



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 27, Issue 2

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

May 2023

Events in Images

## Preschool Pow- Wow, Easter Egg Hunt highlight recent events

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

The Wyandotte Nation  
8 Turtle Drive  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

(918) 678-2297  
(800) 256-2539  
Fax (918) 676-7022



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- Environmental events met with record success

## Board of Directors

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

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



**Cover Photo:**  
 Joshua Garcia leads an intertribal dance to close out the Preschool Pow-Wow.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM SWAIM

## Contact Us

### Have News?

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

Phone: (918) 810-0089



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## From the Chief

## Billy Friend

# Wyandotte Nation making great leaps forward

Spring is a time of renewal. The land around us awakens and everywhere plants and trees are in bloom. Spring is an invigorating time of year as we open our minds to the great potential before us, and to the blessings, we sometimes take for granted.

The Wyandotte Nation reflects this awakening, this vitality of the season. Our Tribe is always seeking new opportunities to follow our dreams together.

For generations, the Wyandotte people were continually hopeful of eventual renewal. With the removal to our new lands, our ancestors were faced with starting new lives with very little. They were resilient and incredibly persistent, but it was a life full of challenges. It really is amazing the conditions they endured. Yet, they survived and eventually prospered, and we can be very proud of that.

The modern era of the Wyandotte Nation has seen great leaps forward. Never in history has our Tribe experienced the growth, the opportunities, and the benefits we are experiencing today.

We have achieved success in business, and we have committed the return of that success to Wyandotte people and programs, which will produce benefits far into the future.

We are proud of our advances in healthcare. We now have an out-

standing healthcare clinic, which offers advanced specialties, treatments, equipment, and healthcare professionals that are producing exceptional results. The days of having to depend on government healthcare are long behind us now.

We honor our history, our culture, and our traditions. Our Wyandotte Cultural Center is a premier award-winning facility for our tribal citizens from around the world. We celebrate our Wyandotte story with this unique facility, and we share our traditions with those who seek to know more about us. Our Cultural team continues to amaze me with the new programs and opportunities they are creating for our people both locally and through virtual technology.

We continue to open tribal commercial facilities and upgrade our existing businesses. Our newest ventures are the Wyandotte True Value Hardware store opening in May, and Winds Hotel in Park City, Kansas, which opened in April. We stay on top of the ever-changing needs and desires of our customers and community and we invest in the elements that make our facilities favorite destinations.

Buildings, businesses, and facilities are important. They are material signs of our tribal growth. But it is the Wyandotte people who are the source of our most significant

accomplishments.

With the essential building blocks of quality education, healthcare, housing, nutrition, and opportunity, Wyandottes have made tremendous strides in just one generation.

Our Tribe each year now is producing growing numbers of Wyandotte professionals with bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees, law degrees, and medical degrees. And, the number of highly-trained Wyandotte tradesmen and skilled workers continues to grow.

Housing conditions for Wyandotte families have been substantially improved over a generation. We continue to expand our Heritage Acres Housing development along with our new housing additions Turtle Hill Estates and Wyandotte Ridge.

When it comes to the "bottom line," our greatest investment – and the investment that produces by far the greatest return – is the Wyandotte people! The well-being of the people is the focus of all our efforts, in every category of endeavor. Spring is well on its way and we are thankful for this annual time of growth. Let's also be thankful for our Tribe, our families, and our friends. Together, we have accomplished much. Together, we will accomplish more than our ancestors ever dreamed possible!

## From the Second Chief

## Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

# The busy-ness of Spring

Kweh Omateru

Hello, my friends, it looks like we are finally getting some Spring weather here in Oklahoma. In the last couple of years, we went from winter right into summer, with no Spring temperatures at all. This year is starting out normal if there is such a thing as normal weather

anymore.

We are very busy here in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. We just finished eight duplexes which are all full, and just started on four more duplexes hopefully to be finished in three or four months. Our True Value Hardware store should be opening sometime in late May. We

are still building duplexes in Heritage

Acres for our elders, there are three under construction right now. If you think you might want





## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Town Hall Meeting held in Texas

The Wyandotte Nation once again brought its Annual Meeting on the road – this time the Town Hall Meeting was held in Irving, Texas.

The meeting was at the Omni Las Colinas Hotel and had excellent attendance.

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

At these meetings, citizens are able to meet the Chief, Second Chief, and key Wyandotte Nation staff, hear the state of the Tribe, and make connections with friends and family.

