



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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February 2023

Shop With A Cop

WNPD gives gift of Christmas

Page 6



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- Remembering Ramona: Longtime Board member passes away
- Tribe donates to NEO Nursing Program

Board of Directors

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 Second ChiefNorman Hildebrand, Jr.
 Councilperson..... Keith Gray
 Councilperson..... Vivian Fink
 Councilperson..... Rob Nesvold
 Councilperson.....Eric Lofland

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
 Wyandotte Na-
 tion Police Offi-
 cers helped kids
 pick out gifts
 during 'Shop
 With a Cop.'

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM SWAIM

Contact Us

Have News?

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Another prosperous year awaits us

With the arrival of the New Year, we can take a moment to reflect on 2022 achievements and greet the opportunities that await us in 2023.

At the end of each year, most of us take stock of what we have achieved and make plans for the year to come.

If we take a closer look at accomplishments during the year, it is surprising to discover that we have made some real headway. Of course, we have days during the year when we feel as if we have just been spinning our wheels. But if you look at some key accomplishments, you can measure your results and see how much progress you are actually making!

The Wyandotte Nation took some great strides forward during the past year. We can see the progress in a visible way through the new facilities that went up in 2022. We now have completed construc-

tion and remodeling projects that are benefitting tribal education, economic development, housing opportunities, and more. We are a nation of builders, and we consistently build great facilities with a purpose. Each building that goes up exists to serve the Wyandotte people.

During 2022, we expanded opportunities to access the Tribe's many programs and services. In housing, education, health care, tribal culture and so much more. We saw record attendance at our Gathering, Annual Meeting, and Pow-Wow this past year. Also, during the year, more Wyandotte citizens than ever before became connected with their Tribe and benefitted from one or more of the many services we can now offer.

Our successes are thanks to all of us pulling together down the right path. Your support, your encouragement, and your engage-

ment with your Tribe are more helpful than you know. We have an awesome team, and together we are building on our successes. The Wyandotte Nation is recognized as one of the leading tribes in our area, and rightly so. We are united in purpose, and that translates into real achievements that properly serve all Wyandotte people.

Your Tribe has great new opportunities in store for 2023. Every time we roll out a new program, service, or other outreach, it is designed to fulfill our mission of improving the quality of life of all Wyandottes. There is never an end to that mission. Making your life better is job number one at the Wyandotte Nation!

Please accept my sincere wishes for a Happy New Year full of love, happiness, and prosperity. Your Tribe is always here to serve you, and 2023 will prove to be our best year yet!

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Progressing into the New Year

Hello, my friends I hope everyone survived the holidays and had a joyous holiday season with family and friends. There is a lot of activity going on here at the Wyandotte Nation. The Hardware store is progressing nicely. Some duplexes on Turtle Hill are nearing completion for our new tenants, we have more duplexes going up in Heritage Acres, and the easements and right-of-ways on the CR 638 and Highway 60 are completed. We should be able to bid that project out soon so the Quapaw Nation can start on their new ambulance barn at that same site.

There is a lot of progress happening here at the Wyandotte Nation. The Waste Water Treatment Plant plans for the town of Wyandotte

should be submitted to the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality for approval, and we can get that project out for bid and construction started on that project. Of course, this is vital to the expansion here at the Wyandotte Nation.

One of the great honors you bestow on someone is to have a ship named after them, I don't know how many people knew this but the Wyandotte Tribe had a ship named after them in the 1860s during the Civil War. A bit of history on the ironclad ship:

Originally named USS Tippecanoe, after the river in Indiana, USS Wyandotte was a single-turreted Canonicus-class monitor built for the Union Navy during the

American Civil War. The ship was 224 feet 6 inches long overall, had a beam of 43 feet 5 inches, and had a maximum draft of 13 feet 3 inches. Wyandotte had a tonnage of 1,034 tons burthen and displaced 2,100 long tons. Her crew consisted of 100 officers and enlisted men.

A two-cylinder horizontal vibrating-lever steam engine powered the Wyandotte that drove one propeller using steam generated by two Stimers horizontal fire-tube boilers. The 320-indicated-horsepower engine gave the ship a top speed of 8 knots (approximately 9.2 mph). She car-



NEWS FROM TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

The Wyandotte Nation Constitution and the Enrollment Ordinance govern the enrollment of the tribe. The Constitution states who is eligible for enrollment and the Ordinance further defines the requirements as well as the processes to be taken by the Enrollment Officer and the Enrollment Committee to verify documentation, maintain records, notifications, disenrollments, relinquishments, etc. Both of these documents can be viewed on the Tribe's website at www.wyandotte-nation.org.

In the current age of technology, many of us receive the majority of

our information via online resources such as social media and the website. However, it is still vitally important that tribal citizens keep their information up-to-date with the Enrollment office. This includes your name, address, phone number, and email if applicable. Tribal statistics are used for many tribal programs and grant applications as well as being able to make contact with citizens when the need arises.

The Enrollment office staff would also like to encourage all tribal citizens to learn their roll number. This number is as important for

tribal records as your Social Security Number is to you for your federal identification. We encourage you to start teaching your children their number. Tribal applications all require your roll number and if you have it memorized there won't be a need to search for your card to complete these applications.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, the Enrollment Committee will no longer accept county health department birth certificates. Birth certificates must be from the state registrar's office and be the "long" form that includes both of the parents' full names.

The Enrollment Committee will be meeting throughout 2023 to review and update the Enrollment Ordinance as well as review and approve enrollment applications to be presented to the General Council at the Annual Meeting, which will be held Sept. 9, 2023. Applications for enrollment must be received by Aug. 15. However, applications can be submitted at any time throughout the year.

If you have any questions, please email wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org or you can call the Enrollment Officer, Haylee Botts at 918-678-6321.

2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

ried 140-150 long tons of coal. Wyandotte's main armament consisted of two smoothbore, mizzle-loading, 15-inch Dahlgren guns mounted in a single gun turret. Each gun weighed approximately 43,000 pounds. They could fire a 350-pound shell up to a range of 2,100 yards at an elevation of +7 degrees.

The exposed sides of the hull were protected by five layers of 1-inch wrought iron plates, backed by wood. The armor of the gun turret and the pilot house consisted of ten layers of one-inch plates. The ship's deck was protected by armor 1.5 inches thick. A 5-by-15-inch soft iron band was fitted around the base of the turret to prevent shells and fragments from jamming the turret as had happened to several of the older Passaic-class monitors during the First Battle of Charleston Harbor in April 1863. The base of the funnel (ship) was protected to a height of 6 feet by 8 inches of armor. A "rifle screen" of ½-inch armor 3 feet high was installed on the top of the turret to protect the crew against Confederate snipers based on a suggestion by Commander Tunis A. M. Craven, captain of her sister ship Tecumseh. The only known modification after the ship's completion was the addition of a hurricane deck between the turret and the funnel sometime after the end of

"Wise sayings often fall on barren ground, but a kind word is never thrown away." --Sir Arthur Helps

the Civil War.

