



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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November 2022



Events return after hiatus

Gathering & Pow-Wow

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Board of Directors

ChiefBilly Friend
 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:
 Women's Fancy
 Dance at the
 31st Annual
 Wyandotte Na-
 tion Pow-Wow.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM SWAIM

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Important days to remember in November



I hope this quarter's newsletter finds you and your family doing well and enjoying the beautiful fall season.

In thinking of where we are today as a tribal nation there are two dates that are important to Indians and all Americans that occur in November.

Americans, and people around the world, will remember and honor our veterans on Nov. 11, Veterans Day. Originally called Armistice Day or Remembrance Day, Nov. 11 was designated in 1919 by President Woodrow Wilson as the day we honor our veterans. The date coincided with the Nov. 11, 1918, Armistice that ended World War I.

We celebrate our Indian heritage and also honor our veterans during November.

Indian people have historically participated in the American military at much higher levels than other groups in our society. Indian warriors were, of course, a very important part of the American Revolutionary War, the War of 1812 and the Civil War. In the days of the American Revolution, Indian brigades were vital to the success of the new country and the established Indian nations were recognized for their significance, and their sovereign status, specifically in the U.S. Constitution.

Our warrior tradition is an important part of our Wyandotte history, our heritage. Indian nations had to develop strong defenses in order to protect their homes, their people and

their lands. The warrior culture is deeply ingrained in our people, and that quality has served our nation very well.

What started at the turn of the century as an effort to gain a day of recognition for the significant contributions the first Americans made to the establishment and growth of the U.S., has resulted in a whole month being designated for that purpose.

The history of how November became Native American Heritage Month also goes back several years. One of the very proponents of an American Indian Day was Dr. Arthur C. Parker, a Seneca Indian, who was the director of the Museum of Arts and Science in Rochester, N.Y. He persuaded the Boy Scouts of America to set aside a day for the "First Americans" and for three years they adopted such a day. In 1915, the annual Congress of the American Indian Association meeting in Lawrence, Kansas, formally approved a plan concerning American Indian Day. It directed its president, Rev. Sherman Coolidge, an Arapahoe, to call upon the country to observe such a day. Coolidge issued a proclamation on Sept. 28, 1915, which declared the second Saturday of each May as an American Indian Day and contained the first formal appeal for recognition of Indians as citizens.

The year before this proclamation was issued, Red Fox James, a Blackfoot Indian, rode horseback from state to state seeking approval

for a day to honor Indians. On Dec. 14, 1915, he presented the endorsements of 24 state governments at the White House. There is no record, however, of such a national day being proclaimed.

The first American Indian Day in a state was declared on the second Saturday in May 1916 by the governor of New York. Several states celebrate the fourth Friday in September. In Illinois, for example, legislators enacted such a day in 1919. Presently, several states have designated Columbus Day as Native American Day, but it continues to be a day we observe without any recognition as a national legal holiday.

Finally, in November 2001 official recognition for National American Indian Heritage Month was established by President George W. Bush. In President Bush's proclamation designating November National American Indian Heritage Month, he noted that the American Founding Fathers has chosen "E Pluribus Unum" the new country's national motto. This well-known Latin phrase means "Out of Many, One."

Be sure this November to take time as a family to remember those veterans who have served, and have died. And we honor our living veterans who are a testament to service and love of country. Be sure to take the time this November to thank a veteran for their service and celebrate your Wyandotte heritage with your family.

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Tribe continues to grow, expand

Kweh Omateru

Hello, my fellow Wyandottes as I am writing this article we are getting some much-needed rain. We haven't had rain like this since I think the last of May, so we are on day two of steady rain. We could use a steady

rain like this for about a week and we still wouldn't be caught up to our average rainfall, but we sure appreciate what we are getting right now.

The new duplexes on Turtle Hill are moving right along and they should be done on schedule. This will

be a great addition to the Wyandotte area

which is in need of good rental prop-



Gray sworn in as newest member to Board of Directors

The Wyandotte Nation Election Committee Chair, Zach Shockey, swore in tribal citizen Keith Gray Aug. 26 to fulfill the Board of Directors term that was vacated by Ramona Reid due to health.

Gray joins Chief Billy Friend, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, and fellow council persons Vivian Fink, Eric Lofland, and Rob Nesvold on the Board.

COURTESY PHOTOS

Election Committee Chair Zach Shockey swears in Keith Gray as newest member of the Board. Also pictured, Chief Billy Friend, Gray, Shockey, and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand.



2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

erties. On this same property closer to the highway our True Value Hardware store will be going up soon. This will be an added convenience to the area and to the Wyandotte Nation. It will be a much shorter drive to get those needed hardware items. The expanded infrastructure in Heritage Acres is completed and will give us the ability to build about 11 more duplexes for our Tribal Citizens.

We received an Indian Community Development Block Grant to do much-needed improvements at our Pow-Wow Grounds. We can upgrade the electric, add more restrooms, pave the parking lots, improve vendor row and build a lacrosse field to name a few improvements. This will make our Pow-Wow Grounds one of the best, if not the best grounds in the area.

The new Title VI building plans are out for bid and hopefully, construction will begin by the first of the year, this will give our elders a great place to have lunch and socialize. We are still working on the plans for the preschool expansion and hopefully, we can get started on that in the near future. The Wyandotte Nation is creating a unique community here in Northeast Oklahoma to serve our Wyandotte Citizens, our employees, and the whole surrounding area.

There have been a lot of stories in the news lately about the Native American and Canadian Boarding Schools and the graves of lost children that were probably never

reported and certainly, their families were never notified of their passing. Where our tribal complex sits now there was also a boarding school here if some of you were not aware of it. According to some stories, there are graves here but we are not sure where they are if the stories are true. If the stories are true it all happened I am sure in the latter 1800s. What I am about to share with you is a presentation I put together when I spoke to a Middle School in Michigan a few years ago.

"Kill the Indian, save the man" was the motto of Capt. Richard Henry Pratt, who was a prominent Indian educator of the late 1800s. As a side note before Capt. Pratt helped establish Carlisle Institute in Pennsylvania he was the warden at an Indian prison in Florida.

