



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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August 2022



Fireworks Display

Celebration beats the rain

Page 7

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

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- *Little Turtles event helps youth tap into culture*
- *Lacrosse Camp brings Tribe back to its roots*
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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
 The DJ Gragg
 Band kicked off
 the 4th of July
 celebration.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM SWAIM

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

'Growth' continues for Tribe

I hope this issue of our Turtle Talk finds you all doing well and enjoying your summer. It has been a very busy time here in Wyandotte with several projects just completed, some in progress, and others in the planning stages. We are on the move on many fronts – government, business, social, cultural, and so much more.

We would all agree that we live in very difficult times and our national government seems to be going through one crisis after another. Throughout the history of time, states and governments of all kinds have come and gone. Our tribal history tells us our ancestors who came before us were good at operating in changing environments and with different groups and entities. They had to be good at it as it was often a matter of our people's survival.

The element of decline that stands out most is that governments forget why they exist and who it is they serve. That may seem very basic, but it is amazing how consistently the people the government is in place to serve are shoved further to the back of the line. When governments begin to stray away from the mission of serving their citizens they will

almost always fail.

At the Wyandotte Nation, we have grown tremendously over the past 20 years in so many different ways – in citizens, in programs and services, in employees, in business. Whatever standard you apply to the Wyandotte Nation, the outcome consistently says “growth.”

Growth is a great part of our Tribe, which is evidence that we are moving forward, creating more opportunities for Wyandottes, and serving tribal citizens more effectively. Our growth has served us well because we have managed that growth conservatively. We have not “gotten ahead of ourselves.” We have worked hard to grow our tribal businesses in a deliberate and structured manner and, as a result, those businesses now contribute most of the resources we need to fulfill our responsibilities to the Wyandotte people.

While we have had success on our economic side, our focus is, and will always be, on the Wyandotte people our tribal government serves. That is our mission: “To improve the quality of life for all Wyandotte people.” It is a very simple and straightforward mission statement – and one we live

by each day. This mission drives our commitment to our tribal citizens.

All of our tribal programs focus on making your life better.

The real measure of an efficient and effective working government is serving people well. Once a government forgets that principle, the decline has begun. I am blessed as a leader to be surrounded by great employees who are not only very capable of performing their duties but also who are very passionate and caring for those whom they serve.

We constantly work on following the basic fundamentals that have served us so well throughout times both good and bad. With your help, your Tribe is enjoying much success in this today.

You are invited to learn more, do more, and enjoy more through the many avenues offered by the Wyandotte Nation. The more you learn about your Tribe, the more you will want to be involved.

In closing, I am looking forward to a great Gathering, Pow-Wow, and Annual Meeting, and will hopefully see many of you there. As always it is an honor to serve you.

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Projects progressing at Nation

Kweh Omateru

Hello my fellow Wyandotte Citizens I hope everyone is well and dodging this crazy virus that just won't leave us alone. We are constantly dealing with COVID and now with triple-digit temperatures this could go down as the hottest summer we have had in a long time.

However, the heat hasn't stopped our projects from progressing. We have a duplex going up and the expansion of the infrastructure in Heritage acres is moving along quite nicely, this will provide more sites for duplexes to be built in the future. Several other

projects in the works include a new Title VI building, a preschool addition, and a hardware store that will make great additions to the Wyandotte Nation along with some road improvements around our complex. The Turtle Hill duplex project is out to bid and the construction on the duplexes should start soon.

On a much more somber note, Wyandotte Citizen Tom Keffer was flying his ultra-light airplane on Sunday July 10 when he evidently had engine problems of some kind and he crashed it back behind the cemetery here at the Wyandotte Nation. He has numer-

ous severe injuries and is in the ICU in Mercy Hospital in Springfield, Missouri. So everyone keep him in your prayers, he could really use them right now. TIZAMEH!

Let's have some history. This is about one of the great victories by the Native Americans, St. Clair's Defeat, also known as the Battle of the Wabash.

The Northwest Indian War (1785-



NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION

On Sept. 10, 2022, the Wyandotte Nation shall hold its Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Okla.

The Annual Meeting will start at 10 a.m. As of the date of this publication, it has been determined that there are no contested posts for elective office within the government of the

Wyandotte Nation.

Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the Tribe's Annual Meeting on Saturday, Sept. 10, 2022, per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

The 2022 Qualified Wyandotte Nation Election Candidates:

- **2nd Chief:** Norman Hildebrand, Jr.
- **1 Board of Director member:** Vivian Fink.
- **2 Grievance Committee members:** (Board will appoint the two positions after no one filed)

The term of each position is four years.

2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

1795) comprises a pivotal period in the development of the United States. The events of this war lead eventually to the realization of "manifest destiny," oft presented as a triumph of the brave European explorers, conquering any obstacle to reach new heights of liberty. However, the other side of this narrative is more likely to be forgotten. This side consists of invasion, violence, dispossession, forced removal, and erasure of identity. As a result of events set in motion in this "war," the original American Indian inhabitants of the Midwestern United States were ripped from their homelands at bayonet point, forcibly marched across vast distances, and were subjected to formal policies aimed at destroying tribal identity and recast "the Indian as an individual and not as a member of a tribe"

The true history of American Indians in what is now Ohio and Indiana is complicated, fascinating, and requires critical reflection upon the past motives of the people on both sides, and the consequences for descendants in the present. It is a story frequently glossed over in public education and when told, often presents American Indians as part of the past, a problem that has been solved.

American Indian tribes have been in Ohio and Indiana since at least 10,000 BC. The landscape today still shows the presence of these early inhabitants in the form of magnificent mounds and earthworks.

Initial contact with Europeans in the 17th and 18th centuries centered on the fur trade. In exchange for furs, American Indians traded for guns, metal cookware, and other items they did not produce themselves. For nearly a century, trade between American Indians and the British and French flourished and in most cases, was mutually beneficial. By 1750, thousands of American Indians from the Miami,

Delaware, Shawnee, Wyandot, Ottawa, and Potawatomi tribes lived in what is now Ohio and Indiana. Waterways and overland transportation routes supported the development of major tribal communities and trade centers including Kiihkayonki, Au Glaize, Chillicothe, and many others.

Long-established American Indian tribal communities populated the area that would soon become the Northwest Territory. The Europeans brought a different cultural understanding of land tenure/ownership, painting a picture of untamed wilderness, unused and wasted potential. This view is tinged with racial stereotypes and white paternalism. This view allowed the justification of intrusion, seizure, invasion, and removal to be cast as "improvement." The savage and the untamed wilderness within which he flourished were in need of guidance from a "civilized" race. The Europeans coveted the land for furs and settlement and became the focus of land agents.

The British, French, and the United States used various means of acquiring land, alternating between aggression and treaties, using economic forces to divide different tribes, and using maps to name and claim territory. The Treaty of Paris (1783) changed the dynamic of land tensions, and provided new justification for promoting incursions into native lands. Britain ceded control of native lands to the U.S., leading to the uncontrolled occupation of American Indian homelands by Euro-American settlers. During the 1780s, settlers continued to pour into Indian Territory via the Ohio River, with no regard to treaty boundary lines. The U.S. government was frustrated by its inability to keep the settlers out. In retaliation to this intrusion on their homelands, numerous Indian tribes raided riverboats and encroached settlements. The northern Ohio River valley became a battleground with hundreds of lives lost and prisoners taken in increas-

"It is always right that a man should be able to render a reason for the faith that is within him."

