



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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August 2023

Events in Pictures

Gathering of Little Turtles, other events highlighted in images

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Inside:

- Tribe to move forward with plans after ruling
- **Public Notice: Notice of Annual Meeting**
- Town Hall Meeting to be held in Arizona Oct. 28

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
 Gathering of
 Little Turtles
 station during
 the opening day
 of the event.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM SWAIM

Contact Us

Have News?

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

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Long-awaited ruling comes in Park City case

Summer is here and with it, a renewed spirit of optimism for what the future holds for the Wyandotte Nation. On Monday, July 3rd the Wyandotte Nation received some much-anticipated good news. The United States Tenth Circuit Court of Court of Appeals in Denver issued its decision in a three-decade-long legal dispute between the Wyandotte Nation and the State of Kansas. The verdict affirms the 2020 Federal District Court decision allowing the Wyandotte Nation to continue with casino activities on the disputed 10-acre Park City parcel of land. This long-awaited settlement puts an end to our protracted territorial dispute and sets the way for future economic development projects. We are very excited to get started on the next phase of development in Park City, Kansas.

This last court victory continues to prove that free enterprise and resourcefulness have long been characteristics of the Wyandotte Nation and Wyandotte people. This spirit of determination and perse-

verance has served us well over the years and continues to do so in the present day.

It is with this determination that our leadership developed a deliberate plan to exercise the Wyandotte Nation's inherent sovereignty and our right of self-determination for the benefit of the Wyandotte people.

Among the many aspects of this plan, are the ideas of economic development and job creation. Our strategy for progress through self-determination includes an investment in business diversification and economic development. Returns on those investments are reinvested in the lives of the Wyandotte people.

Tribal commerce and businesses continue to steadily grow and now contribute a majority of the funding necessary to sustain our operations, programs, and services.

New facilities and expanded services represent an investment in the lives and families of the Wyandotte people we serve. We are motivated by the success and

security of Wyandottes in every endeavor, decision, and project we undertake.

Since our Constitution was ratified in 1999, we have witnessed remarkable growth and development through the exercise of tribal sovereignty and self-governance. We have worked to create new opportunities for the Wyandotte people in the areas of affordable housing, quality health care, educational opportunities, economic development, and cultural preservation.

Our growth and development did not happen overnight. It has been a steady climb based on the hard work, thoughtful stewardship, and determination of hundreds of Wyandotte Nation employees. We have also depended on input from our citizens to help us achieve our mission "To improve the overall quality of life of the Wyandotte people."

As we look to the future, we are excited for the future of the Wyandotte Nation! May God bless you and may God continue to bless the Wyandotte Nation.

From the Second Chief

Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Growth in Wyandotte continues

Kweh Omateru
 Hello, my friends, here we are in another hot summer but I guess it wouldn't be summer if it wasn't hot. We sure could use some rain as everything is dry and dusty. There has been rain forecast for our area, but it seems to miss us every time. Oh well, enough about our weather problems, I am sure it is worse somewhere else in the world.

The Wyandotte True Value Hardware Store is now open and ready to meet all the hardware needs of the area. Our new Title VI building is really coming along

great and should be finished ahead of schedule. After the Title VI building is completed we can start on the Preschool addition and the Domestic Violence department building. We are building more duplexes on Turtle Hill and in Heritage Acres. The growth here at the Wyandotte Nation continues to increase for the betterment of the community and the Wyandotte Nation.

The history for this issue will be about landmarks that you can visit in Upper Sandusky, Ohio if anyone is in that area of the Wyandotte's

last recognized reservation.

I might add this information was taken out of Ronald Marvin's book, 'A Brief History of Wyandot County, Ohio:'

The Walker House, home of William Walker, a quarter-blood Wyandotte, was built about 1820 near the intersection of Walker and Fourth Streets. The house still stands as a private dwelling on Fourth Street slightly northeast of



PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Annual Meeting

On September 9, 2023, the Wyandotte Nation shall hold its Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Annual Meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. Please note that citizens will be required to pres-

ent a photo ID and Tribal Membership/Citizenship Card. If the Tribal Card has a photo on it, this will satisfy both of these requirements.

The Election Committee of the Wyandotte Nation has determined that there are no contested posts for elective office within the government of

the Wyandotte Nation for 2023. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, September 9, 2023, per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

— **Zach Shockey, Chairman Election Committee**

2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

the Elks Lodge, the approximate location of Fort Ferree. Walker also erected a trading post about 1825 south of his home. By the time the pioneers began to settle in the area, the Walker Store was being operated by John Walker.

As noted earlier in the book, the Wyandottes supported the Americans during the War of 1812 and, as a result, were rewarded for their loyalty. The Treaty of Maumee Rapids in 1817 provided that the government would "erect a sawmill and a gristmill, upon some proper part of the Wyandot reservation, for their use." The spot chosen was along the west bank of the Sandusky River about three miles north of Upper Sandusky. Charles Garrett was selected to construct the mills.

Construction on the mill dam and sawmill was begun in 1819. The sawmill reportedly used an "up and down saw." By the next year, the two mills had been completed. It is believed this was the first and only time the government built multiple mills on an Indian reservation with federal funds. It is unknown exactly how the original mills appeared, as no images survive and only brief descriptions of the buildings exist. It is known that the gristmill was a single-story, square building constructed of walnut. According to Indian agent

Colonel John Johnston's notes, the mills and dam cost about \$4,000 to erect. According to Harry Kinley's notes, John Garrett built the mills.

The U.S. government appointed millers to operate the mills for the Wyandottes, and Charles White was reportedly the first one appointed. He earned \$15 a month during his three years. On May 2, 1825, a group of Wyandotte chiefs, including Warpole, Mononcue, and Between-the-Logs, met at the council house to draft a resolution regarding the operation of the Indian Mill. The resolution allowed Reverend James Finley to sign a contract with "some competent person to attend the Indian Mill, provided the wages shall not exceed \$375 per year." This contract was signed with Charles Garrett, who worked there for two years. He was followed as a miller by Jonathon Briley, John Johnson, and Lewis Rummel.

