotte, Okla., and in Seneca, Mo., which opened last year. Turtle Stop is a Wyandotte

Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) business enterprise. WТОK handles economic development for the Tribe.

(RIGHT)  
Interior and exterior images of the newest Turtle Stop location in Grove, Okla.

PHOTOS BY  
WILLIAM SWAIM  
| WYANDOTTE  
NATION





# Sept. 9-11, 2022!



## 31st Annual Wyandotte Pow-Wow

### Join Us!

#### Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds

(5 miles East of Wyandotte on Hwy 60)

#### FRIDAY

8 pm

Women's Jingle  
Jr Girl's Cloth  
Men's Grass  
Jr Boy's Straight  
Men's Golden Age

#### SATURDAY

1:30 pm

Jr Boy's Grass  
Women's Cloth  
Jr Girl's Fancy Shawl  
Men's Straight

#### SATURDAY

7 pm

Jr Girl's Jingle  
Men's Fancy  
Jr Boy's Traditional  
Women's Buckskin  
Women's Golden Age

#### SUNDAY

12:30 pm

Women's Fancy Shawl  
Men's Traditional  
Jr Girl's Buckskin  
Jr Boy's Fancy  
Tiny Tots

**GOURD DANCING:** One Hour Prior to All Sessions

**20th ANNUAL VETERANS HONOR PROGRAM:** All Veterans Welcome

**SPECIALS:** All Specials Held Saturday Afternoon, Contact the Arena Director

**OTHER:** 49 Contest (Friday), Stomp Dance (Saturday), Special Grandparents Day Honor Dance & Prizes (Sunday)

## \$50,000 in Prize Money!

Contests in All Categories

**Head Singer:** Herb Adson  
**Head Man Dancer:** Joe Ellis  
**Head Lady Dancer:** Cherylyn Satepauhoodle  
**Head Gourd Dancer:** Bradley Dick  
**Northern Drum:** Red Land

**Master of Ceremonies:** Steve Kinder  
**Head Judge:** Jay Blalock  
**Stomp Dance Coordinator:** Bruce Morfin  
**Honor Guard:** Wyandotte Honor Guard  
**Wyandotte Nation Princess:** Sara Wright

**Arena Director:** Dude Blalock

**HOST HOTELS:** River Bend Casino & Hotel (918) 678-4946; Indigo Sky (888) 992-7591

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:** Everyone welcome! Must be registered & participate in two Grand Entries & two Exhibitions to qualify for contests. Must be registered in only one category. MUST BE AT FULL PRIZE TO RECEIVE CONTEST MONEY. All decisions by the committee are final. All food vendors must have Oklahoma Food Handler Permit. We are not responsible for theft or accidents. No firearms, drugs or alcohol allowed. No personal shades set up before Friday afternoon. NO FEES ALLOWED NEAR ARENA.

**For Additional Information, Contact:** Sheri Clements (918) 678-6344; sclements@wyandotte-nation.org

## Board of Directors approve additional payment due to COVID health emergency

Application dates are May 2 – June 10, 2022

- Payment will be made to adults, must be 18 by June 10, and enrolled as a Wyandotte Nation citizen.

- Applications can be picked up from the Family Services office, emailed upon request, or found either on the tribal website or Wyandotte Nation Facebook page. Applications are also being mailed to the current address on file for each adult tribal citizen. Please only submit one application and in only one format. If you email the application you do not need to also mail, fax, etc.

- Tribal citizens must submit a completed application to receive the payment.

- The deadline for applications to be considered for payment is June 10. Applications must be hand delivered, mailed, emailed or faxed by this date. Applications sent via mail must be postmarked by this date.

- Incomplete applications will be returned. Please be sure to complete each line and check every box that applies to you. Review your application prior to submission to be certain it is legible, signed and dated.

- You MUST select at least one item from the "Need for Financial Assistance" section. If selection is not made the application will be returned to you as incomplete.

- If you have received payments via direct deposit and your account information has changed you must complete a new Credit Authorization and submit a copy of a voided check or other bank document (deposit slips are not acceptable documentation) that displays the account AND routing numbers. Any funds returned by the bank due to errors in account information will automatically be issued a paper check.

- Applications will be processed in the order they are received. Please allow up to four (4) weeks for processing.

- Only applications submitted via email will receive a receipt response.

- The correct email address to submit applications is wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org. This address represents Wyandotte Nation Family Services (wnfs). Common errors for past applications have been the transposing of the "f" and the "s" and neglecting to use the hyphen (-).



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director*

Angel Schaller and Whitney Moore have joined the Education Department. Angel is the new Afterschool



**SCHALLER**

Childcare Assistant and Whitney will work as a Substitute.

Angel attends Wyandotte High School and is a junior. Angel loves kids and animals. Her hobbies include riding horses, four-wheelers, and playing card games. She enjoys spending time with family and friends.

Whitney graduated from Northwood High School in Shreveport, LA, and is set to graduate from Liberty University in August of 2022. Whitney enjoys spending time with her husband and kids who are Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens. Her hobbies are cross-stitch, quilting, embroidery, and going to her kids' ballgames.



**MOORE**

We are pleased to have Whitney and Angel, and wish them much success in their new positions.