--Sydney Smith

ingly frequent skirmishes. Subsequent raids by the U.S. military, like the one targeting Shawnee towns along the Mad River in 1786, further escalated hostilities.

An alliance of the tribes began to form, including the Miami, Shawnee, Delaware, Ottawa, Wyandotte, Ojibwe, Seneca, Cherokee, and Potawatomi. Tribes met regularly in council to discuss how to deal with the U.S. military invasion. Continued failed treaties and peace talks, and the construction of Fort Washington in 1789, were clear signals that the U.S. government had little intention of stopping the attack on their homelands. In the fall of 1790, a U.S. military campaign targeted the Miami, Shawnee, and Delaware village of Kiihkayonki with the goal of destroying it and other communities. Although this campaign was declared a U.S. defeat due to high casualties, it was devastating to American Indian communities. The U.S. military attacked multiple villages and seized food, burned structures, destroyed crops, and killed an estimated 120-150 people.

A second U.S. military campaign in the fall of 1791 led by Major General Arthur St. Clair, once again targeted Kiihkayonki. On their march north from Fort Washington, the U.S. troops built a chain of forts, with Fort Jefferson completed on Oct. 18. Miami and Shawnee scouts monitored the progress of the army from Fort Washington. Runners were sent to the other tribes in the alliance asking them to assemble in Kiihkayonki in preparation for an attack on the U.S. army. The nine tribes gathered at Kiihkayonki monitored St. Clair's march north with information from scouts and spies. Soon after St. Clair left Fort Jefferson on Oct. 24, the tribes at Kiihkayonki started moving south in small hunting parties of 20 to 30 men. It took the

small groups seven days to travel 50 miles to an advantageous location. On the evening of Nov. 3, they congregated on a high ridge just northwest of St. Clair's encampment. During the night, the 1,400 warriors assembled in a huge crescent formation. The Ottawa, Ojibwe, and Potawatomi were on the left, the Miami, Shawnee, and Delaware in the middle, and the Wyandot, Seneca, and Cherokee on the right. Key tribal leaders during this battle were Mihsikhinaahkwa (Little Turtle) of the Miami, Weyapiersenwah (Bluejacket) of the Shawnee, and Buckongahelas of the Delaware.

At dawn on Nov. 4, the Miami, Shawnee, and Delaware attacked the Kentucky Militia, camped northwest of St. Clair's main camp. Caught completely unaware the militia rushed back across the Wabash River causing utter chaos and confusion. At the same time, the tribes on the left and the right sides of the crescent surrounded St. Clair's main encampment in less than 15 minutes. The ensuing battle lasted three hours and was an astonishing victory for the American Indian tribes. The American Indian tribes inflicted enormous casualties on the U.S. army. Out of a total of 1,600, over 700 U.S. soldiers were killed including officers. Nearly all of St. Clair's several hundred camp followers were killed or taken prisoner. Historical accounts show that between 20 to 35 American Indians were killed. It was one of the greatest defeats of the U.S. Army at the hands of the native peoples.

I hope you enjoyed reading about a great victory for the American Indians during a very volatile time in history. I have always had pleasure in reading about our ancestors' exploits. I also take great pleasure in being able to serve the Wyandotte Nation as Second Chief.



Gathering of Little Turtles

Event helps youth tap into culture

By KAYLEA M. HUTSON-MILLER

WWW.JOPLINGLOBE.COM

(ARTICLE FROM THE JOPLIN GLOBE, REPRINTED WITH PERMISSION)

Connection, family, culture and community were four reasons Penny Holton and her daughters drove from Clay County, Alabama, this week to attend the Gathering of Little Turtles.

Growing up, Holton knew family stories placed their roots within the Native American community. But it wasn't until she aged out of the foster care system that Holton began learning more about her heritage.

Bringing her daughters to the event not only helped them learn their heritage, Holton said, but it also gave them a place to belong. Returning to the weeklong youth gathering in the fall allows Holton to ensure the family continues to learn and grow as Wyandotte Nation citizens.

"We were welcomed with so much love," Holton said, remembering the family's first Gathering of Little Turtles. "When we connected with our Wyandotte family, I immediately felt this peace."

This weekend's Gathering of Little Turtles is the first such event hosted by the Tribe since 2019, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At least 60 people, children through adults, attended the first day of the Gathering. Officials estimate 150 people will take part in the three-day event. Kim Garcia, the Wyandotte Nation's Cultural Preservation Officer, said several families registered but remained at home because someone in their group tested positive for COVID-19 this week.

While designed for children, parents or grandparents are required

to participate in the event. Garcia said they hope to create a multi-generational environment where everyone learns aspects of the tribe's culture.

How it began

The first Gathering of Little Turtles took place about 10 years ago, growing out of the annual weeklong Gathering that takes place each September. Knowing not all students could take off during the school year, tribal officials created a summer event.

Activities included talks about the environment, as well as demonstrations of beading, leather crafting, tribal trivia, and more, all based at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center gymnasium. Signs dotted the gym's walls, giving students a chance to learn words in the Tribe's native tongue, Wandat.

The turtle-based theme was picked for the event because, in the Wyandotte creation story, the woman fell from the sky and animals put her on the back of a turtle. They believe Earth was created on the back of a turtle. Additionally, the tribe has several clans of turtles.

"Since we were coming back (from COVID-19) we went back to the basics since we haven't been able to be together for a couple of years," Garcia said.

In 2016, members of the Wyandotte Nation built a Cultural Center and Museum in Wyandotte, near the Missouri border. In 2020, Chief Billy Friend and other leaders decided to move the Tribe's cultural activities from a department within the governmental branch to becoming an equal partner alongside the government and economic



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Youth enjoyed a variety of activities during the Gathering of Little Turtles.

development branches.

Garcia said the cultural branch of the Tribe focuses on preserving the past, while government and economic development leaders focus on the Tribe's present and future, respectively.

"As a Tribe, for so long we were trying to survive. Now that we're thriving, we are able to put on things like this," Garcia said.

TURTLES

Continued from Page 4

Online learning

Wyandotte Nation has at least 7,000 members, but only a small portion live within the Four-State Area. Thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic and the growing use of technology for remote meetings and learning, tribal officials began providing remote learning opportunities for its members, regardless of age.

"We want people all over to be able to participate," Garcia said. "When we gather one week a year (in September), people don't feel as connected. COVID was difficult, but it turned out to be a blessing because we were able to utilize Zoom. It helped us tremendously to get people involved."

One of the online cultural offerings involves history and cultural lessons taught by Lloyd Divine, a paramedic from Ozark. As a child, he knew his family was part of the Wyandotte Nation, but his parents couldn't tell him much involving their history or tradition.

In the early 1980s, Divine's uncle, Jim Bland, became the Tribe's second chief. By then, Divine was an inquisitive learner, saying he tried to learn everything he could from his uncle and research.