In about 1835, a fire destroyed the original one-story gristmill. Needing funds to rebuild the mill, as well as pay other expenses, a five-mile-wide strip of land off the east end of the reservation was sold at a public auction in Marion, Ohio. The new mill was erected in 1836 and served the Wyandottes until they left for Kansas in 1843. The mills were leased to various millers until being purchased at

public auction by George Myers in 1848. The sawmill and gristmill were dismantled in 1861 with the salvaged materials used by millwright Lewis Rummel to erect the current Indian Mill.

The Wyandotte Council House was located at Cranetown (then known as Upper Sandusky) until Chief Tarhe's death in 1818. This building stood approximately a mile and a half north of the village. It was constructed primarily of split logs set between uprights with tree bark covering the roof and a dirt floor. The structure measured roughly one hundred feet long by fifteen feet wide. Logs were placed on their sides for seats. Shortly after Tarhe's death, the Council House was moved to present-day Upper Sandusky. The former village was renamed Crane-town in honor of Chief Tarhe.

The new Council House was constructed similarly to the earlier structure on a bluff overlooking the west end of today's Harrison Smith Park. It was replaced in 1830 by a small two-story frame structure (18x24 feet) that resembled the other log structures in the area. The logs were prepared at the Wyandotte sawmill, located north of the village. It was used until the Wyandottes left in 1843.

Moses H. Kirby later acquired the old Council House and land.

According to Wyandot County commissioners' records, on April 16, 1845, the commissioners authorized the county auditor "to issue an order in favor of Col. Kirby for \$30 in full payment of his interest in said house." The old structure was soon repaired and refurbished "for the accommodation of the county offices." The old Council House witnessed the first session of the Court of Common Pleas of Wyandot County on July 1, 1845. Realizing the limitations of the "courthouse," the commissioners began the process to replace the old structure in January 1846. Sold for \$250 to a local businessman in 1850, the building was used as a print shop and eventually a schoolhouse. A fire consumed the wood structure and all of its contents in 1851, ending the story of one of Upper Sandusky's more prominent buildings.

The location of the Wyandotte Council House and a nearby cemetery are commemorated in a small park overlooking the bluff. Recently, excavations uncovered several limestone foundation stones from the structure. Two of these stone fragments were presented to the Wyandot County Museum for display. These sights anyone can visit when they are in the Upper Sandusky area as well as the Wyandot County Museum, a lot of Wyandotte History there, well worth the trip.

"Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself."

—Chief Seattle

TOWN HALL MEETING SET FOR ARIZONA: The Wyandotte Nation is headed back to Arizona and will host a Town Hall Meeting in Scottsdale, Ariz., Saturday, Oct. 28. The Town Hall will be held at the Hotel Valley Ho, 6580 East Main Street, Scottsdale, AZ 85251 (480-376-2600). More information about both meetings will be announced on the website and Facebook, as we get closer to the meeting time as well as postcards will be mailed to all adult tribal citizens who reside in Arizona.

10th Circuit Court: DOI bound to take land into trust, upholds earlier court decision Tribe to move forward with plans after ruling

By JACKSON OVERSTREET

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ABC NEWS

PARK CITY, Kan. (KAKE) - It's a Wednesday afternoon, and dozens of people are testing their luck inside the Crosswinds casino in Park City.

The small casino was opened by the Wyandotte Nation back in 2021, and originally the building was only supposed to be a temporary site before the Tribe launched a bigger operation.

"Our plans are to build a casino resort," says Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "We have 10

1/2 acres that have been taken into trust for gaming. And then we also have another approximately 125 acres."

Those plans had been on hold while the state of Kansas was challenging a ruling from the US Department of the Interior back in 2020 that granted the Tribe the ability to have gaming on part of its land.

On Monday, July 3, the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the Department of the Interior's decision, clearing the way for the Tribe to start planning for expansion.

Friend says, "It will probably be

a three to four-phase project. Our first phase will probably be a full-blown casino with restaurants."

After the casino, the second phase would be expanding the hotel they bought and renovated earlier this year. Friend says the Tribe would open up what remains of their land for other development.

"Really looking ahead there's a lot of opportunity there for real estate development. You know, we'd like to see a lot of economic activity take place on the 130 acres there," Friend explained.

The first phase of the project could be done in as little as two years. Friend says the wait will be

worth it.

"We purchased that land in 1992, and I've been working on this project since 2006 and so to finally see things begin to start to come to fruition is very exciting for us," Friend said.

The tribe is also going through the process of changing its gaming pact with the federal government to allow for card games and potentially sports betting. It hopes to have that done in time with the expanded casino.

KAKE News reached out to the Governor and Attorney General's office for comment but has not yet heard back.

MORE NEWS & NOTES

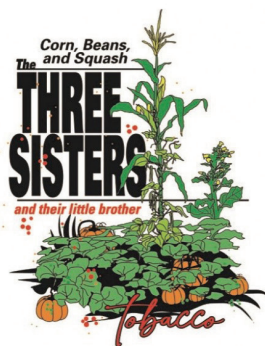


Chief Friend honored with tribal leader award

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend was the keynote speaker and was honored with the Distinguished Tribal Leader Award at the NEO American Indian Center for Excellence pinning and award ceremony. Congrats Chief!

2023 Gathering

The 2023 Gathering will be Sept. 5-8. All Wyandottes/Wyandots and spouses are welcome to attend. There will be time for history, arts, lifeways, language, and social dancing. This year, we will be focusing on



plants and how we used them for food, tools, and medicine. You can register for the Gathering, and all Cultural events, at linktr.ee/wncm.

Wyandotte Artisan Showcase 2023

Wyandotte Nation will be hosting an exhibit for all Wyandotte artisans. The opening reception and award ceremony will be on Thursday, Sept. 7, at 6:30 pm at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum during the Gathering.

Artist applications and artwork are due at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum by Thursday, Aug. 31, at noon. Special arrangements may be made with Kim Garcia by Aug. 31, to submit artwork at a later date. More information and application may be found at linktr.ee/wncm.