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department is very happy to welcome Jenny Reeves and Stephanie Still. Jenny will serve as our Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Elder Abuse Advocate. She has extensive experience working with and helping people in the medical field, and as an advocate in the child abuse



**REEVES**

world. She enjoys spending most of her time with her children, family, and friends. In her free time, you can find her fishing, hunting, and being involved in any outdoor activities. Her passion in life is helping others.

Stephanie will serve as a Sexual Assault Advocate – Supervised Visitation Specialist. She received her Associate's Degree in Criminal Justice from NEO A&M College in Miami. Stephanie has five years of experience as a victim advocate and forensic interviewer. She enjoys spending time with her husband, children, and her fur babies. In her free time, you can find her watching her children play sports.



**STILL**

We are very fortunate to have Jenny and Stephanie on our team.

The Wyandotte Nation is happy to welcome Kelly Witten as our new Court Bailiff. He has a wealth of experience in Advanced Law Enforcement. In his spare time, he enjoys hunting, fishing, golf, and travel. He also enjoys spending time with his wife, kids, and grandkids. We



**WITTEN**

are very fortunate to have Kelly and wish him much success in his new position.

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome Brittney Larmon, LPN, and Mallory Butterfield. Brittany will serve as PRN Clinic Staff. She attended VO-Tech LPN program right out of high school; she worked in geriatric care for 3 years while obtaining her Associate's in Science at NEO College to further her education. In her spare time, she enjoys hiking, eating at new restaurants, and spending time outside. Brittney also enjoys spending time with her



**LARMON**

family, watching her son play sports, and going to concerts.

Mallory has joined the Fitness



**BUTTERFIELD**

Department as a Substitute. Mal-

lory is a Wyandotte High School Senior. She plans to attend NEO College in the fall and wants to be a Physical Therapist. She enjoys softball, basketball, drawing/art, and spending time with family and friends.

We are pleased to have Mallory and Brittany, and wish them much success in their new positions.

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director*

Spring is definitely in the air in Northeast Oklahoma! The trees and flowers are starting to bloom, allergies are in full swing and we have had a hint or two of tornado watches. Hopefully, we will be able to enjoy some moderate temperatures before the heat of summer sets in.

We had another great turnout for our Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9, with approximately 5,000 eggs filled with candy, toys, cash, and prize tickets for the kiddos to collect. A big thank you to all of the volunteers who gave up time on their Saturday to help make this event possible.

We are looking forward to tribal events this year starting with Little Turtles and Lacrosse camp in June. Little Turtles focuses on children but is a great time for families to come together for crafts, language, history, and games. The Culture Center staff and Cultural Advisory Board are also making plans for The Gathering, which will start on Tuesday, Sept. 6, and will be a full schedule for arts and crafts, history, language, and fellowship with Wyandotte people

from across the country. The Annual Meeting will be Saturday, Sept. 10 at 10 am. in the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gym. For the past two years, the meeting has been limited to adult tribal citizens, but a decision has yet to be made regarding this year. This is an election year, so please be sure to have your tribal card with you at the Annual Meeting. If you have a citizenship card that includes your photo, that will be the only identification you will need. However, if your tribal card does not include your photo, you will also need to have a photo ID to vote and receive the meeting handouts. Be sure to read the election and Annual Meeting notice in the August newsletter for exact details.

The dates for the Pow-Wow are Sept. 9-11 and we are all very excited to see our tribal families and pow-wow friends once again in the arena. It has been a rough two years, many of us have lost friends and family members, so it will be good to hear the drum again!

We are planning to host Town Halls in either late October or early November in both Northern and Southern California. Detailed information will be available in the August issue of the newsletter and tribal citizens who reside within a 200-mile radius of the meeting sites will be sent postcard announcements with additional information and directions to RSVP.

**Continued on Page 9**

## TAG REMINDERS:

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

For questions, please call  
(918) 678-6353



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 8

According to tribal records, 509 tribal citizens reside in the state of California, we hope to see many of you at the meetings.

The Tribe's website and Facebook page are great sources of our information for upcoming events and services. In fact, most of the Family Services applications are not only accessible on the tribal website, but many of them are now available for electronic submission.

Please contact a staff member if you have questions or need additional information about all of the programs available through the Family Services Department.

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

### **SCHOOL SUPPLIES – PLEASE READ CAREFULLY-INCOMPLETE APPLICATIONS WILL BE RETURNED FOR CORRECTIONS:**

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

Tribal citizens who reside outside of the 4-state area will also be eligible for the \$100 reimbursement program. Eligible items for the program are school supplies, clothing, shoes, socks, and school supply fees charged by schools. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2022, with no exceptions.

**Applications and receipts must be original documents. A separate receipt for each child is required. Faxed or emailed applications and receipts will not be accepted.** There will be additional information available with the applications beginning July 1.

**SENIOR ENERGY** – Tribal citizens 55 and older nationwide are eligible for this program. Applications will be available on July 1 for \$100



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION  
**A big thanks to staff, volunteers and their families for 'laying' the eggs Saturday morning April 9 at our annual Easter Egg Hunt despite the chilly start, making this event possible for the community.**

assistance to be paid directly to the utility provider. Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30.