Progressive reformers like Pratt believed it was essential to get Indian children away from their families and nations in order to prevent parents from raising the children in their own cultures. So the reformers founded boarding schools where children could be isolated from Indian languages, values, and traditions. Cultural erasure was the stated goal. What I have next is from an interview with Jared Silas Dawson in 1937, he attended the school sometime in the 1870s:

At this time there was no school here except the mission school that had been established by the Quakers at what is now Wyandotte, Okla., so my brother and I were sent there to school. We stayed at the school

"A child's hand in yours - - what tenderness and power it arouses. You are instantly the very touchstone of wisdom and strength." --Marjorie Holmes

and were allowed to go home every six weeks and stay from Friday to Sunday. Some of us would run away; I tried it once and they came after me that night at about eleven and I had to go back, but I would not have tried it again for the next morning mother would have taken me back and she would have made me walk, and she would have ridden along with me to see that I went. Uncle Jerry Hubbard was in charge of the school and we had good teachers, who although strict were good to us. We had very poor clothing, food, and quarters as they would be judged nowadays but they were feeding, clothing, and teaching us at no expense to our parents, and what they received was allowed them from the government.

The boys had red duck pants put together with rivets, hickory shirts of blue and white, brogan shoes, common black hats, no socks, and no underwear. The girls wore blue denim all made alike with coarse cotton flannel underwear, heavy shoes, and the little girls had copper toes on their shoes. Our sleeping room or dorm, as you would say today was without fire, hard mattresses, coarse blankets, and no sheets. What did we have to eat? For breakfast, we had boiled beef, gravy, light bread, and weak coffee. For dinner cornbread, beans, gravy, and water. For supper two tubs were filled with sliced light bread, in one tub two slices were put together with New Orleans molasses

and there were rows of pegs about two feet apart; we boys took place at these one boy to a peg with the larger boys in front and these led up to where two women would say "with or without" and if he said with he was given two slices of the light bread put together with molasses and if he said without he was handed two slices of dry bread, these we took and went to where the pump was for water and this was our supper.

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

The government took over the Seneca Indian School around 1880 and it remained an Indian School until it closed in 1980. This boarding school was one of the better-run schools in the country and I am sure it had to do with the people assigned to run it. But still taking children away from their families for weeks at a time at such a young age had to be traumatic for them. I am sure their parents thought what they were doing would benefit their children even if it was forced upon them, a very sad time in our Ancestors' history.

Honored Persons for 2022

Wright, Clemons recognized at Annual Meeting

The Wyandotte Nation honored two incredible people Saturday, Sept. 10, at our Annual Meeting: Deryl Wright and Sherri Clemons. Wyandotte Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented the awards to the honorees.

Clemons has been working for the Tribe since 1989 and as Tribal Heritage Director since 1999. It has been an opportunity for her to bring our history and heritage to the Wyandotte people. She has been the director for the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow since this time, helped to form our Tribe's first Honor Guard, and assisted with the development of the Wyandotte language program. Clemons traveled with the late Chief Leaford Bearskin and was taught the ways of our culture and our expectations of ourselves. Since that time, she has built the Pow-Wow to be a "must" see event. She has helped our tribal princesses by teaching them the ways of Wyandotte people, how to present themselves appropriately at social events, and how to hold themselves



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand recognized tribal citizens Sherri Clemons and Deryl Wright as the Honored Persons for 2022 at the Annual Meeting, Saturday, Sept. 10.

to higher standards.

Clemons holds seats on committees such as Native American Graves Protection Repatriation

(NAGPR) and Tribal Historic Press Officer (THPO). These programs help oversee and assist with reburials of human remains that are

found and need to be moved to a proper site. She meets with proper authorities on all human remains and helps get them into the proper Museums, Universities and Government agencies.

Wright is a proud citizen of the Wyandotte Nation. He is a member of the Wolf Clan. In 2013 Chief Friend honored him with his Wyandotte Name Tehuskwidehti (Te hu skwi deh ti) --- He does not run with the pack or crowd. Lone Wolf.

Wright's Eagle Staffs are popular around the Nation. They are carried in at the Grand Entry of the Pow-Wow by members of the Wright Family. He is a well-known custom Knife Maker. A couple of his knives can be seen at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center & Museum.

Wright is very much involved with the Wyandotte Nation's Culture Department. He has been a member of the Culture Advisory Board for almost 10 years. He loves seeing the Wyandotte Nation children grow up and become involved in the Culture of the Wyandotte Nation.

Wright's passion is his Tribe.

NEWS & NOTES



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

WNTPD hosts community block party for National Night Out

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal/Municipal Police Department (WNTPD) hosted its National Night Out with a Community Block Party Tuesday, Oct. 4, at Heritage Acres Park (14400 S Porcupine Road) in Wyandotte.

It was an opportunity for the community to come out and meet with area law enforcement. There was complimentary food and beverages, exhibitors, emergency vehicles, law enforcement personnel, music, goodies,

giveaways and more.

National Night Out is a yearlong community-building campaign designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and generate support and participation in the local community.



COURTESY PHOTO

Lofland retires after 26 years

The Wyandotte Nation held a retirement celebration for Judy Lofland recently. Lofland has been an employee of the Wyandotte Nation for 26 years. Chief Billy

Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented Lofland with gifts during the reception.



PHOTO BY WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Garcia recognized during Gathering

Wyandotte tribal citizen Joshua Garcia was recognized during the Gathering as 2022 Cultural Honoree. Garcia was honored for being the first to serve on the Wyandotte Cultural Advisory Board from his generation as a leader of his generation.

Area tribes honored for excellence

Officials with the Department of the Interior presented seven area tribes, including the Wyandotte Nation, with an Award for Tribal Excellence in Conservation for their effort in creating a Tribal Apprenticeship Program. It was the first award of its kind.

The tribes accepting the award included the Cherokee Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and the Wyandotte Nation.

Over the past 20 years, the Tar Creek Trustee Council has worked together to develop claims for injuries to natural resources from hazardous substance at the Tar Creek Superfund Site in Northeastern Oklahoma. This Trustee Council is the largest in the country with representatives from the State of Oklahoma, Department of the Interior (U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and Bureau of Indian Affairs), and seven federally-recognized tribes.

The seven tribes were instrumental in the development and selection of multiple restoration projects in the Tar Creek Phase I Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (RP/EA). The Phase I RP/EA selected six restoration projects that will replace the natural resources lost from the



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Suzanne Dunn, left, with the Fish & Wildlife Service, and Amy Lueders (FWS South West Regional Director), present Wyandotte Nation Environmental Program Manager Kathy Welch, Planning and Natural Resources Director Christen Lee, and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand with the Tribal Excellence Award Thursday, Sept. 15

contamination.