Employees recognized for hard work, service to Tribe

The Wyandotte Nation held an Employee Appreciation event in May with a week of activities. During this time, several employees celebrated Service Awards, and another was named Employee of the Year.

Kristi Johnston was recognized by tribal leadership and fellow employees as the 'Employee of the Year' for her work as a Crime Victim Advocate. Congratulations Kristi!

In addition, tribal leadership recognized several employees for their years of service,



including Lisa Arnold (5 years), Jaimee Walls (5), William Swaim (10), Jordan Jenkins (15), Shirley Mangum (20), Donna Spaulding (20), Steve Walker (25), and Chief Billy Friend (25 years).

Events in Images



PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM |
WYANDOTTE NATION
The Wyandotte Nation hosted a variety of events the last few months, including a Fireworks Celebration, the Gathering of Little Turtles and Lacrosse Camp, and Preschool Graduation ceremony. For more images from these events, visit our Facebook page.

Continued from Page 4

Team meets to develop plan addressing crime, public safety

The US Department of Justice awarded Wyandotte Nation \$122,600 in October 2022 in order to address crime and public safety problems and develop a data-informed, comprehensive justice system strategic plan. The grant-funded project includes training and technical assistance from Fox Valley Technical College. They recently provided guidance and in-person training to the strategic planning team June 7-8 in the education classroom at the Fitness Center. Planning team members included Wyandotte Nation staff Kim Harnar, Kim Garcia, Beci Wright, Lisa Arnold, Tara Gragg, Holly Hilliard, Donna Spaulding, Christen Lee,

Michael Lowery, Samantha Proctor-Smith, Kristy Fink, Ronnie Gilmore, and Faron Lee. After the initial training in February, the strategic planning team developed a vision and mission statement for the plan:

Vision
We envision a holistic, innovative approach to justice, equality, and equity for all.

Mission Statement
The Wyandotte Nation Justice System fosters safety and restorative interventions through a collaborative approach with adequately trained professionals committed to providing cultural and community balance in order to facilitate security, healing, restoration, and transparency.

The recent training was part of Phase 2, which involved: Determining additional data to be collected from Phase 1 Training; Reviewing initial



data sets; Planning for conducting focus groups, talking circles, and interviews; and Preparing to conduct a community needs assessment and analyze data.

COMMUNITY NEWS

Tribal Enrollment deadline is Aug. 15

Eligibility for enrollment with the Wyandotte Nation is governed by the Constitution and Enrollment Ordinance. New members are voted into citizenship each year at the Annual Meeting.

Eligible applicants must trace directly to an ancestor listed on a Wyandotte roll between 1881 and the present day. Applications must be received in the Family Services office by Aug. 15 if being hand delivered or postmarked by this date if being mailed.

Applications for minors must be signed by the legal parent/guardian and applications for adults must be signed by the applicant. An original state-certified birth certificate must accompany the application. If the Wyandotte parent's name is not listed on the birth certificate then DNA "for legal purposes" is required and must be submitted directly to the Enrollment office from the lab.

Applications received prior to a child's first birthday will receive a commemorative blanket, a \$100 Walmart gift card, and either a ribbon skirt or shirt.

If you have any questions regarding enrollment please call Haylee Botts at 918-678-6377 or Dana Butterfield at 918-678-6319. You can also reach the Enrollment staff via email at wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org

ANNUAL MEETING NOTE:

The Annual Meeting will not have a drive-thru option this year. It will be an in-person meeting, and also broadcast on Facebook Live (more details to come later).

Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP)

The Affordable Connectivity Program is a government program that is intended to assist certain populations with the cost of connecting to wireless and internet services. To see if you qualify, visit getinternet.gov or call (800) 384-2575.



32nd Annual Wyandotte Pow-Wow September 8, 9, 10, 2023 \$75,000



Head Staff

Head Singer
Jim Kemble

Head Gourd Dancer
Jason Bender

Head Man Dancer
Simon Washee

Head Judge
Jay Blalock

Master of Ceremonies
Wade Blevins

Incoming Sr. Princess
Chloe Friend

Host Northern Drum
Red Land

Honor Guard
Wyandotte Honor Guard

Head Lady Dancer
Jesenia Velez

Arena Director
Dude Blalock

Wyandotte Nation Princess
Sara Wright

Incoming Jr. Princess
Veyda Marlow

Head Lady Special

MEN VS WOMEN FANCY (18+)

Two (2) songs each category [Straight/Change Up]

Judges pick three (3) finalist

Top three (3) in each category will dance against one another

Two songs, two starts back to back

21st Annual Veterans Honor Program

Friday Evening | 8pm

Women's Jingle
Jr. Girls' Cloth
Men's Grass
Jr. Boys' Straight
Men's Golden Age

49 Contest - Jay Blalock

Saturday Afternoon | 1:30pm

Jr. Boys' Grass
Women's Cloth
Jr. Girls' Fancy Shawl
Men's Straight

All specials held
Saturday afternoon
excluding Head Staff

Saturday Evening | 7pm

Jr. Girls' Jingle
Men's Fancy
Jr. Boys' Traditional
Women's Buckskin
Women's Golden Age

Stomp Dance - Wade Blevins

Sunday Afternoon | 1:30pm

Women's Fancy Shawl
Men's Traditional
Jr. Girls' Buckskin
Jr. Boys' Fancy
Tiny Tots

Grandparent's Day
Honor Dance

Gourd dancing - 1 hour prior to all sessions

Must be registered and participate in two grand entries and two exhibitions to qualify for contest. May only be registered in one category for contest. Must be in full dress to receive contest money. All decision by committee are final. The schedule is intended as a guide only and is subject to change at the discretion of the Pow-Wow Committee.



All food vendors must have valid
Oklahoma food handlers permit.

Not responsible for thefts or accidents.
Absolutely no firearms, drugs,
or alcohol allowed!

No personal shades setup before
Friday Afternoon. No pets allowed.