**ELDERS ASSISTANCE** – Available nationwide, a one-time payment of \$250 is available for tribal elders aged 55 and over to help with personal expenses. Please see the application for additional information, which is due no later than Sept. 30.

**EXTRA-EXPENSE/EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES** – One-time payment of \$100 per students Pre – K through 12th grade for tribal citizens who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR). Applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30.

**JR/SR BENEFIT** - \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School. This benefit is available to Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the 4-state area (OK, KS, MO, AR) and applications must be received or postmarked by Sept. 30, 2022.

**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, such as

life-threatening or terminal issues that require multiple trips outside of the local area. It cannot be a chronic medical issue. **The 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.**

**CHILD SAFETY SEATS** - Each child is eligible for three seats in different sizes and must be picked up at the tribal office.

**PROMOTING SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES/INDIAN CHILD WELFARE** – This program is designed to help keep children in their homes with the family or ensure that federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is considered first and foremost if there is a need for removal. If you are involved in a child welfare case, please contact either Tara Gragg or Carmalita Ward.

**FOSTER FAMILY RECRUITMENT** – Indian Child Welfare social workers are actively seeking foster families. Please contact the office for more information if you think this might be of interest to you and/or your family.

**ENROLLMENT** – Aug. 15 is the

**deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2022 Annual Meeting.** Applications must be submitted along with an original state-certified birth certificate. Applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year and birth certificates will be returned within 10-14 business days. Applications received after this date will be held until the 2023 Annual Meeting.

**NEW ENROLLEE BENEFIT** - Children will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card and a blanket with the Tribal Turtle if an application is received before their first birthday.

**TRIBAL TAGS** – Tribal citizens must reside in Oklahoma and the vehicle must be “primarily garaged” in Oklahoma Indian Country to be eligible for this program. Passenger, RV, Motorcycle, and Handicap tags are available as well. Please call the office for prices and additional information. Keep the following in mind when renewing tags and purchasing new vehicles:

A tribal citizen's name must be on the title at the time of sale. Tribal staff cannot add or delete names.

Renewal notices are mailed as a courtesy by the 15th of the month before the expiration, but it is the responsibility of the tribal citizen to renew their vehicle regardless if they receive the notice or not.

Current Oklahoma insurance verification is required. Please have a paper copy of this when coming to the office. If you need to email it, please send it to wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org before you come to the office.

**SUPPLEMENTAL HEALTH BENEFIT (Benny Card)** - \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens beginning Jan. 1 each year. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Please note that this program is only for enrolled Wyandotte Nation citizens and does not cover spouses, step-children, etc. Account balances can be obtained at any time via www.mytrustmark.com or by calling 800-

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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990-9058 option 2. Family Services staff can also answer questions about the program but may need to refer you to Trustmark in some instances.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the IRS is currently allowing purchases for such items as PPE, hand sanitizer, ibuprofen, aspirin, cold medicine, etc. which are not normally allowable purchases.

**BURIAL ASSISTANCE** – On Oct. 1, 2021, the benefit for this program increased to \$2,000. The benefit will pay to the funeral home or the family representative responsible for the charges or can be reimbursed if the funeral has been paid in full.

**FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM** – This program provides advocacy and services to victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking, elder abuse as well as other victims of crime. This program is available to any person residing within a 25-mile radius of the tribal headquarters and limited advocacy can be provided for Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide.

The Program coordinates quarterly culture events in conjunction with the Cultural Department as well as several outreach and awareness events throughout the year for the community. The program continues to expand based on the increased needs within the local community. If you are in a situation where you feel helpless, please call one of our Advocates and they will do their best to help you either through our program or by connecting you with a program in your area.

### Family Services Staff:

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

**ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg**, 918-678-6355, [tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org)

**ICW Worker, Carmalita Ward**, 918-678-6485, [cward@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:cward@wyandotte-nation.org)

**Tag Administrator, Tiffany Garner**, 918-678-6353, [tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org)

**Family Services Specialist, Leeanna Radabaugh**, 918-678-6329,

[lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org)

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

**FVPP Manager, Cesilie Chandler**, 918-678-3269, [cchandler@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:cchandler@wyandotte-nation.org)

**Crime Victims Advocate, Kristi Johnston**, 918-678-6340, [kjohnston@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:kjohnston@wyandotte-nation.org)

**DV/Elder Abuse Advocate, Jenny Reeves**, 918-678-6486, [jreeves@wyandottenation.org](mailto:jreeves@wyandottenation.org)

**SA Advocate/Supervised Visitation Specialist, Stephanie Still**, 918-678-6373, [ssstill@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:ssstill@wyandotte-nation.org)

**Family Violence Prevention Program Hotline**, 877-276-0669

## Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director*

We are so glad to be fully open now and be able to offer our salad bar once again. It is so good seeing our Elders visiting and enjoying themselves.

We are continuing to work on the plans for our new building and getting more excited every day!

Our Mother's Day Dinner is Thursday, May 5.