Since then, he has tapped into hundreds of different resources, and published a book through The Ohio State University Press titled "On the Back of a Turtle: A Narrative of the Huron-Wyandot People," focused on the history of the Tribe.

He is working on a second book, tentatively titled "That Time Is Gone," which is a look at what the Tribe believed and thought, and the old ways of life. He hopes it will be published when finished by the University of Oklahoma Press.

For Divine, the Gathering of Little Turtles provides hope for the Tribe. He also sees it as an outgrowing of the efforts of two women: Artie Nesvold and Juanita McQuiston, who in the 1980s set out to remember and record tribal heritage.

"By the 1980s, we had two citizens intently trying to remember the old ways," Divine said. "Today, we have 150 people being implanted with a little bit of knowledge, which hopefully will grow and inspire people."

"We are implanting the seed, we may not see a lot from it right now, but it will grow."

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 Martin
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 IN FULL DRESS TO RECEIVE CONTEST MONEY. All decisions by the committee are final. All Food Vendors must have Oklahoma Food Handlers Permit. We are not responsible for thefts or accidents. No firearms, drugs or alcohol allowed. No personal shades set up before Friday afternoon. NO PETS ALLOWED NEAR ARENA.

For Additional Information, Contact: Sherri Clemons (918) 678-6344 sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

Wyandotte Nation Lacrosse Camp

Bringing lacrosse back to Tribe's roots

By KAYLEA M. HUTSON-MILLER

WWW.JOPLINGLOBE.COM

(ARTICLE FROM THE JOPLIN GLOBE, REPRINTED
WITH PERMISSION)

Kim Garcia's smile was a mile wide as she watched young members of the Wyandotte Nation learn the basics of lacrosse.

This week (June 21-24), students as young as 12 spent time weaving and dodging along the Wyandotte High School football field as players from the Republic (Missouri) High School club team and Missouri State University's club team led the way.

The camp and a \$1 million Indian Community Development Block Grant, which includes the establishment of a lacrosse field at the Tribe's pow-wow grounds, are just two of the ways tribal leaders hope to reintroduce a sport with deep roots in Native American culture. The grant, provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, gives grantees in Indian or Alaska Native communities access to funds designed to promote housing, living environment, and economic opportunities.

Garcia, Wyandotte Nation's Cultural Preservation Officer, said tribal officials will use the funds for needed infrastructure work on the pow-wow grounds, including additional camping spots for recreational vehicles, bathroom facilities, and the lacrosse field.

Everything, she said, is structured with the goal of bringing additional events throughout the year to the grounds, located on Highway 60 between Wyandotte and Seneca, Missouri.

Thanks to the grant and the students' response to the game, Garcia and others dream of establishing a club-level sport with other tribes or schools for students in Northeast Oklahoma by 2024.

"On a bigger scale, it's important to me for students to be interested in our culture as a living thing, not just a historical (element)," Garcia said.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said the pow-wow grounds grant and the lacrosse camp are just two of the ways the tribe's cultural efforts are growing since the



Brooklyn Hobbs, left, and Michaela Stovall, right, enjoy taking shots during the opening day of the Wyandotte Nation Lacrosse Camp. (BELOW) Campers take time for a photo with their coaches.

cultural division was established to work alongside the government and economic divisions.

While Wyandotte school officials have allowed the Tribe to use school grounds for the camp and other activities, Friend said the new lacrosse field will allow students to have camps and play the game throughout the year.

"This is a big piece of our history," Friend said. "In our thinking, without history, there's no future."

Like Garcia, Friend hopes the Wyandotte people, along with those from area tribes, will develop a strong interest in the game, ultimately providing students with an opportunity to learn how their ancestors once lived and played.

More about lacrosse

Friend said the sport's roots date to the 11th century in the St. Lawrence

Valley, an area in Canada and Ohio that the Wyandotte Nation initially called home. Lacrosse involves a ball that is thrown, caught and carried with a long-handled stick having a curved L-shape or triangular frame at one end with a piece of shallow netting in the angle.

"With the removals (of Native peoples to other territories), a lot of our cultural aspects were put to the side because people were just trying to survive," Garcia said. "Now that we are thriving, we can work to bring back our culture. We are the ones



who created (lacrosse), and we want to be the ones pushing it in this area."

The camp began a few years ago, when younger members, including Garcia's son, Caleb, expressed an interest in playing lacrosse and asked

LACROSSE CAMP

Continued from Page 6

tribal leaders to bring it to the area.

This week, Donnie Curran, Missouri State University's lacrosse coach, and Jason Butcher, one of the Republic High School club coaches, and five players from the Springfield area spent time in Wyandotte working with the students.

Curran said it is an honor to help teach a new generation of players the sport, which has been adapted and modified through the years.

"Lacrosse is not an easy sport, and it has to be practiced," Curran said. "We're getting a chance to introduce the sport to players who have never played, building relationships and encouraging their development."

Curran said as students begin to grasp the basics of the game, they begin to gain confidence.

"Before you know it, they are good at it," he said, adding that at the end of the three days, the students end by playing a small-scale game among campers.

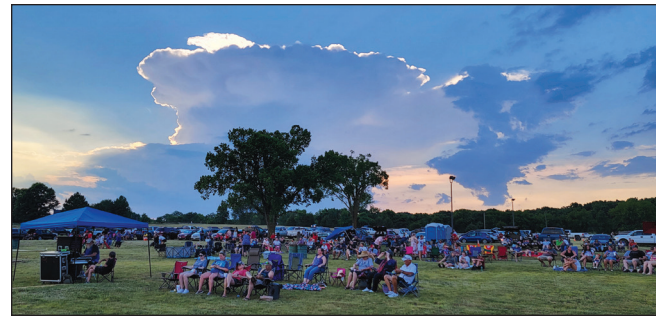
Camp member T.J. Proffitt, 13, said it was fun to learn lacrosse, which he said is a mix of baseball and soccer.

Cheyenne Schaller, 11, said she enjoys playing the sport. The Wyandotte sixth grader said the sport combines lessons she's learned as a cheerleader, softball player and cross country runner. She hopes to play the game as a high school student.

Amanda Butcher, a member of the Wyandotte Cultural Committee, said both her son and daughter played for the Republic High School club lacrosse teams. Butcher said she's thrilled to see more students interested in the sport.

"As the late Chief Leaford Bearskin would say, 'This makes my heart full,'" Butcher said as she watched students practice. "This was something taken away from us in the residential schools but now is coming back."

As Natives, Butcher said, they are taught to think about seven generations forward and seven previous generations. She said economic decisions made by leaders 30 or more years ago are providing the resources so the current generation of leaders can reintroduce this piece of tribal culture, making the game available for years to come.



4th of July Celebration

The Tribe hosted its annual Fireworks display Saturday, July 2 at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds. The DJ Gragg Band kicked off the festivities with a series of country songs (and one not). Vendors were on hand to serve up good eats and treats. The fireworks kicked off a little bit earlier than expected as a storm rolled through the area.