The contract for the Wyandotte, the only Navy ship named after the Wyandotte Indian Tribe, was awarded to Miles Greenwood; the ship was laid down on Sept. 28, 1862, at the shipyard of John Litherbury in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was launched on Dec. 22, 1864, and completed on Feb. 15, 1866. The ship's construction was delayed by multiple changes ordered while she was being built that reflected battle experience with earlier monitors. This included the rebuilding of the turrets and pilot houses to increase their armor thickness from 8 inches to 10 inches and to replace bolts that secured their armor plates together with rivets to prevent them from being knocked loose by the shock of impact from shells striking the turret. Other changes included deepening the hull by 18 inches to increase the ship's buoyancy, moving the position of the turret to balance the ship's trim, and replacing all of the ship's deck armor. Completion of the ship was further delayed by the low depth of the Ohio River which prevented her movement from Cincinnati in December 1864 to finish their fitting out. The river finally rose

in March 1865 which allowed the ship to reach New Albany, Indiana on March 14. Wyandotte moved to Evansville, Indiana in late May to complete her hull where rudimentary facilities and illness among workers delayed her construction still further.

The monitor joined her sisters Oneota, Manayunk, and Catawba when she was completed on Feb. 15, 1866, although they drew enough water that they had to be anchored in the main channel where they were often struck by debris, drifting ice, and were vulnerable to accidents. Wyandotte's anchor chain was broken on March 27 when she was struck by a steamboat towing barges, and the ship collided with Oneota. The two ships were dragged 2 miles downstream before they could be brought under control. This was a persistent problem and the Navy finally decided to move the ships down to New Orleans in May 1866. In 1869, she was twice renamed, first to Vesuvius on June 15 and then Wyandotte on Aug. 10.

The Monitor was moved to Key West, Florida in 1870 and then to the Philadelphia Navy Yard by 1872. In 1873-74, Wyandotte was thoroughly overhauled by John

Roach & Sons in Chester, Pennsylvania, and commissioned for the first time on Jan. 24, 1876, under the command of Lieutenant Thomas C. Terrell. The ship was assigned to the North Atlantic Squadron through 1879 and spent her time on exercises and training cruises; she was based at Hampton Roads, Virginia for a while. She served as the station ship at Washington, D.C., beginning in 1879, before she was again placed in reserve in 1885, first at Richmond, Virginia, and then at Norfolk, Virginia.

The Wyandotte was transferred to the Connecticut Naval Militia in 1896, and she was recommissioned for local defense duties on April 30, 1898, during the Spanish-American War in response to political pressure. Commanded by Lt. John B. Milton, the ship sailed from New Haven, Connecticut on May 17, to guard Boston and remained on there from May 15 to September 5. Wyandotte sailed to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania after the end of the war and arrived there on Sept. 9. She was decommissioned on Sept. 20 and sold for scrap on Jan. 17, 1899.

A sad ending for a ship named after our Wyandotte Tribe.

There was another USS Wyandotte named after Wyandotte County in Ohio that saw limited service during the latter part of World War II, and we certainly have ties to Wyandotte County in Ohio.



Wyandotte Nation Tribal Princess Application

Please submit application along with an essay to Sherri Clemons at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center or at sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org. The deadline for applications is February 28, 2023. Interviews and public speaking will be at a later time.

Essay - Please tell us about yourself and why you want to be the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Princess.

NAME: _____ DOB: _____ ROLL #: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____ EMAIL: _____

FAMILY INFORMATION

FATHERS NAME: _____

MOTHERS NAME (include Maiden Name): _____

DESCENDANT OF: _____

EDUCATION

SCHOOL CURRENTLY ATTENDING: _____

GRADUATION DATE: _____

I affirm that the contents contained herein and on other submitted documents are true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

SIGNATURE OF CONTESTANT: _____

SIGNATURE OF PARENT/GUARDIAN: _____

(If under 18 years of age, Parent/Guardian Signature is required)

DATE: _____

Requirements & Rules for Wyandotte Nation Tribal Princess

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal Princess serves as an ambassador not only for the Wyandotte Nation, but all tribal nations. She will represent herself with grace and dignity at all times and serve as a model for tribal youth.

Requirements and Rules:

- Must be an enrolled citizen of the Wyandotte Nation, between the ages of 14 and 20
 - Must be able to serve a minimum of 2 years
 - Must be in school full time and maintain a GPA of at least 2.5
 - Must be able to travel to represent Wyandotte Nation with the Chief or the Cultural Division
 - Should have basic knowledge of Wyandotte Nation's history and culture; including the Wa'dat language
 - Strongly encouraged to attend all local pow-wows and tribally sponsored cultural events
 - Must have a warm and gentle personality
 - Must have good morals
 - Must be single (never married or cohabitating)
 - Public Displays of Affection (PDA) towards a significant other are not allowed
 - Must not have children
 - Clothes need to be clean and pressed
 - No heavy makeup
 - No vaping, dab pen, or other substance abuse.
 - Must maintain a professional presence on social media.
 - Hair should be braided and look neat
 - No visible piercings (other than ears) or tattoos
 - Must follow the Wyandotte Nation Employee Handbook for Professional Appearance while representing Wyandotte Nation
 - Must perform the Lord's Prayer in sign language at events - taught by the outgoing Wyandotte Nation Tribal Princess
- Wyandotte Nation will supply the princess with a traditional Wyandotte dress, moccasins, and accessories. Because a buckskin dress is not traditional Wyandotte, Wyandotte Nation is no longer providing those to princesses. The princess is expected to maintain and care for all items provided.
- The princess will be expected at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow all 4 sessions and be where she can be found at any time. If she needs to leave her area, she must inform someone at the speaker stand.
- Each princess applicant shall be judged in three categories:
- Essay** - Tell us about yourself and why you want to be the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Princess.
- Interview** - A series of questions from the judges including questions about basic Wyandotte knowledge.
- Public Speaking** - Give a speech about yourself, family, and what it means to be Wyandotte.

Remembering Ramona

Longtime board member passes

BY WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

Loyalty. Dedication. *Teh hon din she wah*, meaning 'she gets things done.' These are just a few words to describe Ramona Reid.

Reid, a longtime Board of Directors Councilperson for the Wyandotte Nation, passed away in December.

"Ramona was very dedicated and committed to representing and serving the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "Ramona was always very inquisitive and would always ask questions about every facet of the Tribe. She served on the board for almost 25 years and played a very important role in the success the Tribe achieved during that time. She was a very respected elder within the Tribe who will be greatly missed by all of us who knew her."

In 1999, then Wyandotte Nation Chief Leaford Bearskin asked Reid to join the Board of Directors, and she represented the Board until 2022, dedicating herself to the Tribe and its many events.

Reid was loyal to the Tribe, almost never missing an event and the opportunity to involve herself with the Tribe.

"Ramona Reid was a proud Wyandotte," said Sherri Clemons, Tribal Heritage Director. "She was the Nation's biggest supporter in any event. She was always there for every Pow-Wow, Little Turtles, Gathering, and anything else going on at the Tribe."

"She will be missed and her loyalty unmatched for years to come."