Vendor/Pow-Wow Info
Sherri Clemons | (918) 678-6344
WNCC | 5 Council Fire Rd, Wyandotte, OK 74370

Wyandotte Pow-Wow Grounds
69701 E Hwy 60, Wyandotte, OK 74370

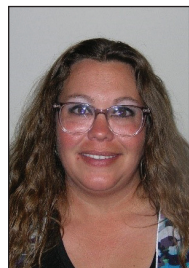
Host Hotel
Indigo Sky Hotel | (888) 992-7591
70220 US-60, Wyandotte, OK 74370

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department is very happy to welcome Lacy Butler as a Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Advocate, and Hannah Rhodes as an Administrative Assistant.



BUTLER



RHODES

Lacy worked most of her adult life in the medical field, starting off in the emergency room for four years. She left there and worked in a call center at AT&T for approximately four years, then became a stay-at-home mom. She stayed home with her three boys for 2 1/2 years. During that time, Lacy also

did in-home childcare for a few other children and volunteered as a "team mom" for her oldest boys' baseball team, was a basketball coach, and led marketing/advertising through the PTO for the annual Cecil Floyd Craft Show. In the fall of 2015, she began at Ozark Center, where she worked for almost eight years in the mental health/substance use field. Lacy graduated from Wyandotte High School in 2003 and attended NEO. Her hobbies include attending sporting events and concerts as well as arts and crafts. Lacy enjoys spending time with family and friends and attending sporting events, concerts, and movies. Hannah graduated from Wyandotte High School. Before she graduated, she received her CNA license. When Hannah was 17, she worked in three different nursing homes in the area. She has worked for Turtle Stop for two years. Hannah loves swimming, bowling, animals, art, music, fishing, golf, movies, and gaming. She enjoys gardening and cooking. Hannah enjoys spending time with her sister and friends. She loves her two dogs and three cats so much. She also has three fish.

Employee Appreciation!



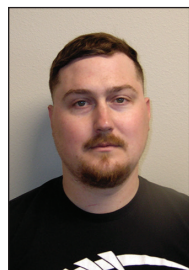
PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation hosted its annual weeklong Employee Appreciation event in late May. Wyandotte Nation Chief of Staff Kim Harnar, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr., and HR Director Deana Howard made the rounds to the different departments and surprised them with goodies with an 'orange' theme. Employees were also treated to coffee one morning.



We are very fortunate to have Lacy and Hannah on our team and wish them success in their new positions.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Brady Barrett as a Police Officer. Brady graduated from Wyandotte High School and served five years in the military. He has three years of law enforcement experience. His hobbies include going to the shooting range, snowboarding, and riding his motorcycle. Brady enjoys spending time with



BARRETT

his dog King. We are very excited to have Brady in his new position and wish him success.

Ashley Harrison has joined the Education Department as an Early Childhood Toddler Program Assistant. Ashley graduated from Wyandotte High School. She attended NEO for a year before going



HARRISON

to MSSU while working part-time. She worked for the Eastern Shawnee Learning Center during her college years. Ashley enjoys reading in her downtime. She also enjoys going out on the boat in the summer at the lake. She hunts and fishes during their seasons. Ashley spends the majority of her time with her husband and two sons. We are pleased to have Ashley and wish her much success in her new position.

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome Paula Boettler as a Clinical Compliance Officer for the clinic, and Courtney Parker as a Registered Nurse.

Paula has worked as a community pharmacist/clinical pharmacist for 13 years. Some of her responsibilities included coordinating vaccination efforts, point-of-care testing, diabetes

education programs, and medication optimization. She has her Doctor of Pharmacy degree from UMKC, a

Board of Certified Ambulatory Care Pharmacist, and a Bachelor of Science degree in Biochemistry from the University of Missouri. Paula enjoys gardening, sewing, crafting, reading, and watching British detective shows. She loves to spend time with her husband and her two children. She also enjoys traveling.

Courtney graduated from Riverton High School and graduated nursing school at NEO A&M. She has



BOETTLER



PARKER

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Please be sure to follow the Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP) on social media for outreach and awareness events throughout the month of October.

According to the National Institute for Justice, American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Men are victimized at higher rates than the general population. Here are five things to know about this epidemic that affects our families on a daily basis:

1. Most American Indian and Alaska Native adults are victims of violence. More than four in five AIAN adults (83%) have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime. That's almost 3 million people who have experienced psychological aggression or physical violence by intimate partners, stalking, or sexual violence.

2. Men and women are victimized at similar rates but in different ways. AIAN women and men have been victimized at similar rates (84.3% for women and 81.6% for men) for psychological aggression and physical violence. However, women experience higher levels of sexual violence and stalking.

3. Victimization rates are higher for AIAN. The lifetime victimization rate is 1.2 times as high for AIAN women as for Caucasian; for men, it is 1.3 times as high.

4. AIAN female victims are more likely to need services but are less likely to have access to those services. More than two in five AIAN female victims reported being physically injured and almost half reported needing services. The services most commonly needed were medical care and legal services. Unfortunately, more than a third (38%) were unable to receive necessary services.

5. For AIAN, interracial violence is more prevalent than intraracial. Although the exact number of victimizations per person is unknown, it is clear that more AIAN victims have experienced at least one act of violence committed by an interracial perpetrator (97% of women and 90% of men). Fewer victims (35% of women and 33% of men) have experienced one or more acts of violence by an AIAN perpetrator.

If you or someone you know is experiencing violence in their intimate partner relationship, please reach out to us via our toll-free hotline at 877-267-0669 or by email at fvpp@wyandottenation.org. All services are provided confidentially.

Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,
Family Services Director*

The 2023 Gathering, Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting are just around the corner and the Family Services staff, as always, are excited to see our tribal citizens gathered for these events! This is such a great time of year for Wyandotte citizens to come together to learn about the Tribe, fellowship with other citizens, and have fun.

The Gathering will begin Tuesday, Sept. 5, and run through Friday, Sept. 8. This event is a wonderful time for citizens to learn about the history, culture, customs, and language of our people. Many of our citizens have built life-long friendships with fellow Wyandottes by attending this event each year.