We will be celebrating 50 years of Older Americans Act Programs this year and the month of May is Older Americans Month, so we will have a big party on May 19 from 10 am to 2 pm at the fairgrounds in Miami, Okla. The fabulous Duke Mason will be performing as well as Jack the Bible Donkey. We will have a person making balloon art and telling stories. We will be giving away many prizes and two TVs. The Ice Cream Truck will be there. We will also have several vendors set up. Our menu is brisket sandwiches, baked



COURTESY PHOTO

**The Salad Bar made it's triumphant return to our lunches.**

beans, coleslaw, potato salad, and cupcakes so come on out and PARTY!

We are planning a trip to Will Rogers Downs in Claremore, Okla., for the Horse Races and Casino, and a trip to Branson, Mo., soon.

Our Father's Day Dinner is Thursday, June 16.

Our next Car Bingo is Friday, June 24 at the Border Town Parking lot in Seneca, Mo. It will begin at 10 am and we will provide lunch at 11:30 am. We will have lots of prizes, the ice cream truck and Duke Mason will perform as well.

### CAREGIVER

We have resumed our Caregiver Support Group. It will be held on the first Thursday of each month at 10:30 am in the Title VI Safe room.

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.

### Elder Services Team:

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

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

**Seth Higginbotham, Robyn Beaty, Ashley Gleidt and Rande Crouch Food Service Team Members**, (918) 678-6328.

## Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director*

Kweh,

The Education Department is excited to announce the completion of the renovation project that took place after our building took on water from a flash flood last summer. The flood did not stop us from continuing services, but it did misplace us from our building for a little more than eight months. It has been great having everyone under the same roof again.

Wyandotte Nation's Library is still closed to the public. We are in the process of updating the shelving for all books and are waiting on them to arrive. While the Library is closed, I encourage you to look into the virtual library. 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](http://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. If you do not have a library card for Wyandotte Nation's Library, you may obtain one online by filling out the application on the website at [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org). You may contact the Librarian, Madeline Harnar, [mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org) for more information.

Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is currently full in our infant/ones/toddler rooms, preschool, and after school programs for the 2021-22 school year, but we are still accepting applications to be placed on a waiting list for all age groups: infants, ones, toddlers, preschool, and before/after school. Our summer program is also full at this time, however, filling out an application and turning it in will get your child on our waiting list. Now is a good time to fill out a preschool application to secure your child a spot for preschool during the 2022-23 school year. The infant, ones, and toddler programs have a waiting list for the 2022-23 school year. Applications are available on our website, or you may contact Lindsay Cooper for

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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an application by email, lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org, or by phone 918-678-3267.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is wrapping up the spring 2022 semester scholarships. If you are currently in the scholarship program, please remember to send in the latest transcript that will have your spring grades and fall schedule listed. Fall scholarships will be processed beginning in August.

Here are a few Wyandotte Nation Undergraduate Scholarship reminders:

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

To obtain an Undergraduate, Masters, 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.

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

### Department Contacts:

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

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

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

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

**Evan Hotulke – Caseworker/Education/Employment Special-**

### Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Nahasda (Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act) is a 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 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.

Wyandotte Emergency Rental Assistance Program, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021, is still available. If you need help with past due rent,

current rent, or utilities, please fill out and return the application for assistance, which is on the Wyandotte Nation website in the 'Housing' section. Income guidelines do apply. This is a nationwide program. If you have questions regarding this process, please call or email our office. We will be happy to talk with you.

Wyandotte Housing Assistance Fund, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021, is available to homeowners affected by COVID. If you are behind on your mortgage payments, please fill out and return the application for assistance, which is also on the Wyandotte Nation website. Income guidelines do apply. This is a nationwide program. If you have questions regarding this process, please call or email our office.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is now available for help with water utilities in the state of Oklahoma. This program is income-based. Applications are available on the website or by calling our office.

The Splashpad at Heritage Acres

Park will be opening on May 27.

### 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 Staff:

Kathy DeWeese-Housing Director  
Don Graham- Housing Specialist  
Paul Parker- Project Coordinator  
Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator  
Randy Qualls- Residential Maintenance Technician  
Drew Lankford-Residential Maintenance Technician

ist, 918-678-6331 or ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org

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

## Planning & Natural Resources

### Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

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 provides a variety of services including, but not limited to, private well drinking water sampling and septic assessments for private homeown-

ers. 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.

Through our EPA Water 106 Grant, we have been preparing for the upcoming spring sampling and bio-assessment events that will be taking place in April for both tribal and non-tribal citizens within a 50-mile radius of Wyandotte Nation and the Grand Lake Watershed. Parameters sampled are for coliform bacteria, E. coli, heavy metals, and nitrates. Our Water Technicians performed seven private well samples in addition to three retakes since the last article.

Our water Tech I and Tech II personnel were quite busy during January, performing five private well samples. These samples were tested for bacteria and E.coli and of the five wells sampled, three of the five came

back unsatisfactory, meaning they tested positive for either bacteria or E.coli. Letters are mailed to each residence with notification of the results, as well as a disinfection sheet for the wells that tested unsatisfactory. Department Staff has been participating in virtual Meetings due to COVID restrictions. These meetings are with EPA, DOI, BIA, ODEQ, and other tribes regularly. The staff has also been participating in online training for GIS/GPS Mapping and Tribal Well Compliance issues.