PHOTOS BY WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department is very happy to welcome tribal citizens Chelsea



KING

King and Gabrielle (Gabby) Ezell. Chelsea will serve as a Sexual Assault Advocate – Supervised Visitation Specialist. She received her BSW from MSSU and her MSW from MSU. Chelsea is very crafty and loves making tie blankets or wreaths. She enjoys spending time with her friends and watching movies. Chelsea has a very large family and two cats that she adores. We are very fortunate to have Chelsea on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

Gabby will serve as our new Pandemic Support/Domestic Violence/



EZELL

Sexual Assault Advocate. She graduated with a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology and previously worked at the child abuse hotline. She enjoys spending most of her time with her family, friends, and attending her brother's baseball games. In her free time, you can find her crafting, watching Netflix, and spending time with her niece and nephews. We are very fortunate to have Gabby on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

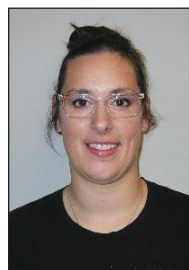
The Wyandotte Nation Education Department is very happy to welcome Jadeyn Bailey as an Early Childhood Teacher's Assistant. Jadeyn graduated from Seneca High School. She enjoys shopping, concerts, rodeos and spending time with friends. We



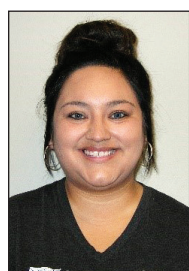
BAILEY

are very glad to have Jadeyn join our Education Department.

The Wyandotte Nation Title VI Department is very happy to welcome Amanda Turner as a Food Service Team Member and tribal citizen Cortney Glass as a Food Service Team Member/Delivery Driver.



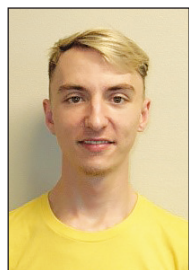
TURNER



GLASS

Amanda comes to us with previous food service experience, attended vo-tech culinary arts and loves working with people. Amanda transferred from one of our other entities. She enjoys spending time with her family, baking, and grilling. We are very fortunate to have Amanda on our team and wish her the best of luck in her new position.

Cortney is excited to give back to her Tribe and serve the Elders. She enjoys spending time with her kids and watching sports. Cortney also enjoys reading and sports. We are very fortunate to have Cortney.



MILLER



PIPER

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome Christian Miller, RMA. Christian will serve as PRN Clinic Staff. He graduated from Quapaw High School and received his RMA Certification from WTI. In his spare time, he enjoys hiking, being outside, meeting new people, and traveling. Christian also enjoys seeing new places and exploring the country. We are very fortunate to have

Christian on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

The Bearskin Fitness Center is happy to welcome Jade Piper. Jade will serve as a Front Desk Assistant/Childcare Provider. Jade graduated from Fairland High School and is currently attending NEO A&M College. She has been a lifeguard, MSRP Camp Counselor, and Event Staff. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family, friends and always has her dogs with her. She likes sports and traveling. We are very fortunate to have Jade on our team and wish her much success in this position.

Jaci Clinton joins us as the Youth Program Assistant Coordinator - Seasonal for the Youth Program at the fitness center. Jaci graduated from Welch High School and is attending Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas. In her spare time, Jaci



CLINTON

enjoys fishing with her family and boyfriend. She also enjoys spending time with his family/friends, being outside, and paddle boarding. We are very fortunate to have Jaci join our team.

The Facilities Department has new seasonal staff members, Calvin Tanner and Gavin Kihenia.



TANNER



KIHENIA

Calvin is a Wyandotte tribal citizen. During his spare time, he enjoys fishing and gardening. We are very fortunate to have Calvin join us this year.

Gavin recently graduated from high school. During his spare time, he enjoys playing sports and spending time outdoors. We are very fortunate to have Gavin join us this year.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

The Family Services staff is happy to finally return to some sort of normalcy, or at least new normalcy, here at the Tribal headquarters. The Family Services office has been able to remain open throughout the pandemic and I would like to thank the staff for all of their hard work and dedication. It's been a tough couple of years, but we are resilient!

The Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) provided a presentation to tribal citizens at the Gathering of Little Turtles for the first time since 2019. The presentation consisted of information about how to keep children safe online, with an emphasis on education regarding human trafficking and how easily children can be lured into online "relationships." Program staff also coordinated an awareness walk on May 31 for Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) and had a great turnout. Be sure to watch for other events in the fall.

The FVPP has added two new staff members. Chelsea King, a tribal citizen, joined the team in early May. She is an advocate for youth victims of sexual assault. She will also be developing a supervised visitation program for FVPP clients. Tribal citizen, Gabriel Ezell, joined the department in late June. She is a domestic violence/sexual assault advocate and will be coordinating grant activities for three separate awards received from the Administration for Children and Families, and American Rescue Plan funding. We're very excited to have both of these young ladies as part of our staff.

August 15 is the deadline to submit applications for tribal enrollment. Please be sure to have applications either hand delivered or postmarked by this date to be considered for enrollment at the Annual Meeting. An original birth certificate is required and all applicants who submit the required documentation prior to the child's first birthday will receive a commemorative blanket and a \$100 Walmart gift card.

Don't forget to mark your calendars for The Gathering, the Annual Meeting, and the Pow-Wow! Details

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Employee Appreciation



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

(PICTURED ABOVE) Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., and Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend presented Human Resources Director Deana Howard with a plaque and flowers after honoring her as Employee of the Year. Howard was instrumental in helping the Tribe navigate the pandemic. (PICTURED BELOW) Chief Friend and Second Chief Hildebrand honored employees for their years of service. From left, Hildebrand, Jr., Kim Harnar (20 years), Cesilie Hale (5 years), Tara Gragg (10 years), Jan Graham (15 years), Faron Lee (15 years), Garold Alumbaugh (15 years), Kelly Friend (20 years) and Chief Friend.



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regarding these events can be found elsewhere in the newsletter, but please be sure to follow us on Facebook and/or visit our website www.wyandotte-nation.org as we get closer to the date, as there may need to be last-minute changes. As always, you must present your Wyandotte Nation membership or citizenship card to vote and/or register for the Annual Meeting. This card will display your enrollment number, which is proof of citizenship with the Nation. It is not to be confused with the Certificate of Degree of Indian Blood (CDIB) card. If you are in need of a replacement card please contact

a member of the Family Service staff or the application can be found on the website under Services/Enrollment.

Town Halls have been scheduled in California and will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, at the John Wayne Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, and Sunday, Oct. 23, at the Four Points by Sheraton at the Sacramento Airport. More information about both meetings will be announced on the website and Facebook, as we get closer to the meeting time as well as post cards will be mailed to all adult tribal citizens who reside in California.

Just for fun, the number of tribal citizens who are California residents

was reported in the May Family Services article. The first person to email me at dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org with that number will receive a gift! Please include your full name, roll number, and mailing address in your email.

In the remainder of this article, you will find highlights for a few Family Services programs that are only available between July 1 and Sept. 30 of each year. A complete list of programs offered through the Family Services Department can be found on the website.