One unique project proposed by all seven tribes is the Tribal Apprenticeship Program. Injuries to the natural resources at the Tar Creek site have impacted tribal lifeways. The tribes have lost opportunities to transfer their cultural knowledge on gathering, harvesting, hunting, fishing, preparing, and using these resources

across generations. There has also been a loss of traditional ecological knowledge about caring for the land, and traditional practices to sustain it for future generations.

The Tribal Apprenticeship Program will combine teaching tribal youth about their individual tribe's distinct heritage, language, cultural practices, and traditional uses with natural resource restora-

tion. Each of the seven Tribes will develop and implement a Tribal Apprenticeship Program and which will include distinct tribal lifeway practices curriculum and the traditional uses of natural resources specific to each tribe. Upon completion of the program, each student will receive a State of Oklahoma lifetime combination hunting and fishing license, which will enable graduates to continue to practice their tribe's traditional activities after the program ends.

The development of this project and participation in all restoration planning activities takes many years of dedication. The Service recognizes the dedication and commitment to the Tar Creek Trustee Council by the Wyandotte Nation, represented by Christen Lee and Kathy Welch; Cherokee Nation, represented by Nancy John and Jason White; Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, represented by Kristi Laughlin and Justin Burris; Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, represented by Heather Webb; Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, represented by Tabitha Langston, Cheryl Stafford, and Lori Bailey; Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, represented by Erin Barnes and Buddy Shapp; and the Seneca-Cayuga Nation represented by Sara Lundstrum and MJ Shields.

NEWS & NOTES

Illinois State Museum selects Miller as new director of tribal relations

SPRINGFIELD — The Illinois State Museum (ISM) has hired Heather Miller as its director of tribal relations, a new leadership position at the ISM, an Illinois Department of Natural Resources division.

As the director of tribal relations, Miller is responsible for building tribal relationships between the ISM and the State of Illinois. Additionally, she will ensure the state abides by the federal Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) and other relevant national regulations and state statutes.

"This position is important to me because we all call Indian land home, and I believe it is imperative to make it better for the next seven generations," Miller said. "I come from a long line of

leaders, negotiators, and ancestors who have loved and cared for this land. This position offers me the ability to continue in their footsteps. I fully intend to usher in a new direction with tribal relations in Illinois that is respectful of Native views and cares for this land."

Miller is an enrolled citizen of the Wyandotte Nation and is involved with her Tribal Cultural Center on their language revitalization. She graduated from Miami University with a Bachelor of Philosophy. She received her Master of Native American Studies degree from Montana State University.

Most recently, Miller led Chicago's American Indian Center as their executive director. She has also provided cultural, organizational, and strategic planning consulting to nonprofit start-ups and tribal entities in Illinois and nationally.

Tribes awarded grant to help treat opioid problem

The Wyandotte Nation recently received a \$500,000 grant award from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration for the Tribal Opioid Response Grant (TOR). The purpose of the TOR grant is to increase access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder.

Grant funds will allow the Tribe to provide services, such as prevention and treatment activities, as well as training for developing cultural and family connections.

Please contact Kelly Friend, Director of Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center, at 918-678-3259; or via email at kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org if you have any questions or need further

information on this project.

Tribes awarded grant to address crime, public safety

Wyandotte Nation is 1 of 10 tribes to receive a grant award under the funding opportunity titled U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Competitive Grant for the Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning Program in the amount of \$122,600.

The Strategic Planning Program will address the crime and public safety problems affecting Wyandotte Nation's tribal justice and community wellness. The grant-funded project will develop and create a comprehensive justice system-wide strategic plan based upon DOJ-provided training as well as results from community needs assessments.



Events return after hiatus



The Wyandotte Nation hosted its 31st Annual Pow-Wow Friday-Sunday, Sept. 9-11, at the Pow-Wow Grounds following the annual Gathering event, which led up to the Pow-Wow and started earlier in the week.

The events were on a hiatus after COVID-19 forced the cancellations. The Gathering offered tribal citizens a chance to learn more about the Tribe's culture, language and history, as well as enjoying various craft activities throughout the week.

As for the Pow-Wow, the Head Singer for the event was Herb Adson, the Head Man Dancer was Joe Ellis, the Head Lady Dancer Cherylyn Satepauhoodle, Head Gourd Dancer Bradley Dick, Northern Drum Red Land, the MC was Wade Blevins, Head Judge and Stomp Dance Coordinator was Jay Blalock, and the Arena Director was Dude Blalock. \$75,000 was available in prize money for the top dancers.



Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow & Gathering



Photos by
William Swaim



TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Human Resources Department has a new full-time staff member, Tara Baron. Tara transferred to us from Bearskin Health and Wellness Center, where she had been employed since 2007 and will serve as the Receptionist in the Administration Building. Tara enjoys spending time with her 11 snakes and in her



BARON

free time, she runs a small business making t-shirts and cups. She also enjoys spending time with her family, usually, they are hermits and like to stay home, but now she stays busy with all the kids' activities. She is also active in youth ministry. Tara says it is an honor to serve the Wyandotte Nation and she is so excited about this new position. We are very fortunate to have Tara at the Wyandotte Nation.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Jade Zheng Bearskin to her new position as After School Program



BEARSKIN

Lead. She received her Associate's Degree from Crowder College in Child Psychology and loved working with children. She enjoys playing the piano, painting, and photography in her spare time. Jade also likes

spending time with her family, taking the kids to see new places, and exploring new things. We are happy to have Jade on our team.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would also like to welcome Brylen Bartley as a part-time After-school Childcare Assistant as well as Alex Jackson as a Substitute, Jadeyn Bailey as an Early



BARTLEY



JACKSON



BAILEY



SCHALLER

her new position.

Jadeyn graduated from Seneca High School. She enjoys shopping, concerts, rodeos, and spending time with friends. We are very glad to have Jadeyn join our Education Department.

In his spare time, Rodney enjoys hunting, fishing, and camping. Rodney also enjoys spending time with his family and likes to go on ATV trail rides. We are very happy to have Rodney join our team and wish him much success in his new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department is very happy to welcome tribal citizens Chelsea King and Gabrielle (Gabby) Ezell.



KING

Childhood Teacher's Assistant, and Rodney Schaller in a Custodian/Bus Driver position.

Brylen attends Wyandotte High School, where she is in STUCO and the National Honor Society. She plans to get her BSN and work in a children's hospital. She plays softball year-round. Brylen also enjoys spending time with her dog, LU, and family in her spare time. We are happy to have Brylen join our team.