The Grants Department has been busy researching, writing, and submitting applications to not only meet the tribe's mission but the short- and long-term goals as well. The Grant Writers submitted applications to the Department of Health and Human Services for various Family Violence Prevention and Services grants. The Tribe is requesting HHS funds to continue to support victims of sexual assault and their dependents and provide on-site mobile COVID-19 testing to domestic

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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violence clients and their dependents. We also applied for non-competitive funds based on the contract amount and square footage addition to the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center for medical equipment from the Indian Health Service. Another grant is a combination of three (3) environmental grants known as the Performance Partnership Grants (PPG) to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Finally, the writers submitted two applications to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) for two Purpose Areas under the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation. Awarded funds under the first Purpose Area will allow the Tribe to hire, train, and equip two new police officers to help handle the high volume of added crime activity in the community. Grant monies from the second Purpose Area will assist the Tribe by developing and creating a comprehensive justice system-wide strategic plan based upon needs assessments as well as the tribe's goals, needs, and mission statement.

The BIA Self-Governance Coordinator submitted a new route in the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory (NTTFI). The new route number is 0128. The new street name Little Turtle Place, which is the cul-de-sac for the "Tiny Homes" located at Heritage Acres. The Coordinator also submitted an annual report to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on expenditures of Roads Funding. This report reflects expenditures for each project funded with Indian Reservation Roads funding.

The '477' Coordinator submitted the program's annual narrative, statistical, and financial reports to the Department of the Interior. Under Public Law 102-477, Wyandotte Nation integrates job training programs, vocational training, employment assistance for adult Indians, education scholarships, and social services programs. Wyandotte Nation combines and coordinates employment, training, and related services to serve tribally-determined goals consistent with the policy of Self-Governance.

Through our '477' Program, we were able to offer reimbursements to five childcare providers for their required health and safety training, such as CPR. Mini-grants (Reimbursements) were used to purchase and install touchless water fountains



Tires collected during April's Tire Collection event at the Lost Creek Recycling Center. WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

for better student accessibility to water and sanitation protocols during COVID. We assisted childcare facilities with purchasing vans for transporting students to childcare centers from schools and driveways where children are dropped off at their daycare. We also offered reimbursements for our childcare providers to do summer field trips.

In addition to the program providing childcare for 88 families and 167 children, we also helped clients either obtain, maintain, or sustain their employment through training and tuition assistance, and other related services. Several clients that received tuition assistance are on track to earn a Bachelor's Degree in fields of study, such as Business Management, Elementary Education, Business Administration, English, Political Science, and Psychology. Others are desiring to advance their education with degrees in Pre-Med and Biomedical Engineering. Some clients began training for new careers in Dental Hygiene, Cosmetology, Construction Technology, Esthetics, and Nursing. We also had two clients earn their Bachelor's Degree and have entered the workforce.

The Planning and Natural Re-

Thank you for recycling so many materials as we finished up the winter months! Many of you continue to bring us your metals, plastics, and papers.

Amounts collected for the months of January thru March are listed in the table below:

Solid Waste Collected from January - March	
Aluminum	273 lbs.
Cardboard	13,440 lbs.
Newspaper & Magazines	0 lbs.
Plastic (#1 & #2)	1,013 lbs.
Shredded Paper	2,016 lbs.
Tin	647 lbs.
Combined Total	17,389 lbs.

sources Department is also dedicated to researching and applying for federal, state, and foundation grants to benefit the Tribe and tribal community. Projects often serve the 1,294 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 desires to serve and create a positive impact on all Wyandottes.

Feel free to contact our department if you have a community project idea

for a grant.

**Department Contacts:**  
**Director Christen Lee**, cleec@wyandotte-nation.org  
**Environmental Program Manager Kathleen Welch**, kwelch@wyandotte-nation.org  
**Environmental Technician 1 Janice Wilson**, jwilson@wyandotte-nation.org

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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**Environmental Technician 2**  
**John Gerhard**, jgerhard@wyandotte-nation.org

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

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

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

**Grant Writer / BIA Self-Governance Coordinator Debbie Dry**, ddry@wyandotte-nation.org

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

## Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Kim Garcia,  
Cultural Preservation Officer*

Kweh qmatęru?

The staff at the Cultural Center and Museum is so excited about the improved website! The calendar of events has helped us tremendously with the ability to inform tribal citizens and community members about upcoming events. As you may notice though, a lot of the historic resources that were on the website previously are no longer available. All of those resources were saved and they will be put on a separate website specifically for Wyandotte Culture.

For the first quarter of the year, we have been working on this year's schedule with classes, demonstrations, and events. Each month we have Wa'dat Wednesday - a basic language class on the 3rd Wednesday, Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum - a history class on the last Tuesday, and, starting in May, we will have Beading Classes on the 2nd Thursday of the month and Wyandotte Craft Time the last Thursday of the month both in-person and on Zoom. Quarterly, we host the Wyandotte Nation Book Club where we discuss a book by a native author. This summer, we will be meeting weekly with the interns, as well as any Wyandotte youth that would like to join, to learn more about Wyandotte Culture. We are excited for the return of Lacrosse Camp and the Gathering of Little Turtles this summer! We are expecting record numbers! We also have some exciting classes scheduled coming up. Please check the Tribe's website or Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center Facebook page for registration information.