Reid was born in Quapaw, Okla., to Harold and Ruby in 1935. Her father (Harold) didn't want to work in the mines and moved the family to San Fernando Valley, Calif. She later moved to Huntington Beach, Calif., where she graduated from high school before attending the



Ramona Reid at various Wyandotte Nation events, groundbreakings and ribbon cuttings throughout the years.



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION FILE PHOTOS

Reno School of Beauty in Long Beach, Calif.

Reid met her husband while teaching ballroom dancing in 1957, and the couple married in 1959. The couple had their first child Rory in 1960 and their second child Ramie in 1963. During this time, the family moved around quite a bit, moving to Seattle in 1961. Following that, they moved to Oahu, Hawaii in 1962, to Tacoma, Wash., in 1964, and moved just outside of Washington DC before returning to Long Beach in 1969. The family stayed there until 1988 when they moved to the mountains and Big Bear City, Calif.

Reid later said they were tired of shoveling snow so the family moved to the Midwest and settled in Wyandotte, Okla. She said the move was great, allowing her to reconnect with family and the

Tribe's heritage. It was then, Chief Bearskin asked her to join the Board and she was an integral part of the successful path the Tribe is on today.

She was adventurous at heart, something that was remembered by many of those lives she touched at the Tribe and tribal government.

"Ramona had lived a very interesting life and she was very fun to visit with," said Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director for the Wyandotte Nation. "Some of the things I remember that she had done was parachuting out of a plane and going on an African safari. I also remember her trying to teach us how to do the hula dance at an Employee Appreciation event."

Reid's dedication didn't stop with the Tribe. Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., remembered her dedication to the Campfire Girls.

"She would travel back to California to visit family and friends, especially her Campfire Girls, which Ramona was a troop leader back when her daughter Ramie was a young girl," Hildebrand said. "Ramona kept in touch with her Campfire Girls even after they grew up and became mothers themselves. It is that type of dedication and love she had for her Campfire Girls that she brought to the Wyandotte Nation in all the years she served on the Board of Directors."

Reid was the Wyandotte Nation's Honored Person in 2010. She was of the Wolf Clan and the great, granddaughter of John James Harris. She enjoyed researching her family genealogy. She strongly supported the Wyandotte Nation tribal culture and heritage programs and was involved in activities.



Shop With a Cop

Officers give the gift of Christmas

By WILLIAM SWAIM
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department (WNPd) hosted its annual Shop With a Cop event Sunday, Dec. 4. WNPd officers, along with other area officers and volunteers, took 53 kids shopping and treated them to lunch, and a wrapping party afterward. 64 kids total were part of the program, and each child was granted \$200 to spend. In addition, each family received a \$150 food basket.

Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas. That is where the 'Shop With a Cop' program comes in, joining underprivileged children with WNPd officers and other area tribal officers, and providing Christmas presents for kids and their families. Local donations and volunteers make this program possible.

The WNPd would like to thank all the departments involved (Miami PD, Miami Nation, BIA, Wyandotte Nation, and Commerce PD) in addition to the 30 volunteers who assisted officers in making this possible.

WNPd would also like to thank the following for their donations: Metal Fab (T-shirts), Wyandotte Nation, Linda Sparks, Anonymous Person, Bearskin Fitness Center (Goody Bags), River Bend Casino & Hotel (Sack Lunches), Family Dollar (Candy), and Wyandotte Schools (2 School buses w/drivers).



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Wyandotte Nation Police Department officers and volunteers help youth with Christmas shopping at Walmart in Miami, Okla., during the annual 'Shop With a Cop' event. Each child, 64 total, was granted \$200 to spend. In addition, each family received a \$150 food basket. Donations and volunteers made the event possible.

Town Hall Meeting to be held in Texas March 25

The Wyandotte Nation will once again bring its Annual Meeting, held every September, on the road – this time the Town Hall Meeting in the Dallas, Texas, area.

The meeting will be 10 am Saturday, March 25, at Omni Las Colinas Hotel, 221 East Las Colinas Blvd, Irving, Texas.

Tribal citizens who reside in

the state of Texas and southern Oklahoma will receive postcard invitations. However, any tribal citizen who would like to travel to the meeting is welcome. The Tribe also has tentative plans to host a second Town Hall meeting for 2023 in the Phoenix area. An announcement for that meeting will be made in the August newsletter.

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

At these meetings, citizens are able to meet the Chief, Second Chief, and key Wyandotte Nation

staff, hear the state of the Tribe and make connections with family members and other citizens who reside in their local areas.

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.

Tribe donates \$100,000 to NEO Nursing

The Wyandotte Nation donated \$100,000 to the Northeastern Oklahoma A&M College Nursing program to update technology and equipment.

NEO President Dr. Kyle J. Stafford said, "I truly appreciate this donation to support our nursing program. The Wyandotte Nation's investment demonstrates their commitment in NEO and our ability to produce quality nurses that serve our community and the region."

The college will use the funding to modernize the simulation labs, which will provide cutting-edge experiences for students in low-risk, safe clinical labs that mirror high-stake, real-world scenarios.

"We feel very fortunate to have such a quality educational facility as Northeastern Oklahoma A&M in our community," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "The NEO Nursing Program is one of the top programs in the state and has produced the majority of the nurses for our community hospitals, clinics and tribal health facilities. When

we were made aware of the current needs of the program our Board of Directors were unanimous in their support of a making this donation to assist the program."

According to the grant, the Oklahoma Board of Nursing allows students to obtain up to 30 percent of their clinical hours in a simulated environment, and predictions indicate it will increase to 50 percent in the future.

"NEO Nursing is blessed to receive this generous donation from the Wyandotte Nation," said NEO Allied Health department chair Kathleen Norman. "We are excited to apply these funds towards the upgrade of equipment in our nursing program."

Funding opportunities from partners such as the Wyandotte Nation help make it possible for NEO to continue training associate degree registered nurses for jobs in critical need of immediate staffing.

In Oklahoma, 60 percent of all registered nurses are associate degree nurses.



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., present a \$100,000 check to NEO Nursing Program representatives.

Children's Christmas Party



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Buddy the Elf was the theme for this year's Children's Christmas Party, planned and hosted by Family Services staff for Wyandotte tribal youth. The kids enjoyed presents and plenty of goodies.

News In Brief

Service Awards

The Wyandotte Nation honored 16 employees Tuesday, Nov. 29 for their years of service to the Wyandotte Nation. Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second

Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., honored those employees and treated them to cake and punch following the recognition. Those recognized were: Tammy Heffren and Josh McLaughlin for 5 years; Amy Dickert, Jon Quick, Jared Robinson for 10 years; Tara Baron, Becki Burleson, Cheryl Burleson, Heather Douglas, Debbie Dry, Deana Howard, Tracy Mooney, and Chris Phelps for 15 years; Rachelle McCloud and Lisa Ramirez for 20 years; and Elder Services Director Brenda House for 35 years!