Alex graduated from Wyandotte High School. Alex enjoys spending time with her family. She also enjoys serving in her church, attending her son's activities, and gardening. We are pleased to have Alex and wish her much success in

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/Sexual Assault Advocate. She

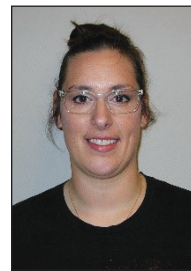


EZELL

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, and friends, and attending her brothers 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 Title VI Department is very happy to welcome Amanda Turner as a Food Service Team Member and 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 and 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 a tribal citizen and is excited to give back to her tribe and serve the Elders. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her children and watching

sports. We are very fortunate to have Cortney join our team.

The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Department is proud to welcome tribal citizen Joshua Garcia as our new Media Specialist. Joshua received his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from Haskell



GARCIA

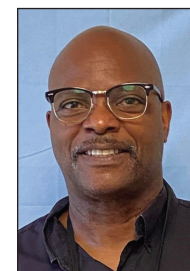
Indian Nations University. He enjoys spending most of his spare time with his family, but also enjoys attending Pow-Wow's, running, hiking, and traveling. Joshua is very involved in the Tribe and is excited about the opportunity to share his knowledge of Wyandotte history. We are very fortunate to have Joshua and wish him much success in this new position.

The Fitness Department has a new staff member, Gavin Kihenia. Gavin recently graduated from Wyandotte High School. During his spare time, he enjoys playing sports and spending time outdoors. We are very fortunate to have Gavin join us.



KIHENIA

The Wyandotte Nation Gaming Department is very happy to welcome Michael Colbert. Michael will serve as Background/Compliance Internal Audit Officer. Michael comes to us from 7th Street Casino where he has been employed since 2009 and brings with him a wealth of casino



COLBERT

knowledge. He is former USAF and attended DeVry. He enjoys spending time working on his home and yard. In his spare time, he enjoys computers, motorcycles, bicycling, traveling, and music. We are very fortunate to have Michael on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,
Family Services Director*

The Family Services staff is excited to announce that nearly all of the programs offered through the department will now be available to tribal citizens nationwide! The staff is extremely grateful to tribal leadership and the economic development team for making this possible. When I started working for the Tribe in 1996, the Family Services Department didn't even exist and the only program that was available nationwide was the scholarship program, which was \$500 per semester at the time. Now, 26 years later, we have so many programs available to tribal citizens, not just through the Family Services Department, but also across various departments of the Tribe. Please be sure to check out each of the department articles to see if there are programs that may benefit you and/or your family.

Several of the Family Services programs have changed as well, so be sure to read each program guideline closely so you will be aware of those changes. While it is exciting to be offering these expanded programs, we ask that you please be patient with us as this does require additional work to process the applications and may take a bit longer than in previous years. If you're a Facebook user and not already a member of the "Wyandotte Nation Citizens" group, I encourage you to join. I share information with the group in between newsletters regarding program updates, deadline reminders, event announcements, etc. It's also a great place to interact with other tribal citizens.

Applications and information for the programs listed in the remainder of this article can be found on the Tribe's website here: <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/familyservices/>

Children's Christmas Party – We're very happy to announce that we will be hosting an in-person party this year! The party will be held Saturday, Dec. 10 from 10 am to Noon at Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gym. We're still working out some of the details so be sure to follow the website and Facebook for

details. As a reminder, all enrolled children 15 and under are eligible to participate. Each child will receive a gift from Santa and tribal parents/legal guardians, who are present with their eligible children, will receive a \$25 Walmart gift card (1 per household). This year's party theme is "Elf," of course, Santa will be there and there will be some fun activities.

Winter Clothing – Starts Nov. 1 and ends Feb. 28. This program is available nationwide this year AND the amount available per child has increased to \$200. Enrolled Wyandotte Nation children are eligible to apply for reimbursement or a Walmart gift card. Applications, along with guidelines, will be available on the home page of the Tribe's website. Please note there are separate applications for the gift card and reimbursement program. Please be sure to read the guideline letter that will accompany the application prior to making purchases, as there are changes to the program. If you did not return your receipts for either the School Supplies or last year's Winter Clothing gift cards, you will be required to use the reimbursement program this year. Incomplete applications will be returned to the sender. Applications must be received or postmarked no later than Feb. 28, 2023. Late applications will not be processed.

Senior Energy – This program is available nationwide for Wyandotte Nation citizens who are 55 and older. The program has increased to \$300 for the fiscal year, Oct. 1, 2022, through Sept. 30, 2023. The program will no longer be restricted to seasonal dates and tribal citizens can determine how much they want to be paid toward their bill, up to the \$300 per year maximum. Payments will continue to be paid directly to the utility provider.

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

Elders Assistance – Tribal elders

aged 55 and over, nationwide, are eligible for a maximum benefit of \$250 per year. This program may be used to assist with such costs as rent, household expenses, utilities, auto repairs, personal needs, etc.

Extra-Expense/Extracurricular Activities – This program is now available to Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens nationwide, and is reimbursement only, outside of the states of Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, and Arkansas. Qualifying ages are Pre-K through 12th grade for expenses related to school participation and extracurricular activities, such as the following: class pictures, school lunches, instrument rental, lab fees, testing fees, sports activities, and related equipment, etc. If you're unsure if something meets the criteria give us a call or email.

Jr/Sr Benefit – A \$250 High School Junior/ Senior Expense Assistance Program is provided to Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens that are High School juniors and seniors to help offset their added expenses. Some items that are considered eligible expenses are: yearbook, cap and gown, announcements, letter jacket, pictures, class ring, Junior/ Senior trip (official trips hosted by the school), college testing, prom, required class-specific supplies, or other related expenses. Citizens who reside outside of the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas are eligible for reimbursement only.

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

School Supplies – The School Supply Program will be available

July 1, 2023 – Sept. 30, 2023 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 \$200 for school supplies, clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. Applications will be available to apply for either Walmart gift cards or reimbursement. Please note that all applications and receipts must be original documents that are either hand-delivered to the office or mailed. Applications for both the gift card and the reimbursement program will be available on the website as well as a one-page guideline. Applications MUST be postmarked or hand-delivered no later than Sept. 30, 2023.

Child Safety Seats – This is another program that has been expanded to assist 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 for expectant mothers who can have their physician complete the section on the application beginning in their 7th month and babies who are less than 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.

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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.