## Upcoming Events (2022)

*(Dates subject to change - please watch the Tribe's website and the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center Facebook page for all updates)*

- May TBD - Wyandotte Basics Class with Beci Wright
- May 7 - Demonstrations at Overland Park Arboretum
- May 11 - Wyandotte Nation Book Club: "The Reason You Walk: A Memoir" by Wab Kinew with Beci Wright
- May 12 - Beading Class with Kim Garcia
- May 18 - Wa'dat Wednesday with Beci Wright
- May 24 - Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum - Strange Foods with Lloyd Divine
- May 26 - Wyandotte Craft Time with Kim Garcia

- May 27 - Pow-Wow Golf Scramble
- June 4 - Shawl Class with Carolyn Nott
- June 7 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- June 9 - Beading Class with Kim Garcia
- June 11 - Leather Belt Class with Chris Houk
- June 14 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- June 15 - Wa'dat Wednesday with Beci Wright
- June 21 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- June 21-24 - Lacrosse Camp
- June 24-26 - Gathering of Little Turtles
- June 28 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- June 28 - Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum - Hygiene - with Lloyd Divine
- June 30 - Wyandotte Craft Time with Kim Garcia
- July 2 - Wyandotte Nation Fireworks
- July 5 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- July 9 - Fingerweaving Class with Patty Harjo-Shinn
- July 12 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- July 14 - Beading Class with Kim Garcia
- July 20 - Wa'dat Wednesday with Beci Wright
- July 26 - Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum 7:30 pm - Warfare with Lloyd Divine
- July 28 - Wyandotte Craft Time with Kim Garcia
- Aug. 2 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- Aug. 9 - Wyandotte Youth Night
- Sept. 6-9 - The Gathering
- Sept. 9-11 - Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow

As always, the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum is open to the public for research, as a workshop, or just come to visit! We would love to see you any day and we are looking forward to the return of all of our events!  
Eskwayę?

**Department Contacts:**  
**Kim Garcia**  
kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org

918-678-6317  
**Sherri Clemons**  
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org  
918-678-6344  
**Chris Houk**  
chouk@wyandotte-nation.org  
918-678-6318  
**Beci Wright**  
bwright@wyandotte-nation.org  
918-678-6480  
**Teresa Wilson**  
twilson@wyandotte-nation.org  
918-678-6385



## Wyandotte Book Club!

The Cultural Center is hosting an online book club every quarter. Our next meeting will be May 11 (offered once during the day, once in the evening - you can attend either or both sessions).

Our May selection is The 'Reason You Walk: A Memoir' by Wab Kinew and you can read it or listen to it as an audiobook. Support your local independent bookstore when you can.

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.

Our August title will be 'The Seed Keeper' by Diane Wilson.

## Directory of Wyandotte Names

Being gifted a traditional name in our Wandat language means that no other Wyandotte has the same name. If you have been gifted a 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 with the Cultural Center. We'd appreciate it!

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



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Healthcare

*Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director*

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services is providing equitable relief to individuals who could not submit premium-Part A or Part B enrollment or disenrollment requests timely due to challenges contacting us by phone. This relief applies to the 2022 General Enrollment Period, Initial Enrollment Period, and Special Enrollment Period.

If you were unable to enroll or disenroll in Medicare because you could not reach them by phone after Jan. 1, 2022, you will be granted additional time, through Dec. 30, 2022.

For more information, call 1-800-772-1213 or use their Office Locator (ssa.gov) to find the number for a local office.

### Short Bio for Vicky Weidner, MD:

I'm a small-town Oklahoma girl who was born and raised in Woodward, Okla. After attending the University of Central Oklahoma, I attended the University of Oklahoma in Oklahoma City for medical school and a year of Internal Medicine internship. The only time I have lived outside of Oklahoma was during three years of residency in Emergency Medicine in Columbia, South Carolina. I loved the South Carolinians with their soft accents and warm southern manners but family and home called me back to Tulsa where I worked at the Saint Francis Trauma Emergency Center for 20 years. Some of my colleagues and I started the residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Oklahoma and I served as the Director of the Simulation Center and taught residents and medical students in the emergency department and simulation center.

My husband is Brian Edwards and if you know him, you are a lucky person. I am very blessed to have him as my lifetime best friend. Together we have raised

four young adults. Our first grandbaby arrived last summer and we are tickled to death to be able to see him almost daily.

Brian began to work for the Grand River Dam Authority in 2012 and his home base is in Langley. In 2017, after a lengthy illness and recovery, I began to work in the Integris Grove Emergency Department. We love Northeastern Oklahoma and the people here. I am very excited to be welcomed into the Bearskin Clinic and for the opportunity to continue to care for the people of this region.

My hobbies are walking with my dogs, sewing costumes for my daughter's entertainment business, and feeding birds. My passions are God, my family, and caring for patients.