The Pow-Wow will begin on Friday evening the 8th and conclude on Sunday afternoon. While Wyandotte people didn't traditionally Pow-Wow, we have adopted this custom along with many of our local Oklahoma tribal neighbors. During each session of the Pow-Wow, spectators will be able to witness some of the best competition dancers from not only Oklahoma but from across the country! There will also be time for everyone to dance, listen to some great singing/drumming, and do some shopping on vendor row.

The Annual Meeting will be held

at 10 am Saturday morning, Sept. 9, in the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gymnasium, with registration opening at 9 am. During the meeting, the Chief and 2nd Chief will provide tribal citizens with an update on the State of the Nation. New tribal citizens are also voted into the Tribe during the meeting. Adult citizens must present their tribal citizen/membership card and a photo ID to receive the meeting handouts. If the tribal ID includes a photo you will only need one card. A CDIB will not be sufficient for meeting registration; it must be a card that shows your Wyandotte roll number. There will not be a drive-thru option for the Meeting this year, however, the meeting will be available via Facebook live on the "Wyandotte Nation Citizens" group page. Lunch will be provided at the Artie Nesvold Community Center/Title VI building immediately following the meeting.

There will be a question and answer session after lunch for anyone who has questions for tribal leadership and/or the economic development team.

Additional information regarding each of these events can be found elsewhere in this newsletter. Also, be sure to watch our social media pages and website for updates and details as we get closer to the events.

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worked at Mercy Hospital for the last 17 years. She was an RN in Labor & Delivery as well as cardiology. Courtney's hobbies include everyday sports games or practices and she wouldn't have it any other way! When she does get a break, she loves the beach. She loves spending time with her family - her husband Shawn and three kids, Emmah (15), Eli (13), and Landree (5).

We are very fortunate to have Paula and Courtney at the Wyandotte Nation and wish them success in their positions.

The Environmental Department welcomes Jesus Pulido as a Water Operator II. Jesus spent the

last two years working toward his journeyman license. He has worked as a journeyman plumber for various builders. His



PULIDO

hobbies include hiking and outdoor activities as well as video games. Jesus enjoys spending time with family and teaching his son new things. He is excited to work for the Wyandotte Nation. We are

very fortunate to have Jesus on our team and wish him success in his new position.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 8

The deadline for tribal enrollment applications is Aug. 15. Please be sure to have applications either hand delivered or postmarked by this date to be considered for enrollment at the Annual Meeting. Each application must be accompanied by an original state-certified birth certificate and all applicants who submit the required documentation prior to a child's first birthday will receive a commemorative blanket and a \$100 Walmart gift card. The Cultural Department will also provide each applicant who meets this deadline with a ribbon skirt or shirt.

The Family Services Department recently welcomed Hannah Rhodes as the new Administrative Assistant for the Family Violence Prevention Program. Hannah transferred to the Department from the Turtle Stop where she has worked for two years. She will office at the front desk of the Family Services and Gaming building so you will be seeing her when you visit our offices. Another new staff member is Lacy Butler, who will serve as a Domestic Violence/Youth Sexual Assault Advocate. We're excited to have both as new members of our team.

Please keep in mind, for all Family Services social service programs, that it may take up to 30 days for you to receive your reimbursement or for your payment to show if being made to an account. We do our best to process applications as quickly as possible, but there are times when it may take a bit longer. If you have a bank account on file with the Tribe for your payments to be direct deposited, please make sure you notify us if there are any changes.

The School Supply Program started July 1 and is available to all students nationwide pre-k (must be at least 3 and enrolled in a qualified learning program) through grade

12. Each student is eligible for up to \$200 for school supplies, clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. Walmart gift cards are available or you can be reimbursed for expenses. Please note that all applications and receipts must be original so they need to be mailed or hand-delivered. Applications for both the gift card and the reimbursement program are available on the website as well as a one-page guideline. Each child must be on a separate application with separate receipts. Applications MUST be postmarked or hand-delivered no later than Sept. 30. If you have questions, please call Leeanna at 918-678-6329.

The Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) began July 1 and will be available on a first come first serve basis to those living in the state of Oklahoma and has an income requirement. Eligible families have the choice to apply for LIHEAP either through the state of Oklahoma or with the Tribe. Eligible households may only use LIHEAP from one entity per year during the winter and again during the summer. For questions please call Tara Gragg at 918-678-6355.

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

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

Wyandotte Nation Family Services: wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org
Family Violence Prevention Program: fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org

Primary Contact numbers for Family Services Programs:

Dana Butterfield, Director, 918-678-6319

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

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

Haylee Botts, Enrollment Officer, 918-678-6377

Tiffany Garner, Tag Administrator, 918-678-6353

Lisa Arnold, FVPP Manager, 918-678-6324

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

The Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is currently processing the fall 2023 semester scholarships. Beginning with the fall 2023 semester, the scholarship amount

for the undergraduate and master's scholarships will increase to \$5,000 per semester for students enrolled full-time. If you are enrolled in less than 12 hours, your scholarship will be prorated to the number of hours you are attending. If you are currently in the scholarship program, please remember to send in your latest unofficial transcript that includes spring grades and fall schedule. 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, the following are guidelines 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, www.wyandotte-nation.org or you can email your request or any questions that you

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LIHEAP Program

The Summer LIHEAP program will be available for Wyandotte Nation citizens who meet the income eligibility guidelines and reside in Oklahoma beginning July 1. Please call Tara Gragg for applications or questions. (918) 678-6355.

School Supply Program

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

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Continued from Page 9

may have to Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist at ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org; or by calling his office at 918-678-6331. You may also contact Evan for a Wyandotte Nation Stole application. Stoles are available to college graduates that have participated in the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program. The stoles are also available to Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens who are graduating college but did not obtain a scholarship from the Wyandotte Nation. You will be required to fill out the stole application, located on the website, and submit all 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 once your application is approved and you have been notified.