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Promoting Safe & Stable Families/Indian Child Welfare – This program is funded through a federal grant from the Administration for Children and Families. It is designed to help keep children in their homes with the family or ensure that if there is a need for removal that federal guidelines are adhered to and the best interest of the child is first and foremost. If your family is in a situation where the state is involved, please contact either of the ICW Social Workers. The Tribe is continually seeking foster families. If you're interested in sharing your home with a child in need, please contact Tara or Carmalita at the numbers listed below.

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. Applications can be submitted at any time during the year and birth certificates will be returned within 10-14 business days. Haylee Botts has been working as the front desk assistant in the Family Services/Gaming area since early 2021 and beginning Oct. 1, 2023, she is the new Enrollment Officer. She will continue in her current role as well for the time being.

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

Tribal Tags – The Wyandotte Nation Motor Vehicle Tag program was developed in 1998 as a result of the Supreme Court Ruling, Oklahoma Tax Comm'n v. Sac and Fox Nation. This ruling allows Oklahoma Tribes to tax tribal citizens on their motor vehicles when, they reside on AND said vehicles are principally garage in, Oklahoma Indian Country. Unfortunately, tribal citizens who do not meet this criterion are unable to utilize this program. If we were legally able to provide this service outside of Oklahoma we would happily do so. Tribal citizens who register/title their motor vehicles are required to sign stating they meet these parameters. Passenger, RV,

Motorcycle, and Handicap tags are available. Please call the office for prices and additional information. All new requests must be accompanied by the original title and proof of insurance. Renewals require proof of insurance. Incomplete requests will be returned to the tribal citizen.

Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card) – This program has been renewed and accounts will be reloaded on Jan. 1, 2023. The benefits will be the same as in previous years with a \$1,000 per year benefit for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,000 per account. Individuals who were voted into citizenship at the Annual Meeting will receive their account information in December and accounts will be active on Jan. 1, 2023. Trustmark mails an annual statement in December to show the remaining balances. Account balances can also be obtained by calling 877-267-3359. There is also a handy app for smartphones where you can check balances, scan in-store items to check eligibility, and file reimbursement claims. Please see the Nation's website for a flyer detailing the steps to set up accounts on the app. As a reminder for the end-of-year of the program, 2022 funds must be expended by Dec. 31. There is not a grace period for the use of the debit card. If the card is used Jan. 1 or after, the funds will come out of the 2023 allowance. If you have 2022 charges you need to claim after Jan. 1, you will need to make the payment, then file for reimbursement no later than Feb. 28, 2023.

Burial Assistance – The benefit of this program has increased to \$2,500. Payment will be made directly to the funeral home or can be paid to the family representative if the funeral expenses have been paid in full. Applications must be submitted within 90 days of the tribal citizen's death.

Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP): This program is funded through grants from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), the Family Violence Prevention Safety Act/Administration for Children and

Families, and the Office of Victims of Crime. Funds can be used to provide advocacy to individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, human trafficking, stalking, elder abuse, and all victims of crime. In 2022, we added an additional advocate/supervised visitation specialist and a COVID-19-specific advocate. Services for victims include shelter, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, court accompaniment, counseling, legal assistance, etc., and can be provided to victims who reside within a 25-mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation headquarters. Victims do not need to be Wyandotte or Native to receive services. The month of October was Domestic Violence Awareness month. FVPP staff participated in several outreach and awareness events throughout the month such as an awareness walk, stomp dance, Facebook live event about the current state of domestic violence in Indian Country, and booths at National Night Out and a health fair at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center.

Tiny Homes: The Tribe now has four (4) Tiny homes that are currently being used for the purpose of quarantine for individuals who have tested positive for COVID-19 and need a safe place to stay away from their family.

Primary Department Contacts:
Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319

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

Tara Gragg, ICW Supervisor, 918-678-6355

Carmalita Ward, ICW Worker, 918-678-6485

Tiffany Garner, Tag Administrator, 918-678-6353

Haylee Botts, Enrollment Officer, 918-678-6321

Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence Advocate/Educator, 918-678-6324

Cesilie Hale, DV/SA Advocate, 918-678-3269

Jenny Reeves, DV/SA/Elder Abuse Advocate, 918-678-6486

Kristi Johnston, Crime Victims Advocate, 918-678-6340

Chelsea King, Advocate/Supervised Visitation Specialist, 918-678-3257

Gabby Ezell, COVID-19 DV/SA Advocate, 918-678-6402

Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,
Education Director*

Wyandotte Nation's Library is now open to the public. The hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. If you do not live in our area and you have access to the internet, you may create an account using your phone, tablet, or PC and visit our virtual library at www.okvirtual-library.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, mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org or by calling the library at 918-678-6332 for more information.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program has been busy processing the 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. Once the fall semester is over and your fall grades and spring schedule are set, you will need to send in a transcript showing your grades and schedule in order for us to process your spring 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 program's duration.
- Deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is May 1.

To obtain an Undergraduate, Master, or Vocational Scholarship application, they are now available on our website, or you can email your request or any questions that

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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 Child Development Center is currently full in our infant/ones/toddler rooms. Our preschool has a couple of openings available for the 2022-23 school year. Our first day of preschool was Aug. 17. All classes have been busy learning the alphabet, numbers, shapes, and colors. As well as learning how to line up quietly, walk in a line, meet new friends, enjoy the playground and attend a few field trips. We are accepting applications to be placed on a waiting list for age groups: infants, ones, and toddlers. Applications are available on our website, or you may contact Lindsay Cooper for an application by email, lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org or by phone 918-678-3267.

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

program that allows 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 of our Tribal Headquarters in Wyandotte, OK. 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

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

It was so great seeing everyone again at the Gathering, Annual Meeting, and Pow-Wow!

We will be traveling to Claremore, Okla., on Nov. 1 to attend the horse races at Will Rogers Downs. These will be the short races with quarter horses, paints and appaloosas. We will leave the parking lot at 10 am and will return at approximately 6 pm. Lunch is on your own. Transportation is provided and a \$5 free play at the casino.

Our Veterans Honor Lunch is Thursday, Nov. 10. Posting of colors will be at 11:15 am -- awards and lunch to follow.

Our Thanksgiving Dinner is Thursday, Nov. 17. Serving time

is 11:30 am to 1 pm. The menu is turkey, dressing, gravy, green beans, hot rolls, deviled eggs, cranberry salad and pumpkin pie.

We will travel to Branson, Mo., Thursday, Dec. 1 for a Christmas Show. The cost for the tickets is \$32 each. Lunch buffet provided.