### Department Contacts:

**Kelly Friend**, Director 918-678-3259

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

**Sheryl Hogan**, Business Services Manager 918-678-3226

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

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

**Deana Sweatt**, Pharmacist 918-678-3247

*Refills, Automated Pharmacy Refill Line 918-678-3244*

### Tribal citizens may be eligible for these benefits:

- Up to \$275 towards glasses or contacts
  - Up to \$1,000 on Adult emergency dental
  - Up to \$2,075 toward audiology services for hearing aids
  - Up to \$750 toward Adult dental services
  - Children's dental is unlimited.
- Call 918-678-3222 to find out more information.

Optometry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.</li> <li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Healthcare</li> <li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider</li> <li>• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$225 for single vision—includes exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts</li> <li>- \$275 for multi-focal vision—includes exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts</li> </ul>
Audiology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.</li> <li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Healthcare</li> <li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider</li> <li>• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$1000 per ear towards hearing aids</li> <li>- \$75 per hearing exam</li> </ul> <p>(Hearing aids will only be replaced every five years. If lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed before reaching the five-year mark, it will be the owner's responsibility to replace these appliances.)</p>
Adult Emergency Dental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.</li> <li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Healthcare</li> <li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider</li> <li>• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Up to \$1,000 per year</li> <li>- Services provided: Limited x-ray Limited exam Extractions</li> </ul>
Children's Dental	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.</li> <li>• Must be authorized prior to visit by Healthcare</li> <li>• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider</li> <li>• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Services excluded are orthodontics and whitening</li> </ul>
Pharmacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be seen by a provider at Bearskin Healthcare</li> <li>• Fills prescriptions written by Bearskin Healthcare providers</li> <li>• Prescriptions from outside providers are only filled if approved by and re-written by a Bearskin Healthcare provider under his/her authority</li> </ul>	
Purchased/Referred Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be seen and referred by a Bearskin Healthcare provider</li> <li>• reside within one of the twelve counties - Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Washington</li> <li>• Must be authorized prior to visit with exception of emergency</li> </ul>	
Physical Therapy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must have a written order or RX from a provider</li> </ul>	
Fitness Center Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Free to citizen with Tribal membership</li> <li>• Includes tanning and hydromassage bed</li> </ul>	

**All gym members- classes are free!**

**Monday -** Water Volleyball Time: 8:00-9:00am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non- members)  
Water! Water! Water! Time: 9:00-9:30am/Volleyball 9:30-10am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non- members)  
SilverSneakers(MSRM)- Time: 10:15-11:00 (Cost: \$2 for non-members/ members Free)  
Kids Swim Time: 2-4; 6-8pm Cost: \$2 non -member (Tribal members + Family membership kids are free.)

**Tuesday -** Power Flow Yoga- 5:30- 6:15am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non-members)  
Shallow Water Aerobics - 9:00am-10:00am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non-members)  
Arthritis Class (Pool) - Time: 10:00-11:00 am (Cost: \$2 for non-members/ members Free)  
Power Flow Yoga- 5:15- 6:00pm (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non-members)  
**Basketball Night- Court Reserved For Games- 6-8:30pm**  
Kids Swim Time: 2-4; 6-8pm Cost: \$2 non -member (Tribal members + Family membership kids are free.)

**Wednesday -** Water Volleyball Time: 8:00-9:00am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non- members)  
Water! Water! Water! Time: 9:00-9:30am/Volleyball 9:30-10am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non- members)  
SilverSneakers(MSRM)- Time: 10:15-11:00 (Cost: \$2 for non-members/ members Free)  
Batting Cage- By appointment only: 5:30pm-8:30pm  
Kids Swim Time: 2-4; 6-8pm Cost: \$2 non -member (Tribal members + Family membership kids are free.)

**Thursday -** Power Flow Yoga- 5:30- 6:15am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non-members)  
Shallow Water Aerobics - 9:00am-10:00am (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non-members)  
Arthritis Foundation (Pool) - Time: 10:00-11:00 Am (Cost: \$2 for non-members/ members Free)  
Power Flow Yoga- 5:15- 6:00pm (Cost: \$2 per class or \$15 a month non-members)  
Pickie ball- Time 9:30-6:00pm (Cost: Free for members; non-members \$2 fee) **Half Court Only**  
Kids Swim Time: 2-4; 6-8pm Cost: \$2 non -member (Tribal members + Family membership kids are free.)

**Friday- Kids Swim Time: 2-4pm Cost: \$2 non -member (Tribal members + Family membership kids are free.)**  
Birthday parties scheduled 6:00pm-8:00pm

**Saturday- Birthday parties scheduled 11:00am - 4:00pm**  
**Starting May 1, Daycare will be closed on Sundays. Opens back up September 1, 2020**  
Please watch our monitor for holiday hours & special events!!! Check us out on Facebook!!!  
Any questions about any of our fitness classes please ask a staff member!!!



# COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

## Tribe helps Seneca Police replace vehicles

The Wyandotte Nation presented the Seneca Police Department with a \$40,000 check to use toward the purchase of vehicles.

"It's a wonderful donation to us. We are short of cars," said Seneca Chief of Police James Altic. "I just want to thank the Wyandotte Nation for the donation, and our City Council would like to thank them for the donation. It really is beneficial to us."

Chief Altic said the department was down a couple of vehicles after a recent shooting and wreck. He said the purchase request is already in and the department should see the vehicles in the next few weeks.