Easter Egg Hunt

The Wyandotte Nation will host its annual Easter Egg Hunt 10am Saturday, April 1, at the Pow-Wow grounds. Watch social media and our website for more information as it becomes available.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Facilities Department welcomes J. Tracy Wright, Wyandotte Tribal Citizen, as our new Facilities



WRIGHT

Director. He is a Wyandotte High School graduate and received his plumbing license through the Oklahoma Construction Industries Board. Tracy enjoys spending time with his family and riding motorcycles.



WALLAIN

The Facilities Department also welcomes Jon Wallain as a Residential Maintenance Technician for Turtle Hill Estates, and Randy Dedmon as a Facilities Technician.



DEDMON

Jon's hobbies include hunting, fishing, and traveling. He loves spending time with his wife and kids.

Randy went to OTC in Springfield for HVAC. He has been doing HVAC since 2000. He has been in maintenance for the last 9 years. Randy's hobbies include hunting and fishing as well as riding his motorcycle. He also enjoys spending time with his kids.

We are very fortunate to have Tracy, Jon, and Randy on our team and wish them much success in their new positions.

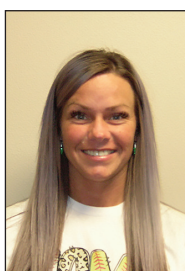


MAPLES

The Wyandotte Nation Family Service Department is very happy to welcome Becky Maples as a Sexual Assault Advocate. She has her associate's degree as well as an additional 4 years of school-

ing. Becky has 5 years of experience with the sheriff's office as well as 4 years of experience with the District Attorney's office. Her hobbies include collecting old sports memorabilia and watching her grandkids play sports. She also enjoys spending time with her family and friends. We are very fortunate to have Becky on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Wyandotte tribal citizen Daphne Robitaille as an Infant Caregiver.



ROBITAILLE

Daphne has her associate's degree in early childhood and has worked at Wyandotte schools as well as daycares. She enjoys spending her time with her 4 children.



RUNDELL

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would also like to welcome Kimberly Rundell as a Childcare Assistant, and Rilynn Stewart and La'Nayea Line as Afterschool Child-care Assistants.



STEWART

Kimberly has worked in daycares and at schools. She enjoys gardening and spending time with her husband and kids. She is excited to be a grandma very soon!



LINE

Rilynn enjoys baking and making projects with her Cricut, as well as fishing. She also enjoys spending time with friends, family, and her church youth group.

La'Nayea is working toward her high school diploma at Wyandotte High School. She enjoys working out and is involved in STUCO and Upward Bound.

She enjoys spending time with friends and family.

We are happy to have Daphne, Kimberly, Rilynn, and La'Nayea join our team.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Dan



COOK

Cook as a Police Officer. Dan graduated from Quapaw High School and joined the US Army, where he served for over 24 years and retired honorably. He started his career in law enforcement in 2006. He served

with the Quapaw Nation, Eastern Shawnee, and the Ottawa County Sheriff's office. Dan's hobbies include motorcycles, riding, repairing, and competing. He enjoys spending time with his son in his spare time. He also enjoys football games and training. We are very excited to have Dan in his new position and wish him much success.

The Environmental Department welcomes Dustin Hodges as a Water Operator II, and Myron Shield Jr. as an Environmental Technician I.



HODGES

Dustin is a graduate of Seneca High School. His hobbies include fishing and hunting. He enjoys spending time with his family and working on their new home in Wyandotte.



SHIELD

Myron is Crow/Ogalala Sioux. He received his BS in Environmental Science from Haskell Indian Nations University. He minored in Geographical Information Systems. Myron's hobbies include tooling leather and he enjoys Native American art. He enjoys spending time coaching his kids in every sporting event they desire.

We are very fortunate to have Dustin and Myron on our team and wish them much success in their new positions.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

It's always a great day to be Wyandotte!

The Family Services staff have been busy the past few months processing applications, planning/hosting the children's Christmas party, purchasing gifts for the Angel tree participants and working on events/programs for 2023!

The Children's Christmas Party was such a fun event this year. The Maintenance Department went above and beyond by helping decorate the gymnasium for our "Elf" themed event, where 180 children were in attendance. Children received a gift from Santa, enjoyed delicious cookies and peppermint punch prepared by the Title VI staff, and participated in crafts, which included coloring pages with Wandat words prepared by Beci Wright from the Cultural Department. This event continues to grow each year and we could not do it without volunteers from across all of the tribal departments. Be sure to mark your calendars for the 2023 party that will be held on Saturday, Dec. 9.

This was our first year to offer the Angel tree program to tribal citizens nationwide. This program does have income guidelines so that we can assist those families who, for one reason or another, might not be able to provide Christmas gifts for their children. This program is funded through employee donations as well as tribal funds. Staff also administered a Christmas food basket program for tribal families in the local area that provided 40 baskets. The plan is for both of these programs, or something similar, to be offered annually. Announcements will be made in the November newsletter as well

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 8

as on social media and the website, for the 2023 Holiday season.

We are currently in the planning process for the next Town Hall Meeting that will be held in the Dallas, Texas area on Saturday, March 25. Tribal citizens who reside in the state of Texas and southern Oklahoma will receive postcard invitations. However, any tribal citizen who would like to travel to the meeting is welcome. The Tribe also has tentative plans to host a second Town Hall meeting for 2023 in the Phoenix area. An announcement for that meeting will be made in the August newsletter.

Other 2023 events to note on your calendars:

- **Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, April 1, 10 am at the Pow-Wow grounds**
- **Gathering of Little Turtles – June 23-25**
- **The Gathering – Sept. 5-8**
- **Pow-Wow – Sept. 8 – 10**
- **Annual Meeting – Sept. 9, 10 am at the Bearskin Wellness Center Gymnasium**

Most of the Family Services programs are now available Nationwide. This means more processing time for both the Family Services and the Accounting staff, so please allow up to 30 days from the time we receive your completed application for payment. If you have direct deposit set up and have a change in your account, you must notify us two weeks prior to a payment being processed. If for some reason a direct deposit is returned, a check will automatically be issued.

In the remainder of this article, you will find highlights about some of the programs offered through the Family Services Department. For a full list of programs, applications and information, please visit our website at www.wyandotte-nation.org.

As always, it's our pleasure and honor to serve the Wyandotte people and if there's ever anything we can do for you please don't hesitate to contact us.

Winter Clothing – This program is offered from Nov. 1 through Feb. 28 for all enrolled children nationwide age 18 (grade 12) and

under. Citizens can apply for either the reimbursement program or a Walmart gift card. The amount per child increased to \$200 for this program year. Applications, along with guidelines, are available on the Services/Family Services page on the website. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement programs. If you did not return your gift card receipts for either the School Supplies or last year's Winter Clothing, you will be required to use the reimbursement program this year. Things to remember when submitting an application: Applications must be mailed, we don't accept this program application via email or fax; only eligible expenses for one (1) child should be on the receipt, you can submit multiple receipts for a child, but please don't include ineligible items on the receipt; when returning receipts from the gift card make sure to write the child's name on the receipt to be certain the receipt gets attached to the appropriate application. Applications MUST be received and/or postmarked by Feb. 28.