### RA Nance visits Tar Creek

(From EPA Region 6 Newsletter) -- RA Nance and team visited the Tar Creek Superfund site area recently, meeting with the Tar Creek



PHOTO: COURTESY OF EPA REGION 6

**L to R: Chief Douglas Lankford of the Miami Tribe, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand of the Wyandotte Nation, Dr. Earthea Nance, Chief Glenna Wallace of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, and Chief Charles Diebold of the Seneca-Cayuga Nation.**

Trustee Council Indian Tribes comprised of the Ottawa Tribe, Miami Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe,

and Peoria Tribe. The Modoc Nation and the Shawnee Tribe were also visited, as was the grassroots organization Local Environmental Action Demanded Agency. On April 11, site visits included a water monitoring site on Tar Creek, a chat pile, a riparian/streambank area prioritized by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe for restoration, a recycling facility, an aquatic facility for producing fish and mussels, and places where flooding has increased in recent years.

On April 12, the RA and team met with Tar Creek Trustee Council Indian Tribes leadership and staff to review the site visits and follow-up actions. The Chiefs from the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Miami Tribe, Seneca-Cayuga Nation, and Wyandotte Nation were in attendance, which is one of the highest-attended in-person meetings between EPA and elected tribal leadership in several years. Tribal and local partners were appreciative of the Region 6 visit and the work the Superfund Division has conducted at the Tar Creek site for many years.

## 2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

to live here in Wyandotte then you better get your name on the list. The homeownership homes on Wyandotte Ridge are almost complete and we will have two Wyandotte families moving into those shortly. The Quapaw Nation Fire Department is building a new fire station West of our Hardware Store so that will be a great addition to the area. All of this progress just adds to making this area a vibrant place to benefit the citizens in the surrounding area.

This history segment has to do with John Stewart, the first missionary to the Wyandottes in Ohio. This came from "Moccasin Trails to the Cross: A History of the Mission to the Wyandott Indians on the Sandusky Plains" by Thelma Marsh:

Even though the Wyandotts were steeped in superstitions and the worship of false gods, they had been introduced to Christianity by the Jesuit Priests long before coming to the United States. Then along came the Seneca Prophet. They followed his teachings for a while. And then the Shawnee Prophet arose, and some followed him. Chief Between-the-Logs gave a history of their religion. He

**"The Constitution only guarantees the American people the right to pursue happiness. You have to catch it yourself."**

--Benjamin Franklin

said, "Our fathers had religion of their own. They served God and were happy. That was before the White Man came. They worshipped with feasts and sacrifices, dances and rattles. They did what they thought was right. Our parents wished us to do good and they used to make us do good, and would sometimes correct us for doing evil. But a great while ago the French sent us a book by the Roman Priest and we listened to him. . . . We did what he told us. . . . At last, he went away. Then we returned to our fathers' religion again. But then the Seneca prophet came and he said that he had talked to the Great Spirit, and he was told what the Indian ought to do. We listened to him and many followed him. But we found that he told us not to do things and then he did those things himself. So we were deceived. . . . Again we took up religion of our fathers. But the Shawnee prophet arose. We heard him and some of us followed him for a while, but we had been deceived so often that we watched him very closely, and soon

found that he was like all the rest so we left him also.

"Then there was war between our fathers and the President and King George. . . . By the time the war was over we were all scattered and many killed and died. Our chiefs thought to get the nation together again. Then the Black Man, Stewart, our brother here came to us and told us he was sent by the Great Spirit to tell us the true and good way. But we thought he was like all the rest--- that he too wanted to cheat us and get our money and land from us. He told us of our sins and that drinking was ruining us and that the Great Spirit was angry with us. He said that we must leave off these things. But we treated him ill and gave him little to eat, trampled on him, and were jealous of him for a whole year. Then we attended his meeting in the council house. We could find no fault with him. The Great Spirit came upon us so that all cried aloud. Some clapped their hands, some ran away, and some were angry. We held our meetings

all night, sometimes praying. By now we were convinced that God had sent him to us. Stewart is a good man."

There can be no doubt that John Stewart was a good man, a man called by God and listening ever to the voice of the Holy Spirit. A Black Man born of humble parents who suffered ill health and obtained only a common school education was hardly a promising prospect for greatness according to the standards of the world. But God saw fit to use him for a very special job in a very special way, for he started what was to become the first Methodist Mission in America. That is how we established the relationship with the Methodist Church and our Methodist Mission in Upper Sandusky, Ohio.

We must all try and set a good example for our young people and our fellow man. In hopes that they will in turn set a good example for future generations to follow. Let's get out of this ugly path of disrespect and hatred that so many people are following today.

I am very fortunate to be able to be Second Chief of the Wyandotte Nation, the greatest Indian Nation in the country. TIZAMEH!

Wyandotte True Value Hardware Store nearing completion

# Store expected to open in May

As part of the Wyandotte Nation's ongoing community development plan, the Tribe and its economic development enterprise, Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK), are close to opening a Wyandotte True Value Hardware Store. The store, located west of River Bend Casino in Wyandotte, Okla., is expected to open in May.