For the Tribe, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said they were glad to be in a position to help the Seneca Police Department and the community.

"For us, Seneca is part of our extended community. We have a lot of tribal citizens who reside in the town and we also have businesses that are in Seneca," Chief Friend said. "It's important for us the community there is well protected and served. The Seneca Police Department has done a great job for years of doing that."



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

From left, Seneca Police Officer April Altic, Officer Roger Wilson, Police Chief James Altic, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, Wyandotte Nation Board Members Ramona Reid, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., and Vivian Fink.

"We saw that there was a need there and we were in a position to help, and we feel great about that."

Funds for the donation came from revenue generated by businesses in the Tribe's corporation, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), like the Turtle Stop convenience store located in Seneca, Mo.

"We are able to take those revenues, distribute those, and help people here in our community," Chief Friend said. "We've always been very community-minded. We realize when you are in a rural community, you have a lot of

neighbors, and Seneca has always been a good neighbor to us."

Both Chiefs said the relationship between the Seneca PD and Tribe has been strong, especially as the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Police Department (WNTPD) works closely with the Seneca PD on a daily basis.

"It's just natural for us to be able to reach out and help them, and we are glad we were able to do that," Chief Friend said. "We want to continue to cultivate and build those relationships -- the stronger our communities are, the safer they are."

## Gragg recipient of scholarship

KINGSTON, Ontario -- Modern Métis Woman (MMW) announced that one of their 2021-2022 scholarship recipients is Hannah Gragg from Full Sail University. Gragg is a member of the Wyandotte Nation.

Through the Tribe's Summer Youth Intern Program, Gragg has assisted in the kitchen, daycare,



and the Wyandotte Cultural Center. She enjoys beading and holds valuable teachings associated with other forms of art. Gragg honors the women in her community and expresses the importance of educational justice.

MMW is a private, non-profit, micro-finance organization that lends itself to furthering Indigenous women's education. Carleigh Milburn, the founder of Modern Métis Woman, started this organization in 2017 with her personal funds to support Indigenous women's education. MMW provides scholarships to Indigenous women yearly.

## Language Notes

BY BECI WRIGHT  
WYANDOTTE NATION

**Kweh qmatęru? !** (Hello, friends!)

We are well into **yęrahke:"deh** (springtime) now! The **ya"gyut** (plants) are back from their winter sleep and mowing **urú?ta?** (grass) is a common occurrence.

**Yęrahke:"deh** is also a time where we start **yaękwakeh** (garden or field). At the Cultural Center, we plant the three sisters, known in Wa"dat as **qmakya?ta"ditahkwih** (our sustenance).

First is **unęha?** (corn) to grow high for **uyá:re?sa?** (beans) to grow

around her stalk, giving her nitrogen in return, leaving **unyóhša?** (squash\*) to shade the roots, hold in the water, and discourage **uhá:yęta?** (weeds).

\*Our word for squash is also our word for melon and cucumber.

**Hata?úh šękwahs ?** (What are you planting?)

To answer, put what you will plant in front of **enyękwa?** (I will plant) because in Wa"dat we put the new or important information first. For example: **tihšót enyękwa?** (I will plant strawberries.)

**Hata?úh šękwahs ?**  
**enyękwa?**

Here are a few more answers to choose from:

**u"dátsa?** (wheat) **utę?ra?** (turnips)

**u"dáwe"da?** (potatoes) **utsí?tsa?** (flowers) **unęhsta?** (seed)

Remember: AUDIO files for all bolded vocabulary are available at [wandat.org](http://wandat.org) (click on "Turtle Talk") and join us every third Wednesday of the month at **Wandat Wednesdays** (on ZOOM) to practice together.

**Tižameh! Etsiskwayę?** (I will see y'all again!)

(To sign up for the monthly Wa"dat Wednesdays online afternoon or evening, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WandatWed> to receive the zoom link and reminders. If you are having difficulty getting to the audio files, contact me and we'll try to work out an alternative. Be sure to send any comments or

suggestions, especially those on your language & culture wishlist, to: [bwright@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:bwright@wyandotte-nation.org).)

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 Koprís. All mistakes are my own. – Beci



# Important Numbers

**Family Services / Enrollment**  
Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319  
dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org  
Leeanna Radabaugh, (918) 678-6329  
lradabaugh@wyandotte-nation.org

**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 Gragg (918) 678-6355  
tgragg@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 Department**  
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) 678-3259  
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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

## PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

MAY  
9  
7pm



## LACROSSE CAMP

JUNE  
21-24



## GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

JUNE  
24-26



## FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

JULY  
2  
Gates open 6pm @  
Wyandotte Nation  
Pow-Wow Grounds



## GATHERING

SEPT.  
6-9



## 31ST ANNUAL POW-WOW

SEPT.  
9-11



## ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT.  
10  
10am @ Bearskin  
Fitness Center Gym



## ELDERS THANKSGIVING DINNER

Nov.  
TBD  
11:30am-1pm @  
Title VI Building



## CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

DEC.  
10



## ELDERS CHRISTMAS DINNER

DEC.  
TBD  
11:30am-1pm @  
Title VI Building



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