Senior Energy – Program dates are Oct. 1 – Sept. 30. For this program year, the amount increased from \$100 summer and \$100 winter to \$300 for the year. Citizens can decide when and how much of the allotment they wish to use on the application. Payment must be made to the vendor and we will not make reimbursement payments for this program. Please continue to pay your bill as scheduled and you will see a credit on your statement once our payment has been processed.

LIHEAP – LIHEAP is a federal grant-funded program, with winter services available between Dec. 1 and Feb. 28, for tribal citizens residing in Oklahoma. However, there is a "crisis" component for shutoff notices available throughout the year. This program is income based and proof of income is required, along with other required documentation.

Elders Assistance – Program dates are Oct. 1 – Sept. 30. \$250 for the year is available to tribal elders aged 55 and over nationwide. Payment can be made to a vendor or re-

imbursed to the tribal citizen. Some of the common items we see this program reimbursing for are vehicle repairs, appliance purchases, insurance, utilities, groceries, fuel, and home repairs. Expenses that are not eligible for reimbursement through this program are alcohol, tobacco, lottery, and items/services purchased through the Supplemental Health Program (aka the Benny card).

Extra School Expense/Extra-curricular Activities – One-time payment of \$100 per student aged pre – K (at least 3 years old) through 12th grade for enrolled citizens nationwide. Payment can be made to a vendor or reimbursed to the parent/guardian.

Jr/Sr Benefit – \$250 benefit for expenses associated with the Junior and Senior years of High School. This program is also available nationwide for both years, for a total lifetime benefit of \$500.

Fuel Assistance – Fuel assistance programs include: Hardship – personal hardships, travel for work/job

interviews, etc; Medical – travel to/from a doctor/dental appointments and pick up prescriptions. An appointment card must be presented and fuel must be received prior to attending the appointment; Major Medical – extreme medical issues (must be life-threatening, terminal, etc. not chronic medical issues) that require multiple trips outside of the local area. 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 – This program is available to tribal citizens nationwide. Each child is eligible for one (1) age/size-appropriate seat per enrolled child. Children must either be enrolled or have a completed enrollment application on file. The only exceptions will be expectant mothers who can have their physician complete the section on the application beginning in their 7th month and babies who are less than

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February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month

DID YOU KNOW?

Roughly 1.5 million high school boys and girls in the U.S. admit to being intentionally hit or physically harmed in the last year by someone they are romantically involved with.

Youth who are victims of TDV are more likely to:

- Experience symptoms of depression and anxiety
- Engage in unhealthy behaviors like using tobacco, drugs, and alcohol
- Exhibit antisocial behaviors, like lying, theft, bullying, or hitting
- Think about suicide

If you or someone you know is in an abusive relationship, help is just a phone call away. Wyandotte Nation Family Violence Prevention Program 877-276-0669

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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6 months old. Parents/legal guardians can choose to either purchase the seat and be reimbursed up to \$200 or have the Family Services staff purchase the seat to be shipped. Receipts for reimbursement must be dated after Oct. 1, 2022.

Burial Assistance – This benefit was increased to \$2,500 beginning Oct. 1, 2022. Funds will be paid to the funeral home or to the family representative if the funeral is paid in full.

Other Programs provided by the Family Services Department:

Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare

– This program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families and is designed to help keep children in their homes with their families or ensure that if there is a need for removal that federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is first and foremost. If your family is in a situation where the state is involved, please contact one of the Tribal Social Workers. The Wyandotte Nation runs a full Indian Child Welfare program on its own trust land.

Foster Care Program – Wyandotte Nation facilitates a Foster Care program in areas near tribal jurisdiction as well as across the nation. We are in great need of Wyandotte people to open your homes to children that have been removed from their homes. Please call if you are thinking of becoming a foster home.

Enrollment – Aug. 15 is the deadline to be considered for enrollment at the 2023 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted along with an original state-certified birth certificate. Please see the “News from the Enrollment Office” article on Page 3 for additional information regarding enrollment.

New Enrollee Benefit - Each application received prior to a child's first birthday will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card and a blanket embroidered with the Tribal Turtle. Beginning Jan. 1, 2023, the Cultural

Benny Card

Supplemental Health reminders:

- Accounts renewed on Jan. 1, 2023.
- Adult tribal citizens receive \$1,000, and citizens who have enrolled dependents will receive an additional \$1,000, for a total of \$2,000 per family.
- You will always use your roll number for this account and never your SSN. If asked for your SSN it will look like 000-00-(your roll number).
- Please be sure to keep your address up to date with us. We have asked Trustmark not to take address changes, so you will need to contact Family Services and we will update with Trustmark.
- Benefit is for enrolled tribal citizens only. The account is not to be used for spouses, step-children, the neighbor's kids, etc.
- You will not receive a new card every year, please hold on to those cards until they expire.
- Funds don't roll over to the new year, but the Tribe is not liable for the funds that aren't expended.
- If you have medical bills from 2022, you will need to pay those and file for reimbursement no later than Feb. 28 (seems like I read Trustmark changed this to March 1, but I can't locate that info at the moment). The claim form can be found in the "files" section of this group. If you swipe your card after Jan 1, it will come out of your 2023 funds.
- The best number to call Trustmark is 877-267-3359.
- The program is modeled after a Flexible Spending Account (FSA). You can do an internet search for “eligible FSA expenses” for items/services covered by the program.
- If you try to use your card and it is denied, you will need to call Trustmark. The Family Services staff does not see where you've used your card or if it's been denied/approved, etc. We also don't have access to your card numbers.
- If you have questions feel free to email the Family Services office at wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org.

Center will also be providing each child with either a ribbon skirt or shirt, which will be included with the blanket when mailed. If you are hand delivering the enrollment application, you will be directed to the Cultural Center to receive the appropriate clothing item.

Tribal Tags – Available for tribal citizens who reside in Oklahoma. Passenger, RV, Motorcycle, and Handicap tags are available. Proof of residency is required. Please call the office for prices and additional information. Please contact Tiffany Garner with any tag-related questions, at 918-678-6353.

Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP): The Wyandotte Nation receives grants from the Office of Violence Against Women, Office of Victims of Crime, and the Administration for Children and Families to help support victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking and sex trafficking within a 25-mile radius of the tribal headquarters. A victim is not required to be Wyandotte or Native to receive services from this program. Services offered include advocacy, court accompaniment, assistance with obtaining protective orders, relocation expenses, and other basic needs. This program is

continually growing and expanding. In 2022, four new advocates were hired to assist victims. The Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator regularly makes presentations to schools and organizations providing education and awareness about these issues.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, program staff have not been able to provide as many outreach and awareness events for the past couple of years. However, they are working on several events for 2023 and are looking forward to being able to get back into schools to provide information regarding Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault. Events that are open to the general public will be shared on Wyandotte Nation and FVPP social media outlets.

If you are currently involved in an unhealthy relationship, please reach out to the hotline, regardless of where you live. If you aren't in an area where we can provide services, advocates can put you in contact with someone who can help you.