Our Christmas Dinner is Thursday, Dec. 15. Serving time is 11:30 am to 1 pm. The menu is brisket, baked potato, baked beans, hot rolls, deviled eggs, cranberry salad, and angel food delight, and Santa will be making an appearance from the North Pole to hand out homemade treat bags that the little Title VI Elves have made. You still have time to get off the naughty list!

CAREGIVER

We have resumed our in-person Caregiver Support Group. It is the

first Thursday of each month in the Title VI Safe Room.

We are continuing to provide respite care vouchers.

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

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

Elder Services Team:

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

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

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

assistance. Eligibility requirements:

- Complete, sign, and date 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.

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

The mission of the Wyandotte Nation is to improve the quality of life for all tribal citizens. To carry this mission forward in our tribal community, the Planning and Natural Resources Department provides a variety of services including, but not limited to, private well drinking water sampling and septic assessments for private homeowners. 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.

With the warm weather, comes an increase in recycling duties. Amounts of recycled materials collected for the months of July, August, and September are listed in the table below:

The summer months kept our department quite busy with daily activities and educational events.

Janice Wilson and Kathleen Welch attended the Shoal Creek Water Festival at Wildcat Glades in Joplin, Mo., on Aug. 13 where approximately 150 adults and children participated in the event.

More than 500 4th and 5th-grade students and their teachers and volunteers attended the Eastern Shawnee Lost Creek Festival on Sept. 9 where Janice Wilson and John Gerhard provided information regarding macroinvertebrates and the importance of healthy streams.

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COURTESY PHOTO

Gerhard attends Attains Training.

The Ottawa County Fairgrounds in Miami, Okla., was the location of the Fall Elders Health Event on Sept. 22. Janice Wilson and John Gerhard attended and participated in the event by discussing environmental issues, such as surface and ground water pollution, failing septic systems, and recycling.

Janice Wilson and John Gerhard attended a three-day training on The Assessment, Total Maximum Daily Load Tracking and Implementation System (ATTAINS), which is an on-line system for accessing information about the conditions in the Nation's surface waters by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This training was to help implement a new data recording and submitting process for our water sampling sites.

Each month, department staff per-



COURTESY PHOTO

Fall elders event.

forms monitoring and sampling on eight (8) sites within the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdictional area streams and water bodies. During this time frame, staff also performed nutrient sampling on three lost creek sites, and metals and E. coli sampling on all 8 sites.

The Grants Department recently received grant awards that meet the tribe's mission and short- and long-term goals. Grant funds from USDA's Local Food Purchase Assistance Program will 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. Wyandotte Nation recently received a \$500,000 grant award from the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration for the Tribal Opioid Response Grant (TOR). The purpose of the TOR grant is to increase access to culturally appropriate and

evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder. Grant funds will allow the Tribe to provide services, such as prevention and treatment activities, as well as training for developing cultural and family connections. The Tribe also received grant funds for the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC) FY 2022 Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside (TVSSA) Formula Grant, which is a 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 a Forensic Interviewing Room will be included. Wyandotte Nation is 1 of 10 tribes to receive a grant award under the funding opportunity titled U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation Competitive

Grant for the Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning Program. The Strategic Planning Program will address the crime and public safety problems affecting Wyandotte Nation's tribal justice and community wellness. The grant-funded project will develop and create a comprehensive justice system-wide strategic plan based on DOJ-

provided training as well as results from community needs assessments. The plan will be made available to key community stakeholders including, but not limited to, the Board of Directors, Administration, Department Directors, and staff involved in law enforcement, Tribal courts, and organizations providing services for all victims of crime.

The BIA Self-Governance Coordinator attended numerous trainings over the past three months. Debbie Dry attended the 2022 Tribal Self-Governance Conference in Burlingame, Calif. Wyandotte Nation is part of the Self-Governance Communication and Education Tribal Consortium (SGCETC), which is a non-profit 501(c)(3) consortium of Tribal nations that elected to use Self-Governance for the delivery of programs and services for their citizens and communities. She completed a two-day online training titled Introduction to Geospatial Information System (GIS) using ArcGIS Pro. GIS is a spatial system that creates, manages, analyzes, and maps all types of data. Debbie also attended an Oklahoma Self-Governance Coalition Meeting at Council Oak in Tulsa, Okla. Ms. Dry also participated in the Planning Program Review with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Eastern Oklahoma Region Division of Transportation-Planning Branch in order to review Wyandotte Nation's program procedures. Both the Self-Governance Coordinator and 477 Coordinator met with Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) Region 6 at the Quapaw Tribe's newly constructed Emergency Management Headquarters to discuss the Tribe's Hazard Mitigation Plan and potential funding opportunities.

The Planning and Natural Resources Department is also dedicated to researching and applying for federal, state, and foundation grants to benefit the Tribe and tribal community. Projects often serve the Tribal citizens within a 50-mile radius of tribal headquarters; however, some formula-funded grants may serve eligible 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



COURTESY PHOTOS

Lost Creek Water Festival (above) and Shoal Creek Water Festival (right).



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Housing

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

It has been a busy time for the Housing Department. A new elder duplex was recently built and is now occupied. Two family duplexes are out for bid and will be started soon. Three homeowner units are in the process of being built.

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

New equipment has been ordered for Heritage Acres Park and should be installed next spring. The park is a great asset to the community. The National Night Out, put on by the Police Department, was held in the park as well as many family reunions and 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 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 for help with water utilities in the state of Oklahoma. This program is based on income. Applications are available on the website or by calling our office. If you qualify for LIHEAP, you also qualify for this assistance.

IHS -121 Program

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

installing septic systems, rural water hook-ups, and connections to city water and sewer. There are no income guidelines. Tribal 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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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 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

After so long, we FINALLY were able to have our Gathering, Wyandotte Artisan Showcase, and Pow-Wow! To be able to come together again with our friends and family was so good for all of our people! There was a record number (close to 200) at the Gathering and the Pow-Wow was HUGE! Yawastih! (It is good!)