The School Supply Program started July 1 and is available to all students nationwide pre-k (must be at least 3 and enrolled in a qualified learning program) through grade 12. Each student is eligible for up to \$100 for school supplies, clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. Walmart gift cards are available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, and Missouri, and students nationwide will be reimbursed for expenses. Please note that all applications and receipts must be original so they will either need to be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications for both the gift card and the reimbursement program are available on the website homepage as well as a one-page guideline. Each child must be on a separate application with separate receipts for the reimbursement program. Applications MUST be postmarked or hand-delivered no later than Sept. 30. If you have questions, please call Leeanna at 918-678-6329.

The Senior Energy program began July 1 and will make one payment of \$100 between July 1 and Sept. 30 directly to your energy provider. This program does require an application each year and is available nationwide. Please submit the application along with a copy of your current electric bill. Applications can be found on our website or one can be mailed/emailed to you. Please allow up to 30 days for payments to process. For questions about this program, please contact Tiffany at 918-678-6353.

The Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) began July 1 and will be available on a first come first serve basis to those living in the state of Oklahoma and has an income requirement. Eligible families have the choice to apply for LIHEAP either through the state of Oklahoma or with the Tribe. Eligible households may only use LIHEAP from one entity per

year during the winter and again during the summer. For questions please call Tara Gragg at 918-678-6355.

Other programs available through the Family Services Department include: Elder's Assistance, Extracurricular Expense; High School Jr/Sr Benefit; Fuel Assistance; Child Safety Seat Program; Tribal Tag Program; Supplemental Health (aka Benny card); Burial Assistance; Indian Child Welfare, Family Violence Prevention Program, and Winter Clothing. Please note that all of the Family Service programs (with the exception of the Supplemental Health Program/Benny card) end on Sept. 30. No applications for this fiscal year will be accepted after that date. Most program guidelines and applications can be found on the Tribe's website or by calling the office.

As always, it is a great pleasure for us to serve the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation. Please feel free to reach out to us if you have a need and we will do our best to assist you.

Primary Department Contacts:

Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319

Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor/ LIHEAP, 918-678-6355

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

Tiffany Garner, Tag Administrator, 918-678-6353

Cesilie Hale, FVPP Manager, 918-678-3269

Family Violence Prevention Program Hotline, 877-276-0669

Wyandotte Nation Family Services, wfnfs@wyandotte-nation.org

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

TAG REMINDERS:

- Beginning July 1, 2022, a title issued for a vehicle or motor subject to a lien will be issued to the lienholder pursuant to Title 47 Section 1105 of the Oklahoma Statutes. If a vehicle owner needs the title for any reason, it must be obtained from the lienholder. Once a lien is satisfied, the lienholder can release the title to the vehicle owner.
- If there is no lien on the vehicle or motor, the title will be issued to the vehicle owner. Paper titles that currently exist will remain in good standing. If a duplicate title is requested after June 30, 2022, these rules will apply.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,
Education Director*

Kweh,
Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is in the process of approving fall 2022 semester scholarships. If you are currently in the scholarship program, please remember to send in your latest transcript that will have your spring grades and fall schedule listed.

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 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, 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 now available to college graduates that have participated in the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program. The stoles are now available to Wyandotte Nation tribal members who are graduating college but did not obtain a scholarship from Wyandotte Nation. You will be required to fill out the stole application, located on the website, and submit all documentation that is required to get a stole mailed to you. If you live local, you may pick up a stole at the Education Department.

Wyandotte Nation's Library is now open after getting the books shelved and the computers on the network. I also 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

Preschool Graduation



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool held its graduation Monday, May 9 at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center. The kids got their first opportunity to take part in a graduation procession, performed songs and were recognized during the graduation by Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr. Mrs. Cummings' Class performed "Superhero's Unite." Mrs. Burwell's Class performed "Baby Shark Circus." Mrs. Johnson's Class performed "ABC Ya Later" and "Herman the Worm." Mrs. Copeland's Class performed "We are a Family" and "ABC Rock."

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.

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. You may contact the Librarian, Madeline Harnar, via email at mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org, or by calling the library at 918-678-6332 for more information.

Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is currently full in our infant/ones/toddler rooms. Our preschool has a couple of openings for the 2022-23 school year. We are accepting applications to be placed

on a waiting list for all age groups. Now is a good time to fill out a preschool application if you are looking for a spot for preschool during the 2022-23 school year. Applications are available on our website, or you may contact Lindsay Cooper for an application by email at lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org, or by phone by dialing 918-678-3267.

Our summer program is beginning to wind down as the new school year approaches. The children have been able to enjoy a few field trips this summer, walks to Bear Park and splash pad, and one of their favorites is water day on site. They have also enjoyed arts and crafts, baking bread, making homemade butter, and eating popsicles.

Wyandotte Nation is providing services under Public Law 102-477, a government funded program that al-

lows us to combine certain formula-funded federal grants into a single plan. Our goal is to create safe and stable families, raise educational achievement, develop and enhance employment opportunities, integrate employment and training services, and increase self-sufficiency. Wyandotte Nation's 477 Plan services all counties within a 100-mile radius from our Tribal Headquarters in Wyandotte, Okla. These services are limited to the service area due to the program not being tribally funded. Services provided under the 477 Plan include job training and work experience, educational assistance, and childcare assistance.

Eligibility requirements:

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

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

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

Department Contacts:

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

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

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

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

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

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Housing

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The summer has been a busy time. If you have been in the Heritage Acres Development, you probably have noticed a new road being constructed. This new road will serve 11 lots for future housing. A new senior duplex is also being constructed, and another one is in the works.

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

housing office.

Native American Housing and Self-Determination (NAHASDA) 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.

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 found 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 to 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.

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

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

The plans for our new building are coming along nicely. We don't have a start date as of yet but we are getting closer and more excited every day!

We are planning to hold a bingo/auction and walking tacos on Aug. 26. Details of time and place are to be determined. We will post it at the Title VI Centers and on Facebook.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone in September at the Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting. The Hothouse family will be providing the hog fry for us again this year following the Annual Meeting. The menu is fried pork, brown beans, potato wedges, and fry bread. Our Title VI staff will provide the grape dumplings.

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, Amanda Turner and Cortney Glass Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328.

ment provide a variety of services including, but not limited to, private well drinking water sampling as and septic assessments for private home owners. We also encourage and provide a place to recycle. Lost Creek Recycling Center is open to the community and surrounding area Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and 8 am to 3:30 pm on Friday. The facility can accept the following materials: paper, plastic, cardboard, tin and aluminum.

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

Amounts collected for the months of May thru June are listed in the table below.

The nice weather in April allowed us to conduct outside activities and events, such as the annual Tire

Collection, Earth Day, Lunch and Learn, and providing a tour for local students. We successfully collected 1,027 tires during the week of April 18 at the Lost Creek Recycling Center. Before this event, northeast Oklahoma had thousands of tires in illegal dumps across our service area. As a result of the Clean Air Act and Solid Waste Disposal Act, open burning was no longer allowed. Additionally, landfills refused to accept tires because they would float to the surface. Wyandotte Nation's collection program provides a solution to this growing problem by providing a legal way to dispose of tires. The intent is to clean up existing dumps and prevent new dumps in Green Country.