Family Services Staff:

wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org

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

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

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

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

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

Family Violence Prevention Program Staff:

fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org – Hotline number 877-276-0669

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

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

Program Advocates: Jenny Reeves, Kristi Johnston, Chelsea King, Gabby Ezell and Becky Maples

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,
Education Director*

Our goal at Wyandotte Nation is to create safe and stable families, raise educational achievement, develop and enhance employment opportunities, integrate employment and training services, and increase self-sufficiency. The Wyandotte Nation is providing services under Public Law 102-477, a government-funded program, allowing us to combine certain formula-funded federal grants into a single plan to help us meet these goals. Wyandotte Nation's 477 Plan services all counties within a 100-mile radius of 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
- Proof of residency in the Service Area

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

Wyandotte Nation's Library hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. The library is a member of Oklahoma 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.org. 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

*Submitted by Brenda House,
Elder Services Director*

My staff and I would like to give a big shout-out to staff in the other departments for helping us with our Thanksgiving and Christmas Dinners. We greatly appreciate you all and could not do this without you!

Our Valentine's Party will be Tuesday, Feb. 14. Prizes will go to the Oldest Valentine, the couple married the longest, the newlyweds, and the one that has been married the most times and is willing to admit it.

We will hold our Easter Party Thursday, April 6. We will have an Easter Bonnet Contest and Men's Leg Contest. We will also have an Egg Hunt with prizes for the most eggs found and the prize egg.

CAREGIVER

The Caregiver Coalition will be hosting a Caregiver Conference Friday, March 24, at the First Christian Church in Miami, Okla., from 9 am – 1 pm. Snacks and lunch will be provided. There will be speakers to address different issues that Caregivers face.

The Caregiver Coalition will also be hosting a Caregiver Pamper Day Friday, April 28, at the First Christian Church in Miami, Okla., from 9 am – 1 pm. Our Caregivers will have the opportunity for manicures, pedicures, massages, hot hand waxing, and more at no cost to them. Nurses from IHS will be on staff to perform the toenail trimming. Snacks

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

The Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is currently processing the 2023 spring semester scholarships. If you are currently in the scholarship program, please remember to send in your latest transcript which will have your fall grades and spring

Elder Services



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Elders enjoy camaraderie and good food during the Elder Services Thanksgiving Dinner.

and lunch will be provided.

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

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

It is always a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation 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.

schedule listed. An unofficial transcript is required at the end of each semester in order for us to process your next semester's scholarship. If you are new to the scholarship program, we want to inform you of some guidelines that you are required to meet to maintain the scholarship:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to 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 duration of the program.
- Deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is May 1.

To obtain an Undergraduate, Master's, or Vocational Scholarship

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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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 locally, you may pick up a stole at the Education Department.

Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is currently full in our infant/ones/toddler rooms. We are accepting applications to be placed on a waiting list for age groups: infants, ones, and toddlers. Our preschool has a couple of openings available for 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 at 918-678-3267.

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

Department Contacts:

Cristi Hudson – Education Director, 918-678-6334 or chudson@wyandotte-nation.org
Sami Butterfield – Caseworker/Childcare Specialist, 918-678-6330 or sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
Lindsay Cooper – Early Childhood Program Coordinator, 918-678-3267 or lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org
Madeline Harnar – Librarian, 918-678-6332 or mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org
Evan Hotulke – Caseworker/Education/Employment Specialist, 918-678-6331 or ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org
Kasey Lewis – Intake Clerk, 918-678-3268 or klewis@wyandotte-nation.org

Planning & Natural Resources

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

Sept. 30 saw our department say farewell to a longtime Wyandotte Nation employee, Janice Wilson. Janice had worked for the Tribe for 30-plus years, of which 22 years were in the Environmental Department, and she will be greatly missed.

On Oct. 12-13, Kathleen Welch and John Gerhard attended the Tar Creek Conference at NEO A & M College in Miami, Okla. At this year's conference, it was a privilege to take part in presenting Janice Wilson with the Mike Synar Award. This award recognizes individuals that have given their time and resources to help preserve the environment for future generations.

During the week of Oct. 24– 28, the Lost Creek Recycle Center hosted its fall Tire Collection Event, with a total of 604 tires being collected. Through a program provided by the Oklahoma Department of Environmental Quality, we were able to have a contracting company, RTR Environmental, LLC from Noble Oklahoma pick up the tires and transport them back to their facility for shredding and processing. Each year we host two events, one in the spring and one in the fall. The next collection event will be during the week of April 17, 2023. This event will coincide with Earth Day, which is on April 22.



COURTESY PHOTOS
 Jon (Quick) and John (Gerhard) at the Environmental Booth at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center's Health Fair.

On Oct. 28, our department had an environmental information booth at the Bearskin Health and Wellness Center Health Fair.

On Nov. 1, John and Kathleen performed quarterly nutrient sampling on three lost creek sites.

On Nov. 7 we welcomed a new employee to our department, Myron Shield, Jr. Myron is our new Water Technician I person and will fill the position left void by Janice Wilson. Myron will be working in conjunction with John Gerhard performing monthly water monitoring sampling on 8 local sites, helping with private well sampling, and other environmental activities. Myron will also be performing GIS/GPS mapping for various environmental issues.

During this month, Myron was learning how to use our water monitoring equipment. Below is John Gerhard training Myron on using our Flow Mate Meter for recording flow in Lost Creek.



The month of December has kept the department staff busy with online training and meetings.

Other Environmental Duties:

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

Services Provided

- Private Well Drinking Water Sampling

- Private Home Owners Septic Assessments
- Lost Creek Recycle Center

• Title VI-Native American Nutrition and Supportive Services and Caregiver Support Program for FY 2023-FY 2026 Project Cycle

The purpose of Title VI of the Administration of Aging (OAA) is to promote the delivery of nutrition, supportive, and caregiver services to American Indians, Alaskan Natives, and Native Hawaiians that are comparable to services provided under Title III of the OAA. The goal of these programs is to support the independence and well-being of tribal elders and caregivers living in their communities with nutrition, supportive and caregiver services consistent with locally determined needs.

• Management Assistance Related to Tar Creek Superfund Site for FY 2023-FY 2025

The Tribe will use the management assistance provided to support tribal participation, review, and input in the planning and development of remedial actions, investigation activities, and documentation related to the Tar Creek Superfund Site, including all Operable Units and the watershed, to protect Tribal human health and environment.

• Tiwahe Letter of Intent

Tiwahe means, "Family" in Lakota. The Tiwahe (ti-wah-heh) Initiative is a five-year demonstration project supporting American Indians and Alaska Natives to improve the health and well-being of families in tribal communities. Tiwahe allows tribes to fully exercise self-determination on how best to fund and support the services in their communities. It is a comprehensive, culturally appropriate approach toward building capacity in tribal communities and supporting holistic family well-being outcomes. It establishes an integrated model of service delivery to children, youth, and families to preserve the family unit and support healthy and productive American Indian and Alaska Native families. This is a pilot program; only two (2) tribes will be accepted.

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Housing

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese,
Housing Director*

If you have been to the Heritage Acres area, you may have noticed new roads and building sites.