The Wyandotte Nation's Library is now open to the public! The library hours are Monday through Thursday 8am to 4:30pm and on Friday 8am to 3:30pm. You will need a Wyandotte Nation Library card to check out books and/or DVDs. If you do not have a library card, you may obtain one online by filling out the application on the website at www.wyandotte-nation.org, or you can request one in person when visiting the library. If you cannot make it into the library, we are a member of Oklahoma Virtual Library, and if you have access to the internet, you may create an account using your phone, tablet, or PC and visit our virtual library at www.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. 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 Child Development Center is currently full in our infant/ones/toddler programs. We are accepting applications to be placed on a waiting list for those age groups. We are accepting applications for our preschool program. The first day of preschool will be Aug. 16. Applications are available on our website, or you may contact Lindsay Cooper for an application by email,

lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org or by phone at 918-678-3267.

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. 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 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,

Housing

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Housing Department provides housing for 115 families. A new Senior Duplex is currently being built, and plans are to build additional family housing.

If you are interested in living in this area, please fill out an application, which can be found on the website or picked up at the Housing Office. HUD guidelines are followed, and the rent is based on income.

The senior 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 55 and older and are interested in living in our housing addition, please fill out an application and return it to the housing office.

New equipment has been installed at Heritage Acres Park. The park is used by the community and is a great place for family

reunions or birthday parties. The splash pad has been the place to cool off. The operating hours are 9 am to 9 pm. The splash pad will be open until Sept. 11.

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 citizens 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

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

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.

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

Hello all,

Our new building is looking great! We should be ready to move in mid to late October.

We will be holding an Ice Cream Social/Bingo Aug. 11 from 10 am to 1 pm inside the First Christian Church in Miami, Okla.

We will be heading to Branson, Mo., Friday, Aug. 25, to see Clay Cooper. Show tickets are \$29. Lunch will be provided. The last day to sign up and pay is Aug. 14. The coach will leave from Wyandotte, Okla., promptly at 8 am.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Gathering, Annual

Meeting, and Pow-Wow. Lunch will be served following the Annual Meeting. You may dine in or carry out. The menu is (Hog Fry) deep fried pork chunks, brown beans, potato wedges, fry bread, and grape dumplings. Hot dogs, chips, and a cookie will also be provided as an alternative.

Our Annual Elder's Picnic will be held Thursday, Sept. 21, from 10 am until 2 pm at the fairgrounds in Miami, Okla. Charlie's Chicken will cater lunch. The theme will be the 80s.

The Bearskin Health Fair will be held Thursday, Oct. 26, from 9 am to 1 pm in Wyandotte at the gym. It will be a Halloween theme. Prizes will be given for the best costumes.

CAREGIVER

We hold a Caregiver Support Group on the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 am to 11:30 am in the Title VI Safe Room. Lunch is provided 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.

Medicare Part D

Join us in Branson for



Ticket Price \$29

Clay Cooper

August 25th at 2:00

Bus leaves at 8:00am

Lunch will be provided by the Tribe

Lunch will be before showtime

No refunds once paid

Medicare Part D

ICE CREAM SOCIAL & BINGO

August 11th

STARTS AT 10:00

CRAZY HAT CONTEST!

FIRST CHRISTIAN CHURCH MIAMI, OK

SUNDAES | MILKSHAKES

FLOATS | CONES

LOTS OF BINGO AND INCENTIVES!



TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Planning & Natural Resources

Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

The mission of the government 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 provide a variety of services including, but not limited to, private well drinking water sampling as and septic assessments for private home owners. We also encourage and provide a place to recycle. Lost Creek Recycling Center is open to the community and surrounding area Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and 8 am to 3:30 pm on Friday. The facility can accept the following materials: paper, plastic (#1 and #2), cardboard, magazines, newspaper, tin, and aluminum.

Thank you for recycling so many materials as we finished up the spring months! With the warmer temperatures, recycling has increased over the past couple of months. Amounts collected for the months of April thru June are listed in the table below:

With the joy of spring finally here, we kicked off the month of April with trainings and meetings in addition to our regular day-to-day activities. department staff attended an NRCS Conservation Training which was held at the ITC Office in Miami, Okla. Dr. Earthia Nance (EPA R6 Regional Administrator and her staff) visited the TCTCIT tribal em-

Solid Waste Collected in April, May, and June 2023	
Aluminum	290 lbs.
Cardboard	19,164 lbs.
Magazines	1,397 lbs.
Plastic (#1 and #2)	1,215 lbs.
Shredded Paper	2,183 lbs.
Tin	337 lbs.
Total	24,586 lbs.

ployees and was given a site tour of the tribal areas with environmental impacts. On the 12th Dr. Nance and staff met with tribal leaders at the ITC Office in Miami to discuss tribal environmental concerns. In attendance for this meeting from Wyandotte Nation were 2nd Chief Norman Hildebrand, Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch. The environmental department hosted their 13th annual Environmental Festival at the tribal pow-wow grounds. There were a total of 16 booths, 42 booth workers, 27 Wyandotte Nation Employee Volunteers, 500 students, 30 teachers and 3 para professionals, that took part in the event. The booths focused on various environmental topics and concerns that were of interest to the area tribes. Tribes represented were Wyandotte, Eastern Shawnee, Seneca Cayuga, Miami, Peoria, and Cherokee. The Lost Creek Recycling Center held a tire collection event April 14 – 18 where a total of 1,249 tires were collected. Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch attended the EPA & Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) Caucus/Meeting and the EPA Summit in Dallas, Texas. Wyandotte Nation is an elected member of the RTOC, and is up for re-election in November.

Wyandotte Nation hosted a Native American Water Masters Association (NAWMA) Training at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center in May. This training was for area tribal and community drinking water operators that needed to recertify for their Class C and D water/waste water operator license. Those attending from Wyandotte Nation were: Kathleen and Myron Shields Jr (Environmental Department), Braulio

Ramirez and Jesus Pulido (Utilities Department), Josh McLaughlin (Maintenance Department) and Christen (Planning and Natural Resources). Our department taught a training on ambient water quality bio-assessments and habitats.