Kathleen Welch and Janice Wilson provided environmental and edu-

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 Depart-

CAREGIVER

We have suspended our in-person Caregiver Support Group once again due to the rise in COVID, but are continuing to provide respite care vouchers.

We are also able to provide hygiene products and other items to ensure for the care recipients.

This group is for all current and former caregivers. It is also for

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Solid Waste Collected in May and June 2022	
Aluminum	327 lbs.
Cardboard	19,209 lbs.
Newspaper	649 lbs.
Magazines	1,394 lbs.
Plastic (#1 and #2)	1,523 lbs.
Shredded Paper	2,164 lbs.
Tin	0 lbs.
Combined Total	25,266 lbs.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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cational material from their booth at an Earth Day Event hosted by GRDA April 23. The time is now to create a generation of citizens, workers, students, and leaders ready for climate change. Kathleen and Janice promoted a public understanding of how to stop climate change and environmental harm.

The Wyandotte Public School 3rd Grade Classes toured our recycle center April 28. Jon Quick talked to the students about the importance of recycling and explained the process that takes place at our center. A total of 48 students and three teachers were in attendance.

Twenty-five people participated in Wyandotte Nation’s lunch and learn April 29. John Gerhard and Janice Wilson taught on non-point source pollution and how it is intertwined with recycling. The first nine who registered for the event received a free rain barrel.

May brought with it a lot of rain events, so staff had to do a lot of juggling of days to be able to monitor its eight monthly sites and perform sampling. On May 16, Annual Nutrient, Heavy Metals and Seasonal E-coli sampling took place, and samples were transported to a certified lab in Tulsa, Okla. for analysis. On May 19, Janice Wilson and John Gerhard had an Environmental Education booth at a Spring Elders Event where approximately 350 elders were in attendance.

The excess rain finally slowed down in the month of June, but excess heat followed close behind. The staff was finally able to get out and perform bio-assessments on two area creeks, Lost Creek and Mason Springs Valley Creek. We were also able to perform Habitat Assessments and Macroinvertebrate Counts on four additional sites. On June 24, John Gerhard and Kathleen Welch talked to the kids about recycling and did a turtle craft during the Gathering of Little Turtles Event Friday, June 24. Kathleen Welch, Janice Wilson and Braulio Ramirez traveled to Tulsa for a four hour Class “D” Water/Wastewater Recertification Training on June 28. Despite our busy schedule, we were also able to perform tests on seven private wells (four in May and three



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Kathy Welch gives a presentation at the Gathering of Little Turtles in June.

Grant Awards in April, May, and June 2022	
Historic Preservation Fund Grants-In-Aid	\$66,704
Indian Health Service Medical Equipment Grant	\$179,598
Performance Partnership Grants	\$287,000
Sexual Assault/Rape Crisis and Supportive Services	\$119,114
FVPS-Mobile Health Unit/Vaccination	\$428,630
Tribal Justice Support	\$151,381
Indian Community Development Block Grant	\$1,000,000
Total	\$2,232,427

in June).

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 recently submitted applications to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), U.S. National Parks Service (NPS), and the Department of Justice (DOJ). Grant funds from USDA’s Local Food Purchase Assistance Program would allow the Tribe to purchase fruit, vegetables, dairy, and protein from local producers and socially disadvantaged farmers/producers in order to distribute fresh and nutritious foods to our underserved community. The Tribe is requesting SAMHSA funds from their Tribal

Opioid Response program in order to improve the quality of, and access to, risk reduction, prevention, therapy, and recovery activities. If awarded, our project would increase access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder. Historic Preservation Fund Grants-In-Aid to provide funding for salary and fringe of Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO). Wyandotte Nation’s THPO will implement consultation process between federal agency officials and the Wyandotte Nation. The Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) FY 2022 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) Formula Grant, which is a Department of Justice (DOJ) grant. This three-year grant that will provide 100% salary and fringe for the Sexual Assault Advocate/Forensic Interviewer, and include 20% of salary and fringe for

the Family Violence Prevention Program Manager for administration. Training, supplies, direct services, and, audio and visual equipment for Forensic Interviewing Room, will be included. The formula allocation is \$439,491, which is based on population and assigned a formula tier.

We recently received several grant awards that will allow the Tribe and its departments to serve Wyandotte citizens within our service area and beyond, when possible. Funding agencies include a variety of federal partners as well as money from the U.S. Department of Treasury. A list of competitive and non-competitive awards and their amount is provided in the table below.

The Planning Department conducted a survey with the department directors to address any barriers, needs, or gaps in service that may be preventing the department from improving the quality of life for all tribal citizens. They are working to provide an analysis of the surveys and provide suggestions for the next steps in not only advancing the Tribe’s mission, but the department’s program goals and objectives as well. Results from this survey will also help our Grant Writers research, write, and submit applications for potential funding opportunities.

The BIA Self-Governance Coordinator attended the Tribal Transportation Training in April, which was provided through a partnership between the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Cross Timbers Consulting. They also completed their Information Management and Technology (IMT) Awareness Recertification, through the Department of Interior (DOI).

The ‘477’ Coordinator attended the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC) in May with other program staff in order to gather and share information with individuals and tribal organizations who are involved with Indian and Native American employment and training programs. They also submitted the program’s three-year plan to the Department of the Interior for their review. Once approved,

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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Wyandotte Nation will be able to continue integrating certain federal grants into select job training programs, vocational training, and 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. Finally, the Coordinator attended bi-weekly Tribal Federal Partners Meeting for a new MOA on the '477' program with federal partners.

The Planning and Natural Resources Department is 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's desire is 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, cleee@wyandotte-nation.org

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

Environmental Technician 1 Janice Wilson, jwilson@wyandotte-nation.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Kim Garcia,
Cultural Preservation Officer*

Kweh qmatęru? (hello friends),
It's busy here at Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum and that's a GREAT thing! We just finished up our Lacrosse Camp and our Gathering of Little Turtles. The kids played lacrosse in some HOT weather but they really enjoyed themselves. Each year, more kids learn about the traditional game and want to continue playing it more. We plan on expanding the lacrosse camp into a lacrosse league within the next 2 years – we already have a few tribes interested in participating with us.

The Gathering of Little Turtles' theme was TURTLES and it was said to be the "best one yet"! Beci Wright taught language and focused on some common Wa'dat words – kweh (hello), tižamęh (thank you), yawahstih (it is good), and unęh (good-bye). Beci also taught our kids how to introduce themselves in Wa'dat. Chris Houk taught the kids all about the qmakya?ta'ditahkwih (3 Sisters Garden – Our Sustenance) – it includes the unęha? (corn), unyqhsa? (squash), and uyá:re?sa? (beans). They toured our yaękwakeh (garden) and then planted their own to take home. Chris taught all about turtles, how we would use the turtles in everyday life, and surprised everyone with some fried turtle meat (yes, our ancestors ate turtles). Lloyd Divine gave a presentation about our clans and emphasized the turtle clans and their roles within the tribe. We had special presentations from the Oklahoma Department of Wildlife, the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department, and Wyandotte Nation Family Violence Prevention. And even though it was so HOT, the kids kept asking to play

lacrosse outside. Yawahstih! (It is good!)