For this year’s Gathering, we wanted to go back to basics with language. Beci had us focused on 4 words: Kweh (hello), yawahstih (it is good), tižameh (thank you), and uneh (good-bye) and she also taught us the Waⁿdat introduction. We were really excited to have Dr. Craig Koprisk back in person as our linguist! It was also great to see the progress of many of the students that are learning Waⁿdat in the weekly Zoom classes. For history, Lloyd Divine did a wonderful job each day teaching us more in-depth about the ways of our grandmothers and grandfathers. Wyandotte Citizen Heather Miller presented the Driving Tour Project she is working on and it got a lot of Wyandottes excited about it. Dr. Bob Wicks and Anne Lacey presented the Wyandotte Heritage Digital Archives (WHDA), which will be such an invaluable resource available soon. Scott Bentley and Wyandotte of Anderdon Chief Ted Roll did several

presentations from the River Raisin National Battlefield and brought actual canoes that they made traditionally. We appreciate all of the teachers for the crafts we had this year! We had finger weaving taught by Wyandotte Citizen Angie Morgan, peyote stitch beading with Wyandotte Citizen Linda Blake, baby ribbon skirts with Wyandotte Citizens Marilyn Young and Cindy Pulido, flint knapping with John Webb, medicine pouches with Wyandotte Citizen (and employee) Chris Houk, and basket weaving with Faye Trice. We learned so much from all of these people! I also want to thank Arturo Garcia for being our driver!

I’m thrilled to announce that Joshua Garcia was chosen as the Cultural Honored Person of the year! He was chosen by the Cultural Advisory Board because of his dedication to the culture and to the Wyandotte people. I’m also happy to announce that Joshua is our newest employee at the Cultural Center; he is our Media Specialist.

We have a new exhibit in the Museum that opened the week of the Gathering. The exhibit was based on a large donation from the Walker Family. Please make plans to visit the Museum to see the exhibit if you can.

The Wyandotte Artisan Showcase was a huge success! We had a lot of entries and they were all quality work. There is

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Solid Waste Collected from July thru September 2022	
Aluminum	313 lbs.
Cardboard	18,595 lbs.
Newspaper	0 lbs.
Magazines	1,406 lbs.
Plastic (#1 and #2)	1,593 lbs.
Shredded Paper	1,095 lbs.
Tin	540 lbs.
Combined Total	23,542 lbs.

Grant Awards in July, August, and September 2022	
USDA Local Food Purchase Assistance Program	\$271,600
SAMHSA Tribal Opioid Response Grant	\$500,000
OVC Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside	\$609,751
DOJ Tribal Justice Systems Strategic Planning Program	\$122,600
Total	\$ 1,503,951

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Language Notes

BY BECI WRIGHT
WYANDOTTE NATION

Kweh qmatəru? ! (Hello, friends!)
It is now **yanəda?yé"deh** (Autumn) and the days are getting shorter, and finally, cooler! **uturə? ndekətatéh** it's a cold day.

I enjoy watching the different **yárhí?** (trees) as the **u"drahta?** (leaves) change colors. A **tanyó:nyəha?** (rabbit) often hides in the fallen leaves so my **yanyənoh** (dog) won't notice her.

Yanəda?yé"deh leads to **yuhšréndeh** (winter), the time for storytelling. Our Storytelling session will happen on Jan. 14. It will be filled with traditional stories as well as contemporary ones – please join us and bring a story if you can!

November, however, is most often associated with food and giving thanks: **yakwá?** (food); **a?tekwató?mesonyo?** (we give many thanks); **etsikwa"gyá:ha?** (we are going to eat).

When gathered together, try using **yatərhəshásta?** (I am hungry) and **ye?"dahšátəh** (I am thirsty). Be sure to say **tižaməh** (thank you) to the cook(s)!

Looking ahead, here is a reminder of some phrases you can use for the holidays:

A:skwátəta:rə? "de mətawáhstih a?yaó? (Happy Holidays – literally “May you be happy the good day comes”)

Žesus ahatəgya? (Christmas)

A:skwátəta:rə? "de ya?"de"gyáse? a?yaó? (Happy New Year)

Remember: AUDIO files are

available at wandat.org (click on “Turtle Talk”) and join me every third Wednesday of the month at Wandat Wednesdays (on ZOOM) to practice together.

(To sign up for Wa"dat Wednesdays online in the 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.)

Tižaməh! Etsiskwayə? (I will see y'all again!)

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

Interested in Wa"dat 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 Wa"dat. 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

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

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a video on Facebook on the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center page that showed all of the entries and the winners. Congratulations for Best of Show to Nathan McAlister with his painting “The Herd”.

We had a little bit of time to reorganize after all the events and we started planning events for the future. Wa"dat languages classes via Zoom have started back up this fall with a lot of Wyandotte Citizens. Thursday nights at 6 pm, we meet at the Cultural Center to learn Wa"dat songs. November is Native American Heritage Month. We will be having classes and events throughout the month. Chris and Joshua will be doing presentations at several schools - if you would like someone to do presentations about the Wyandottes at your schools, you can give us a call and we can schedule a visit or a Zoom presentation. Staff will also be traveling to Monroe, Michigan to the River Raisin National Battlefield Park at the beginning of November to teach Wyandotte Days to local schools.

Upcoming Cultural Events – Please check our social media for more updates!

November 3, 10, 17 - Wa"dat Songs at WNCC at 6 pm (Thursdays)

November 8 (2nd Tuesday of the Month) – Beading Class via Zoom and in person at 6 pm Central

November 9 – Wyandotte Book Club at Noon and 7:30 pm via Zoom

November 12 – Pucker Toe Moccasins Class at WNCC

November 15 – Rock Your Moccs Day! (Wear your moccasins!)

November 16 - Wa"dat Wednesday at Noon and 8 pm via Zoom

November 29 – Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum with Lloyd Divine

December 1, 8, 15, 22 - Wa"dat Songs

at WNCC at 6 pm (Thursdays)

December 7 – Basic Wyandotte Class (pre-requisite to getting a name) at 8 pm via Zoom

December 13 – Beading Class via Zoom and in person at 6 pm Central

December 27 - Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum with Lloyd Divine

January 10 - Beading Class via Zoom and in person at 6 pm Central

January 14 – Winter Story Telling, Dinner, and Social Dance

January 31 - Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum with Lloyd Divine

Tižaməh for all of the participation from all of our citizens all over the country! We have grown so close to so many of you and it's exciting to learn with you all! If you find yourself in a position you are able to help out and you have a special skill, we are always looking for Wyandotte Citizens to utilize for special projects! Please reach out to us and let us know how you can contribute!

Tižaməh,
Kim Garcia Tətsi?tara?ť
Cultural Preservation Officer
Inyqmarihú?ťə? Ahəhtasta?

Department Contacts:

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Wyandotte Book Club!