A total of 12 participants from various area tribes attend the event. Environmental staff also performed bio-assessments, macro invertebrate identification and counts, and habitat assessment on Brush Creek. Both these assessments help us to determine the health of the stream. Jalen Enyart started working for us through the Tribal Youth Summer Work Program. Jalen has been helping with our monthly water sampling on eight local water body sites that are located within the Wyandotte Nation Jurisdictional area, and he has also been helping with the day to day duties at the Lost Creek Recycle Center. Along with a certified ODEQ contractor, staff replaced a failing septic system. Department employees also participated in an online Stream Ecology Training to finish out the month of May.

During June, staff participated in an online Private Well Sampling Training. Staff performed Habitat Assessment and macro invertebrate identification and counts, on Wyandotte Nation Water 106 Sampling sites 24 & 50 (both on Lost Creek). Staff also performed a Habitat Assessment and macro invertebrate identification and counts on Wyandotte Nation Water 106 Sampling sites 73 and 75 (both on Sycamore Creek). Staff provided an Environmental Information Booth at the Completing the Circle Event, and a Native and Invasive Plants of Oklahoma Presentation at the Little Turtles Cultural Event.

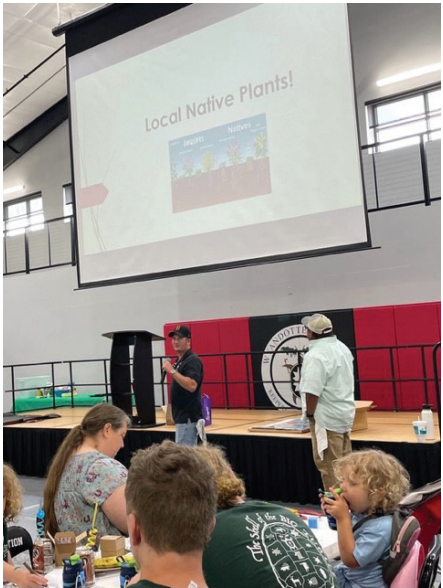
Each month, department staff performs monitoring and sampling on eight sites within the Wyandotte Nation Historic Jurisdictional area streams and water bodies. During this timeframe, staff also performed



quarterly nutrient sampling on three lost creek sites, and e-coli sampling on all eight sites. Staff also performed three private well drinking water samples during this time frame. For private well sampling appointments, contact Kathleen, John Gerhard or Myron.

The Grants Department has been busy researching, writing, and submitting applications to not only meet the Tribe's mission but the short- and long-term goals as well. The Grant Writers recently submitted applications to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for the Performance Partnership Grant; the U.S. Department of Interior for a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, which provides funds for the officer to exercise tribal sovereignty, as they as-

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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sume the state historic preservation responsibilities for their respective tribal lands; the U.S. Department of Justice for a Tribal Victim Services Set-Aside grant; and a Management Assistance Grant related to the Tar Creek Superfund Site.

The BIA Self-Governance Coordinator attended the Oklahoma Self-Governance Coalition Meeting and the National Tribal Self-Governance Conference. They also coordinated having road cracks filled and sealed around tribal buildings, such as Turtle Drive and Heritage Acres.

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

approved, Wyandotte Nation will be able to continue integrating certain federal grants into select job training programs, vocational training, and employment assistance for adult Indians, education scholarships, and social services programs. Wyandotte Nation combines and coordinates employment, training, and related services to serve tribally-determined goals consistent with the policy of Self-Governance.

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 1,294 Tribal citizens within a 50-mile radius of tribal headquarters; however, some formula funded grants may serve citizens within a 100-mile radius. Ultimately, the department’s desire is to serve and create a positive impact on all Wyandotte citizens.

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


Department Contacts		
Title	Name	Email
Director	Christen Lee	clee@wyandotte-nation.org
Environmental Program Manager	Kathleen Welch	kwelch@wyandotte-nation.org
Environmental Technician 1	Myron Shield	mshield@wyandotte-nation.org
Environmental Technician 2	John Gerhard	jgerhard@wyandotte-nation.org
Recycling Center Coordinator	Jon Quick	jquick@wyandotte-nation.org
Water Utilities Operator	Braulio Ramirez	bramirez@wyandotte-nation.org
Water Operator	Jesus Pulido	jpulido@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

LINE DANCING

TUESDAY EVENINGS

AT 6PM

CLASSES START JULY 18TH FOR 6WEEKS!



JOIN US FOR SOME FUN- MUST SIGN UP TO GET A SPOT!

CALL OR COME IN TO SIGN UP!

918-678-2070

Healthcare & Wellness

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

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

Optometry 918.678.3222	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.• Must be authorized prior to visit by Bearskin Healthcare• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$225 for single vision—including exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts• \$275 for multi-focal vision—including exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts
Audiology 918.678.3222	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen by a provider once every 3 years	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• \$1000 per ear towards hearing aids• \$75 per hearing exam• Hearing aids will only be replaced every five years. The only exception is significant additional hearing loss.• If lost, stolen, damaged or destroyed before reaching the five-year mark, it will be the owner’s responsibility to replace these appliances.
Adult Emergency Dental 918.678.3222	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.• Must be authorized prior to visit by Healthcare• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Up to \$1,000 per year• Services provided:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Limited x-ray• Limited exam• Extractions• Re-cementing of crowns• Partials and/or dentures• Wisdom teeth removal
Children’s Dental 918.678.3222	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.• Must be authorized prior to visit by Healthcare• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Services excluded are orthodontics and whitening
Pharmacy 918.678.3244 Refills 918.678.3247 Pharmacist	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.• Must be authorized prior to visit by Healthcare• Services must be provided by a Bearskin contracted provider• - AS FUNDING ALLOWS	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mail order is now available.<ul style="list-style-type: none">➢ 30 day supply• No controlled RX will be mailed
Purchased/Referred Care 918.678.3227	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen and referred by a provider at Bearskin Healthcare• Fills prescriptions written by Bearskin Healthcare providers• Prescriptions from outside providers are only filled if approved by and re-written by a Bearskin Healthcare provider under his/her authority• Reside within one of the twelve counties - Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Washington• Must be authorized prior to visit with exception of emergency	
Physical Therapy 918.678.3236	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen and referred by a Bearskin Healthcare provider• Reside within one of the twelve counties - Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Washington• Must be authorized prior to visit with exception of emergency	
Fitness Center Membership 918.678.3232	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must have a written order or RX from a Bearskin Healthcare Provider or a provider in which Bearskin referred patient to	
Diabetic Dental 918.678.3222	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Free to citizen with Tribal membership• Includes tanning and hydro massage bed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 dental cleanings per year by a Bearskin contracted provider
Diabetic Optometry 918.678.3222	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be an active participant in the Bearskin Diabetic Clinic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 Fundal Exam per by a Bearskin contracted provider
Behavioral Health 918.678.3226	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Must be seen by practitioner at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible.• Reside within one of the twelve counties - Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Washington• Must be authorized prior to visit with exception of emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• This service may include: Psychiatry, Psychology, Counseling, in-patient evaluation/treatment and/or outpatient evaluation and treatment