This summer we have been hosting Wyandotte Youth Night every Tuesday night – this is open to all responsible young Wyandotte Citizens. They've made medicine pouches, fringed shawls, several of the young men are learning to make their uskwetra (headdress), and we've learned how to do several beading styles (we also tie-dyed, which was a lot of fun!). Our goal with the Youth Night is to provide a place for our young people to come and learn together. It's been amazing watching them become better friends and learn more about our culture. We've also hosted a history class with the summer interns so they will know more about our ancestors and their struggles they faced and will be able to make those connections on the intern trip to Ohio in late July.

We continue to host the monthly Wa'dat Wednesday, a basic language class, Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum with Lloyd Divine, and quarterly the Wyandotte Book Club. Be sure to register to attend these Zoom meetings. Registrations can be found at wyandotte-nation.org/news/.

Currently, we are working on the Wyandotte Artisan Showcase, the Gathering, Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow, and changing the exhibit in the museum for the Gathering. We're excited to show you some recent additions! As of now, all events will take place with no restrictions but that is subject to change depending on COVID cases in the area. Please see included information on upcoming events; registration will be open soon at wyandotte-nation.org/news/ - the crafts will be limited each day, so please register to make sure you

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Gathering Schedule

(All events will be at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gym unless otherwise noted)

Tuesday, Sept. 6

1pm: Registration/Check-In
1:30pm: Welcome and Announcements
2pm: Crafts - Choose only 1 per day
5pm: Dinner at River Bend
6:30pm: Special Presentations

Wednesday, Sept. 7

8:30am: Registration/Check-In
9am: Welcome and Announcements
9:30am: History
10:30am: Language
11:30am: Lunch at Title 6
1pm: Driving Tour with Heather Miller
2pm: Crafts - Choose only 1 per day
5pm: Dinner at River Bend
6:30pm: Special Presentations

Thursday, Sept. 8

8:30am: Registration/Check-In
9am: Welcome and Announcements
9:30am: History
10:30am: Language
11:30am: Lunch at Gym with Family Services
1pm: WHDA Project with Dr. Wicks
2pm: Crafts
5pm: Dinner at River Bend
6:30pm: Wyandotte Artisan Showcase (Cultural Center)

Friday, Sept. 9

7am: Name Ceremony & Blessing (Pow-Wow Grounds)
8am: Check-In and Group Photo
8:30am: Memorial Walk
9:30am: History
10:30am: Language
11:30am: Lunch at Title 6
1pm: Talking Circle (Community Center)
2pm: Presentations (Community Center)
Pow-Wow Etiquette

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

Language Notes

BY BECI WRIGHT
WYANDOTTE NATION

Kweh qmatęru? ! (Hello, friends!)

This **wayęté?yeh** (summer) has filled my need for **u?tarihá?ti** (warm weather/it is hot). I am looking forward to seeing many of you at The Gathering in September! We will have several opportunities to practice our language as well as learn from each other.

At The Gathering, you will meet many **ayómeh** (people). One way we can describe **ayómeh** is by age, which is very important in our culture. The children are our future, our treasures; our elders are a source of wisdom. And those in between are the backbone that support both.

aža?áha (she is a child)

yawi?tsinóha? (she is a little girl)

yawí:noh (young woman, she is pretty)

qméh (female person)

yá?tq? (old woman, she is old)

haža?áha (he is a child)

hómę?tsęhtí?ah (boy, he is young, he is small)

řomenyęhti (he is a young man)

řóméh (male person)

ha?tq? (old man, he is old)

Remember: AUDIO files for all bolded vocabulary are available at wandat.org (click on "Turtle Speaks" and choose the month). Be sure to join us every third Wednesday of the month at **Wan-**

dat Wednesdays (on ZOOM) to practice together.

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

(To sign up for the montly Waⁿdat 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.)

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.

Interested in Waⁿdat Language Classes?

We are planning our offering(s) for Fall 2022 and would like to know who is interested in learning a little – or a lot – of Waⁿdat. Please add your name to our mailing list and take a few minutes to tell us your learning preferences at:

www.surveymonkey.com/r/LangInterest
- Tižamęh!

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

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

Continued from Page 13

get in the class you want. Also, follow us on Facebook to see all the progress we're making at the Cultural Center!

Eskwayę? (I will see you all again).

Department Contacts:

Kim Garcia

kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org
918-678-6317

Sherri Clemons

Wyandotte Artisan Showcase 2022

"de hutihšřodihakye?
(They Are Making)

Wyandotte Nation will be hosting an exhibit for all Wyandotte artisans. The opening reception and award ceremony will be on Thursday, Sept. 8, 2022 at 6:30 pm at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum during the Gathering.

General Rules:

1. This showcase is open to all citizens of Wyandotte Nation, Wyandot of Anderton, Huron-Wendat, or Wyandot Nation of Kansas or a member of their immediate family (spouse, child, etc.).

2. Artist applications and artwork are due at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum by Thursday, Sept. 1, 2022 at noon. Special arrangements may be made with Kim Garcia by Sept. 1, 2022 to submit artwork at a later date. Submissions may be dropped off or mailed to (along with application):

**Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center
and Museum
5 Council Fire Rd
Wyandotte, OK 74370**

3. Artists may submit a maximum of 1 piece per category to be judged.

4. All artwork must be the artist's original work (including beadwork patterns). All artwork must not have been entered in a previous Wyandotte Artisan Showcase.

5. This show is judged but artists may choose to submit artwork for exhibition only and/or for sale. There is no limit on the number of exhibition or for sale pieces.

6. All entries are eligible for sale at the discretion of the artist. Sales will be handled by the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum and a 20% commission will be retained to benefit the Wyandotte

Nation Foundation. Artists should price their work accordingly.

7. By entering the showcase, the artist agrees to and authorizes use of photos and/or video images of the artist/artworks by Wyandotte Nation for publicity, advertising, or stock photo use, or other lawful purposes.

8. Entries deemed inappropriate for any reason for community viewing will not be included in the showcase and will be returned to the artist.

9. Any artwork incorporating animal parts such as feathers or skins must abide by federal law. Please note that by federal law, only enrolled members of a federally-recognized tribe are allowed to possess eagle feathers and such items may not be sold.

Categories:

- Painting, Drawing, and Print-Making
- Photography and Digital Graphics
- Sculpture
- Beadwork/Quillwork
- Basketry
- Pottery
- Textiles – Weaving, Clothing, Quilts, etc.
- Jewelry and Accessories
- Diverse Art Forms and Mixed Media

Awards:

There will be 2 divisions: Youth and Adult. The youth division will be for all artists up to age 17. The adult division will be ages 18 and over.

Showcase organizers intend to award First, Second, and Third Place for each category in each division and a single Best in Show award.