The Cultural Center hosts an online book club using ZOOM every quarter. Our November selection is Nov. 9 and was on *The Poet Warrior: A Memoir* by Joy Harjo, recent three-term Poet Laureate of the United States. It was a great audiobook as it was read/sung by the author! Our February title will be *The Firekeeper's Daughter* by Angeline Boulley and Book Club will be held Feb. 22, 2023 at noon and 7:30 PM CST.

Upcoming titles include *An Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King, and *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* by Drew Hayden Taylor. To register for Book Club (if you never have before) and receive the zoom link, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBookClub>. If you'd like to suggest future titles, they 1) must be written by a native author, 2) must be available in paperback, and 3) must be available as an audiobook. If you are interested in leading a future session, please let us know at bwright@wyandotte-nation.org.

Directory of Wyandotte Names

Being gifted a traditional name in our Wandat language means that no other Wyandotte has the same name. 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/WNNames> 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!) Tižaməh! 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.

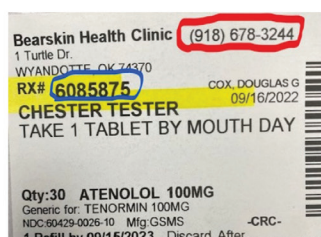
TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

BEARSKIN HEALTHCARE PHARMACY

Dear Bearskin Healthcare Pharmacy Clients,
To help us to better serve you, please call in refill requests by utilizing the automated refill system. It's really simple and goes a long way toward making our Pharmacy have a more efficient workflow.

1. **Dial 918-678-3244.** It can be found in the upper right-hand portion of your prescription label. (It is circled in red in the example below.) Have your prescription bottle handy.
2. **Follow the voice instructions given.**
3. **Press 1** to refill a prescription.
4. **Enter your prescription number.** PLEASE USE THE MOST RECENT PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE as it will have the most recent prescription number!

The prescription number is located just above your name on the label. This number and your name are both highlighted in yellow. It is circled in blue in the example attached.



5. The system will ask you to confirm the first three letters of the last name on the prescription. **Press 1 if it is correct.**
6. If you need to enter another prescription, **press 1, if not press 2.**
7. That's it! Pretty simple.

Please keep in mind that refills called in during business hours will be ready the following business day after 1pm.

REFILLS BY MAIL

As of Oct. 17, 2022, Medication Refills will be available by mail for *most* chronic medications. We are pleased to offer this service as a way for our patients to save time and money.

New prescriptions will not be mailed. These must be picked up at the clinic.

How do I get started with Refills by Mail?

1. **Enrollment** must be made in person at Bearskin Healthcare Pharmacy. A form will be available for each patient to register for refills by mail. Patients under the age of 18, must have a parent/guardian signature.
2. **To request refills**, call the **Automated Refill Line: 918-678-3244. This is the number on your prescription label.** If you get a message that says your prescriptions are on "HOLD" or "there are no refills remaining" the Pharmacy will get these messages and process them accordingly. If you are told by the automated system that it is too early to refill your medications, call back 7 days prior to running out of meds.
3. **ALWAYS UPDATE** your current address and telephone number with Registration **AND** the Pharmacy. If packages are returned due to incorrect addresses you will be disenrolled from the Refill by Mail program.
4. You may call in to request refills up to 7 days early to allow time for processing and mailing. NOTIFY THE PHARMACY if you have not received your meds within 7 days, otherwise, non-notification will be accepted as confirmation of medication delivery.
5. **Controlled medications** (Tylenol with Codeine, clonazepam, tramadol, Lyrica, butalbital products, diphenoxylate/atropine, testosterone injection/gel, Provigil, and others) **will not be eligible** for refills by mail.
6. **CHECK your mail regularly** on the days following your requests to help prevent loss and exposure to the elements. If you have several medications you may receive more than one package. If you repeatedly have medications that come up missing we may disenroll you from the RBM program.
7. **PLEASE CONSOLIDATE** refill requests as much as possible to help keep postage costs down.

The pharmacy reserves the right to dismiss any patient from the program as necessary. Reasons for dismissal include but are not limited to; returned deliveries, missed or denied receipt of medications, chronic early refill requests, failure to keep scheduled appointments, etc.

Healthcare & Wellness

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

Flu shots will be given in the Bearskin Drive Thru Clinic, beginning Monday, Oct. 17. No appointment is necessary.

Department Contacts:

Kelly Friend, Director 918-678-3259
John Bearden, Compliance Officer / Vac-

cines 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

ALERT on RAINBOW FENTANYL

BACKGROUND

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that can quickly cause overdose. It is 50 times more potent than heroin and 100 times more potent than morphine, making it a major contributor to the 150+ synthetic overdose deaths occurring every day.

SITUATION

In recent months, brightly colored fentanyl tablets, powder, and blocks that look like candy or sidewalk chalk have been trending nationally amongst our youth (see images below). These products, known as rainbow fentanyl, are targeted to increase addiction in young people and are often packaged in commercial product packaging (such as holiday candy). Due to their potency, very small amounts can cause damage to the brain, and lead to overdoses or overdose death.

ACTION

Naloxone saves lives by reversing opioid overdose. It is quick and easy to administer, with trainings available across the country. Communities, parents, and teachers working with youth should consider educating on the dangers of rainbow fentanyl and seek naloxone training to prevent overdose deaths.

To complete training online, visit
<https://www.ihs.gov/opioids/naloxone/naloxonetoolkit/>.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

1. <https://www.cdc.gov/stopoverdose/fentanyl/index.html>
2. <https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/08/30/dea-warns-brightly-colored-fentanyl-used-target-young-americans>
3. <https://www.dea.gov/fentanylawareness>



Important Numbers

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

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

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

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

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

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

Education / Library / Child Care
Cristi Hudson (918) 678-6334
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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
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Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center
Kelly Friend (918) 678-3259
kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org

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

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

Pharmacy (call-in only)
(918) 678-3244

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

Contract Health
Bridget Hart (918) 678-3227
bhart@wyandotte-nation.org

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

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

2022

VETERANS HONOR LUNCH

Nov.
10

11:15 am @ Title VI Building



ELDERS THANKSGIVING DINNER

Nov.
17

11:30am-1pm @ Title VI Building



CHILDRENS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Dec.
10

10am-Noon @ Bearskin Health-care & Wellness Gym



ELDERS CHRISTMAS DINNER

Dec.
15

11:30am-1pm @ Title VI Building



2023

LACROSSE CAMP

JUNE
20-23



GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

JUNE
23-25



FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

JULY
TBD

Gates open 6pm @ Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds



GATHERING

SEPT.
4-8



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!