Currently, we are constructing two duplexes on the new Bear Road. These will be two-bedroom family units. If you are interested in living in this area, please fill out an application available on the Wyandotte Nation website or pick it up at the housing office. We follow HUD guidelines and the rent is income-based.

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. We do all the yard work 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.

We will be installing new equipment at Heritage Acres Park this spring. The community uses the park and it is a great place for family reunions or birthday parties.

Wyandotte Housing Assistance Fund, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021, is available 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 found on the Wyandotte Nation website. Income guidelines do apply. This is a nationwide program. Please call or email our office if you

have questions regarding this process.

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. If you qualify for LIHEAP, you also qualify for this assistance.

IHS -121 Program

This program is funded through the Department of Health & Human Services, to ensure safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for our tribal families. These services include drilling wells, septic

systems, rural water hook-ups, and city water and sewer connections. 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

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Department Contacts:

Christen Lee (Planning and Natural Resources Director) 918-678-6341

Kathleen Welch (Env. Department Manager) 918-678-6335

Myron Shield (Env. Technician I) 918-678-6345

John Gerhard (Env. Technician II) 918-678-6396

Jon Quick (Recycling) 918-678-6352

Debbie Dry (Grant Writer/BIA Self-Governance Coordinator) 918-678-6315

Michael Lowery (Grant Writer/477 Coordinator) 918-678-6309

(fitness front desk) flooded with 1-2 inches of water throughout. Belfor USA remediation group was contacted by 5:30 am and onsite by 8:30 am. That was a relief!

Of the area where water was standing, 75% needed to be re-sheet rocked, painted, floored, and furnished. Initial estimates were 13 weeks for remediation and construction. However, through innovative thinking, the new estimate is 8-9 weeks. Bearskin Clinic will hopefully be back upstairs by the end of February.

In the meantime, the clinic has been relocated to the basement, with the entrance being on the north side of the gymnasium. The fitness center entrance has moved to the south side of the gymnasium. The staff, citizens, and patients alike have been extremely patient in this process. The testing facility is still located to the west of the building and lab services have been relocated there, as well. The pharmacy drive-thru remains open.

To summarize:

- Pharmacy – Drive Thru Only
- Clinic – Basement – enter on the north side of the gymnasium, lower level
- Lab – Testing facility to the west of the building

- Fitness Center – enter on the south side of the gymnasium

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

Tribal Heritage

*Submitted by Kim Garcia (Tetsi'tara?i),
Cultural Preservation Officer (Inyomarihu'te?
Ahehtasta?)*

Kweh!

It has been a busy Fall and Winter around here! We're proud to announce that in October, the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum was named in the Top 10 Cultural Centers among the Association of Tribal Archives, Libraries, and Museums! It was quite an

honor to be recognized at the ATALM Conference!

In November, we were busy every single day with presentations and education for Native American Heritage Month. Over the month, we presented to over 2,000 people about Wyandottes! We are always getting requests to do presentations and we do our best to work in everyone. If you'd like for someone from the Cultural Center to present to your school or organization – either in person or via Zoom, contact us and we can schedule it.

We just finished up our first Winter Gathering and it was a huge success! We learned how to make hominy, we had a great time storytelling, and then we had a great dinner prepared by Title 6 staff. Several Wyandottes have been diligently practicing Wa'dat songs since last summer. They put their skills to good use and sang for us as we danced many social dances after dinner.

We continue hosting various events – be sure to check our social media for more details and additional classes:

- **Wa'dat Wednesday** – the 3rd Wednesday of the month
- **Wyandotte Beading** – The 2nd Tuesday of the month
- **Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum with Lloyd Divine** – the last Tuesday of the month
- **Wyandotte Book Club** – Quarterly
- March 11 – Sap Boiling

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Healthcare & Wellness

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

Happy New Year to each and every one! The 2022 year went out with a bang! On Dec. 26, 2022, at 4:30 am, the staff entered the building to find the entire clinic to the front doors of the building

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Language Notes

BY BECI WRIGHT
WYANDOTTE NATION

Kweh qmatęru? ! (Hello, friends!)

For November, Native American Heritage Month, we posted a daily Waⁿdat word or phrase on the Cultural Center’s social media. In case you missed it, this edition of Turtle Speaks includes the month full of words!

Join me every third Wednesday of the month at Wandat Wednesdays (on ZOOM) to practice together.

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

Pronunciation Reminders: ʔ 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

Interested in learning our language?

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

Remember: there is always Waⁿdat Wednesdays! This informal, stand-alone vocabulary class happens the third Wednesday of every month, and is online using ZOOM. One session is at NOON Central Time and the other at 8 PM CT. To sign up, go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WandatWed> to receive the zoom link and reminders.

Be sure to send any comments or suggestions, especially those on your language & culture wishlist, to: bwright@wyandotte-nation.org.

November 2022						
(audio files available at: https://www.wandat.org/na-heritage-month-2022)						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1	2	3	4	5
		kweh hi/hello	unęh goodbye	tižameh thank you	yawahstih good/great (it is)	hę: hą?ą yes no
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
wa ⁿ dat ⁿ di? I am/We are Wa ⁿ dat/Wyandotte	a?yetatę? I am sorry	te?nyęterih I don't know	eyateráhka? I will try	Satehstęh ! Get down!	A?tekwatę?mesqnyq? ⁿ de tiske?rayęhta? Veterans Day = We give many thanks for the warriors	Hú?wahęh Come here
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Nęh šarętę? Don't cry	Ha?seh Go (there)	Taye? ⁿ gyara?s Help me	Sahsturáhht Hurry up	kíye?s I am here	hata?úh šatsih ? What is your name?	____ ižátsih ____ is my name
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Sakyęh Sit down (sg) Tsakyęh Sit down (2+)	yatqréhšahsta? I am hungry	Sakqresuhareh Wash your hands (sg) Tsakqresuhareh Wash your hands (2+)	ekwa ⁿ gyáha? We are going to eat	a?tekwatę?mesqnyq? We give many thanks	yqdurqhkwa? I love you (sg)	wa ⁿ durqhkwa? I love you (pl)
27	28	29	30			
Satenyędihša?ih Are you finished?	ayatenyędihša?ih I am finished	Tanqht ⁿ dae? Give me that	Satrihu?tát Listen!			

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- April 1 – Wyandotte Nation Easter Egg Hunt
- June 19 -22 – Lacrosse Camp
- June 23-25 – Gathering of Little Turtles
- July 2 – Independence Day Fireworks at the Pow-Wow Grounds
- Every Thursday in summer – Native Youth Night
- Sept. 4 – Wyandotte Kayak Trip
- Sept. 5 – 8 – The Gathering
- Sept. 7 – Wyandotte Artisan Showcase
- Sept. 8-10 – Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow
- Sept. 30 – Orange Shirt Day

Department Contacts:

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

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Wyandotte Book Club!

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

Our February title will be *The Firekeeper’s Daughter* by Angeline Boulley and Book Club will be held WED, FEB 22, 2023 at noon and 7:30 PM Central Time (if we have to change it, we will let you know!) Upcoming titles include *An Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King for MAY 2023, and *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* by Drew Hayden Taylor for AUG 2023. 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.

New TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

Addison, Ryder Douglas	Ferguson, Clayton Butler	Edwards, Hudsyn Layne	Lollis, Hudson Dean
Allen, Sterling Dale	Forbes, Brookelyn Love	Edwards, Keagan Lee	Long, Lucas Blake
Alvarado, Camila Anne	Franco, Roda Michael	Epperson, Jackson Curtis	Long, Saxon Aaron
Ault, Brandon Raye	Friberg, Duke James Hugh	Favela, Tianna Melina	Lopez, Angelo Alexzander
Autry-Mechling, Zephyr Cole	Frost, Lucas Lee		
Badley, Emmitt Daniel	Galyon, Asher Thomas	Manghum, Isaiah Tate	Sears, Kinsley Robin
Batiste, Quinton Isaiah	Gardner, Lucas Patrick Casey	Manning, Travis James	Shelton, Mina Isela
Bearskin, Avereë Quinn	Garritty, Amber Lynn	Mattox, Aiden Britt	Shere, Ryder Allen
Beesley, Anika Gabriella	Garritty, Jeffrey Scott	Mattox, Emalyn Abigail	Smith, Grayson Jon
Beesley, Sahana Lily	Garritty, Joshua Daniel	Mattox, Rylan Emerson	Soares, Dalayna Earlene
Benedix, Benjamin Ronald	Garritty, Raymond Mark	McIntosh, Claire Lynn	South, Kimberlyn Rae
Blackwell Rains, Fenris Salazar	Garritty, Scott Wayne	McIntosh, Macie Elizabeth	Spencer, Frances Irene
Blaeske Elza, Journee Elizabeth	Garvey, Bailey Aurora	McKnight, Layla Jade	Stanhope, Lucas Avery
Bond, Andrew Joseph	Garvey, Morgan Amelia	McMurtrey, Kruz Michael	Steadman, Kaden Alex Jade
Bond, Atlee John	Graham, Carter Mason	Mechling, Zeppelin Anna Moon	Steadman, Keiron James Lee
Bond, Heath Michael	Green, Everett Allen	Mills, Amelia Louise	Strack, Gemma Ray Lynn
Bond, Jeremiah Lane	Griswold, Summer Rose	Mountsier-Conner, Theodore Pein	Sturdefant, Tayson John
Botts, Daxton Ryan	Guy, Amelia Dawn	Mumford, Chloe Madison	Tatum, Tessa-Jo
Botts, Emalyn Grace	Hackett, Raelyn Jade Louise	Mumford, Gregory Marc	Taylor, Morgan Geralt
Botts, Wade Lynn	Hale, Rori Mae	Murley, Klayton Alexander	Torres McQuistion, Kingston Jose
Boyd-Connell, Kevin James	Hall, Harrison Daniel	Myers, Michael LeePaul	Tune, Skylar Rain
Boyd-Connell, Liam Jacob	Handley, Rylee Mae	Nance, Leo James	Tune, Stormy Rose
Brumback, Reagan Marie	Harmon, Colt Robert	Napier, Wren Viola	Van der Westhuizen, Marelise June
Butler, Ariyah Dawn	Hatfield, Jack	Newton, Brynn Rose	Walker, Everton Toben
Campbell, Jaeli Rose	Hickey, Hunter William	Nickel, Miles James	Warren, Levi
Cardoza, Christina Marie	Hoag, Mason Eugene	Nikkel, Eliza Mackenzie	Watters, Madison Ann
Carnes, Bowie Harlow	Holland, Aryana Ryder	Norman, Noelle Atlee	Whorton, Bocephus
Carzoli, Grace Julianne	Honl, Charles Ulysses	Ortiz-Goodrich, Korbin	Wilmoth, Amber Blair
Castro, Ezekiel	Hurt, Henry Lee	Parnell, Lukes Bo	Wilmoth, Rowyn Renay
Clark, Augustus David	Jackson, Harper Willadean	Perry, Rozlyn Loren	Wood, Archer Michael
Coker, Willow Kay	Jimenez, Madeline Josephine	Pierce, Danika Ann-Marie	Yole, Tate Odell
Cook, James Anthony	Keener, Micah Lanelle	Place, Oscar Whaley	Zimmerman, Izabella Rae
Cooper, Bodhi Knox	Keller-Truman, Willow Monae	Poole, Aria Nicole	Zimmerman, Oliver Dean James
Coppock, Isabella Camille	Kibbons, Natalie Isabel	Porter, Laiken Wesley	Archuleta, Joyce Ellen
Cotter, Elijah Gabriel	King, Marisa Leigh	Rasor, Haddon James	Boomer, Mateo Pierce
Craig, Keston Lee	Kline, Henry David	Richardson, Elijah Stone	Dial, Ashley Danielle
Dahlin, Bethany Ruth	Knight, Luca Ray	Robertson, Thomas Eugene	Dial, Destiny Bradlyn
Dahlin, Sadie Beverly	Koon, Kolson Chandler Wyatt	Rodecap, Clorita Lois Finley	Dial, Izabel Shaylee
Davis, Ruby Luna	Lawson, Ryan David	Rojas, Phoenix Rex	Douthit, Eliette Jane
Deshayes, Claire Audrey	Laxdal, Kevin Bryson	Roller, Beorn Michael	Enyart, Emmett Layne
Doneen, Jackson Paul	Lenover, Lily Jane	Root, Oliver Robert	Gammon, Finn Urban
Douthit, Luke Leland Albert Ray	Lilly, Crystalynn Sallee	Russell, Malia Jean	Moran, Hazel Jane
Edwards, Dawson James	Logue, Dax William	Russell, McCandless Gage	Richards, Tarica Rae
			Rychak, Elizabeth Beatrice
			Salazar, Alaya Maree
			Santiago, Jason Luis
			Santiago, Samuel Luis
			Santos, Calcifer Astal
			Santos, Koda Zidane
			Sawyer, Randall Lewis
			Schultz, Oakley Louise

Directory of Wyandotte Names

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

If you have been gifted a traditional name in the past, please be sure to add it to our Directory at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WNames> so we can insure 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!) Tizameh!

If you cannot access the online Directory, please send: your English name, address, birthday, Wyandotte name, when & where you received it, and any story associated with it you'd like to share to the Cultural Center. We'd appreciate it! Please send name questions & inquiries to bwright@wyandotte-nation.org .

Tribal Enrollment

New Tribal Citizens

178

Total Tribal Enrollment

7,012

Important Numbers

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

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

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

Indian Child Welfare
Tara 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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

UPCOMING

TOWN HALL MEETING

MARCH
25

@ Irving, Texas



EASTER EGG HUNT

APRIL
1

10am @ Pow-Wow Grounds



2023

LACROSSE CAMP

JUNE
19 - 22



GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

JUNE
23 - 25



FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

JULY
2

Gates open 6pm @
Wyandotte Nation
Pow-Wow Grounds



GATHERING

SEPT.
5 - 8



32ND ANNUAL POW-WOW

SEPT.
8 - 10



ANNUAL MEETING

SEPT.
9

10am @ Bearskin
Fitness Center Gym



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