NOTE: *Application forms will be available on the Wyandotte Nation website and on social media.*

Gathering Crafts

Limit	Class	Location
15	Finger Weaving with Patty Shinn (Will be weaving a keychain)	Clinic Classroom
20	Peyote Stitch with Linda Blake (Will be learning tubular peyote stitch on a pen)	Cultural Center Classroom
15	Baby Ribbon Skirts with Marilyn Young (Will be making a baby ribbon skirt for newborn giveaways)	Community Center
	Flintknapping with John Webb	Outside Administration Bldg
	Medicine Pouches with Chris Houk	Gym
20	Basket Weaving with Faye Treese (Will be weaving a Cherokee style basket)	Gym

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Healthcare

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

COVID-19 is on the rise...again. Bearskin Healthcare is still offering drive thru testing and vaccinations. In addition, home testing kits and N95 masks are available through the drive thru facility.

Currently, in July, the positivity rate is averaging 35% daily.

Department Contacts:

Kelly Friend, Director 918-678-3259

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

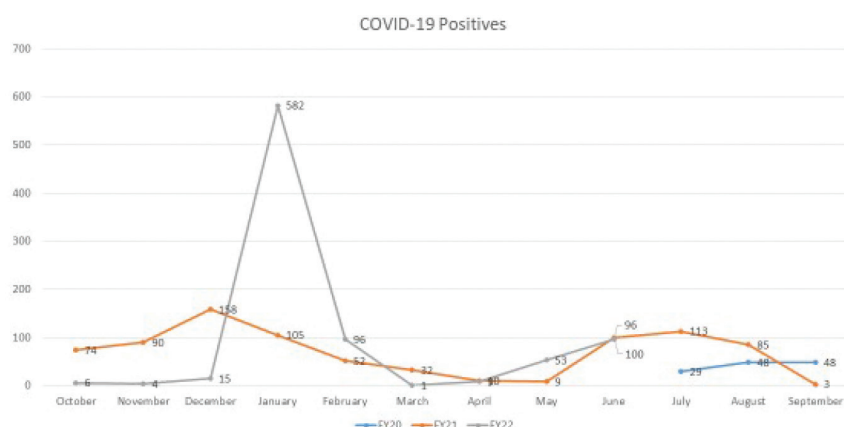
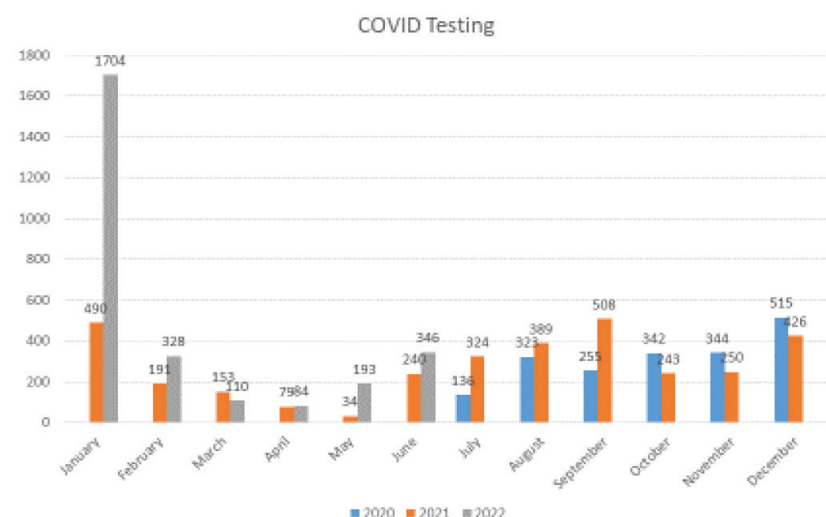
Sheryl Garrett, Business Services Manager 918-678-3226

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



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

GATHERING

**SEPT.
6-9**

SEE PAGE 13 for complete schedule



31ST ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.
9-11**



Friday, Sept. 9
8pm

Saturday, Sept. 10
1:30pm &
7pm

Sunday, Sept. 11
12:30pm

ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.
10**

10am @ Bearskin
Fitness Center Gym



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

Wyandotte Book Club!

The Cultural Center hosts an online book club every quarter. Our next meeting will be in NOVEMBER. The exact day and time will be announced on Facebook and on our webpage – check the Events Calendar!

Our November selection is *The Poet Warrior: A Memoir* by Joy Harjo, recent three-term Poet Laureate of the United States, 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 February title will be 'The Firekeeper's Daughter' by Angeline Boulley.



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
bhhouse@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

COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES



COURTESY PHOTO

Gabriel Garcia plays 'Taps' for the Memorial Day ceremony.

Memorial Day

The Wyandotte Nation held its annual Memorial Day ceremony to honor those who have given the greatest sacrifice for their country. Thank you Gabriel Garcia for closing the ceremony with Taps.

Annual Meeting

As of this publishing, the Annual Meeting will be open to tribal citizens and and their spouses. We will have traffic set up as we did last year starting behind River Bend Casino & Hotel, with two lanes of traffic -- one for those attending and one for those not attending. We will continually monitor the COVID situation and will announce any changes, restrictions or other information on social media and our website regarding the Annual Meeting.

Town Hall Meetings

The Wyandotte Nation will hold two Town Hall meetings in northern and southern California this year.

The Town Halls will be held Saturday, Oct. 22, at the John Wayne Hyatt Regency in Newport Beach, and Sunday, Oct. 23, at the Four Points by Sheraton at the Sacramento Airport. More information about both meetings will be announced on the website and Facebook, as we get closer to the meeting time. Postcards will be mailed to all adult tribal citizens who reside in California. We are monitoring the COVID situation closely and will announce any changes,

restrictions or other information on social media and our website.

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 who live away from the tribal headquarters in Wyandotte, Okla.

At these meetings citizens are able to meet the Chief, Second Chief and key Wyandotte Nation staff, hear the state of the Tribe, and make connections with family members and other citizens who reside in their local areas.

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

We just ask that you register in advance.

Tribal citizen earns all-state baseball honors

(From the Shawnee News Star)

Four area baseball players – two from Shawnee, one from Dale and one from North Rock Creek – earned Oklahoma Native All-State accolades.

Shawnee's Kantynn Kaseca and Kasen Rogers, along with Dale's Connor Kuykendall and NRC's Takoda Bryce were among 31 Native American players honored.

Kaseca is a member of the Absentee Shawnee tribe. Rogers and Kuykendall are with the Chickasaw Nation and Bryce is part of the Wyandotte Nation.

Bryce, an outfielder, stole 22 bases in 24 attempts and batted .299 in his senior campaign. He also earned all-district honors this past season.

HUD awards \$1 million to Wyandotte Nation to improve Pow-Wow grounds

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded almost \$52 million to 59 communities through the Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) Program to develop community facilities, carry out public works projects, and provide economic development assistance. HUD awarded \$1,000,000 in ICDBG funds to the Wyandotte Nation to expand and improve the Pow-Wow Grounds, including a paved parking lot, an additional row for vendors, an additional restroom, Recreational Vehicle (RV) pads for campers, and a designated space for a lacrosse field. Other features include new sensor faucets for the existing restrooms, a public address (PA) system throughout the grounds, a new septic tank and leach field, new circuit panels, and 14' light-emitting diode (LED) lighting poles.

The ICDBG Program provides eligible grantees with direct grants for use in developing viable Indian and Alaska Native Communities, including decent housing, a suitable living environment, and economic opportunities, primarily for low and moderate income persons.