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Language Notes

BY BECI WRIGHT
WYANDOTTE NATION

Kweh qmatęru? ! (Hello, friends!)

U?tarihá?ti I It's hot! We know wayęté?yeh (summer) is here.

We are excited to share tribal citizen Ruthy (Emily) Logan's 2nd seasonal drawing for anyone to color! Yawahstih! (It's great!) Notice how she circles from our ancestors' ways into our contemporary ways. We hope to see you all at the Gathering & Pow Wow in September!

Pronunciation for all vocabulary words can be found at www.wandot.org along with the coloring page to print more copies as needed (click on the Turtle Speaks Audio button).

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

Tižameh! Etsiskwayę? (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.

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

Interested in learning our language?

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

Our next offering for beginning Wa'dat is planned to begin soon after the Gathering & Pow Wow so be sure to sign up above to be notified!

Remember there is always **Wa'dat 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.

Cultural Division

Submitted by Kim Garcia (Tętsi?tara?ti),
Cultural Preservation Officer
(Inyomarihú?te? Ahęhtasta?)

Kweh!

In June we held our Lacrosse Camp and the Gathering of Little Turtles and they were a great success! A group of lacrosse coaches and players from Republic, Mo., came to teach the campers the basics of lacrosse and the history of it as the Creator's Game. The kids are getting better each year and we will soon be teaching more lacrosse to the local kids periodically with the intention to start a lacrosse league for area youth.

The Gathering of Little Turtles started on Friday, June 23, and ended Sunday, June 25. This year's theme was plants; we learned about the different foods, medicines, and tools that all came from plants. The kids enjoyed playing lacrosse, archery, and our traditional social dance. Each year, these camps grow and we want to encourage all Wyandottes to participate – from the babies to the elders.

During the summer, we do a lot of activities with the young ones. Chris met weekly with the summer program to teach them how to make pucker-toe moccasins. Thursday evenings we host Native Youth Night with any local natives. We've had a great turnout where we feed the kids and then we do crafts; several made pucker-toe moccasins and others have learned various styles of beading. Wa'dat songs follow where several are learning our traditional songs and the thanksgiving address. Seeing our youth so eager to learn and be involved is very encouraging.

In the last week of July, we're taking the summer interns to Michigan and Canada. We will visit the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, go into Canada to honor ancestors at a Wyandotte cemetery, and see Fort Malden, and we will do a kayak trip on the Huron River. We would love to see more Wyandottes participate in the summer intern program and learn more about being Wyandotte.

We're so excited about our upcoming Gathering, Wyandotte Artisan Showcase, and Pow-Wow! We hope to see you there! We'll start out Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, with a Fam-



COURTESY PHOTOS

(TOP) Gathering of Little Turtles participants took time for a photo in matching shirts Saturday during the three-day event. (BOTTOM) Participants in the archery event Sunday take time to pose.

ily Day. We will kayak in the Lost Creek and have a potluck meal. We'll have games and a great time! Gathering begins on Tuesday, Sept. 5, with registration beginning at 1 pm. We're finalizing the schedule and we're so excited for this year! We hope to make this a record year! The Wyandotte Artisan Showcase will open Thursday, Sept. 7. In order to participate, please submit all artwork by Aug. 31.

In order to get an application for the Artisan Showcase, register for the Gathering and other classes, please visit <https://linktr.ee/wncm>. You can see all the upcoming events with more details. Also, please follow us on Facebook and Instagram to see all the great activities going on at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum.

Eskwayę? - I will see you all!
Kim Garcia

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

wayeté?yeh into yanéda?yéⁿdeh



Artwork by Emily "Ruthy" Logan, July 2023.

e? ⁿ dahkwa?éhsta?	urú?ta?	"gyá?wiš	ya'dá?tsa?	uhsata?
drumstick	grass	turtle(s)	drum	smoke
aráhšu?	mēté?yeh ya" ⁿ díšra?	yqśá:ha	ya?neú?	hati" ⁿ drawahs
moccasins	sun (day orb)	bird(s)	kettle	they dance
unyéhša?	yanqhšetsih	qméh	a?tatéhšra?	aha" ⁿ drawa?
pumpkin, squash	longhouse	woman	basket	he dances
unéha?	uté:ka?	rqméh	qmakya?tá" ⁿ ditahkwih	aya" ⁿ drawa?
corn	the fire is burning	man	"Our Sustainance" (3 sisters)	she dances
unéhsta?	užáhēh weyá?wih	uskwe?tra?	yqstē?tá te? ⁿ disták	kyu" ⁿ damé?
seed	it boils, the soup	traditional headdress (men's)	needle	water fall

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 August title is *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* by Drew Hayden Taylor and we will meet Monday, Aug. 7, at noon and 7:30 pm Central Time.

Our November title will be *Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir* by Deborah Miranda. Book Club will be held at noon and 7:30 PM Central Time on a date still to be determined.

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 connects us with our ancestors. Names are the property of the Nation and in contemporary times are bestowed by our Chief after consultation with close family & friends. Currently, the recipient hears their name for the first time during the ceremony at the Blessing of the Pow Wow Grounds every September.

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

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.