"After considering several hardware brands, we felt True Value was great for our company and community needs," said Wyandotte tribal citizen Ron Brown, the Business Development Manager for WTOK. "True Value offers a large variety of products from hardware, nuts, and bolts to lawn furniture and BBQ grills. From store planning to the process of stocking the shelves, True Value has been a terrific partner, providing assistance in all stages from concept to implementation."

Wyandotte True Value Hardware is the first project in a new business development area for the Wyandotte Nation located west of River Bend Casino on Highway 60 in Wyandotte. The new store features more than 7,500 square feet of retail space and will offer



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

See **True Value**, Page 5

Construction on the Wyandotte True Value Store is coming along with an expected opening date in May 2023.

## Turtle Stop expands, opens store in Fairland, Okla.

The Wyandotte Nation's Turtle Stop brand added a new location last week with the acquisition of Mr. D's Convenience Store in Fairland, Okla. The Tribe currently owns and operates four other Turtle Stop Convenience Stores.

Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) Economic Development CEO Kelly Carpino said the purchase of the Fairland location provides another boost to the retail division of our economic development for the Tribe. WTOK is the Tribe's corporation.

"With the addition of Mr. D's, we can start seeing the opportunity to build regional scale for this sector

of our enterprises," Carpino said. "We are also thrilled that we can be a contributing partner to the Town of Fairland's economy."

The store officially reopened under the Turtle Stop brand on April 7. It is located on East Hwy 60 (625 W Conner Ave, Fairland, OK 74343) next to the Family Dollar.

Turtle Stop stores are well known for their hot grab-and-go options, fresh sandwiches, and pizza.

With the addition of the fifth Turtle Stop store in Fairland, the Tribe now has two locations in Grove, a store in Seneca, Mo., and the original store in Wyandotte, Okla.



The latest Turtle Stop addition is now open in Fairland, Okla. The Fairland Turtle Stop is now the fifth Turtle Stop in the area with locations in Oklahoma and Missouri.

PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION



# Park City's newest lodging venue open for business

PARK CITY, KANSAS — The Wyandotte Nation of Oklahoma announced the opening of WINDS Hotel, adjacent to CrossWinds Casino in Park City, Kansas, April 12.

"We are very excited to offer this new amenity to Park City and the greater Wichita area," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend.

The Wyandotte Nation purchased WINDS Hotel, the former Motel 6 in Park City, in September 2021.

"The property has been completely refreshed and renovated to provide an exemplary guest experience while visiting the area," Chief Friend said.

WINDS Hotel features king and queen suites, double queen, king, and king handicapped rooms. The 70-room property offers a 24-hour shuttle to CrossWinds Casino, along with 24-hour front desk service, a continental breakfast, and a fitness center.

"In each room, we wanted to provide our guests with a modern and inviting atmosphere that blends contemporary style with comfort," said Hotel General Manager Glen Lang.

Kelly Carpino, CEO of the Wyandotte Tribe of Oklahoma (WTOK) which owns and operates CrossWinds Casino, said the hotel general manager, Lang, brings more than 20 years of hospitality experience and is a Wichita native. WТОK is Wyandotte Nation's corporation and drives economic development for the Tribe.

WINDS Hotel is located at 1075 E. Turtle Court in Park City, just off I-135 North, exit 16. For complete details and offerings, visit [crosswindscasino.com/hotel](http://crosswindscasino.com/hotel).



PHOTOS: COURTESY OF WINDS HOTEL

Images of the exterior and interior of the new WINDS Hotel, including a room, the front desk, and breakfast area.



## True Value

Continued from Page 4

traditional products such as tools, paint, plumbing, and electrical. The store will also sell grills, pet supplies, home goods, and outdoor living items.

Kelly Carpino, WТОK CEO, said, "In considering opportunities to expand, diversify and grow our enterprises, we focus on building sustainable businesses to support

the general needs and welfare of Wyandotte citizens for generations to come. We also work to support the Nation's plan of growing the community in Wyandotte. The Wyandotte True Value Hardware store as the anchor to our new development will be a key contributor to meeting both of these goals."

True Value stores are independently owned and operated. True Value has a long history of sup-

porting the growth and success of independent retailers. The foundation of True Value's business is quality products, exceptional service, and expert advice; the company understands that is still what today's customers value.

"The addition of the True Value Hardware store is another giant step forward in our community development efforts," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "We set

out over 10 years ago with a plan to rebuild our community and feel like this addition is a key component in those efforts. It also shows that we are continually looking for ways to further diversify our economic portfolio.

"I want to congratulate our Economic Development team on another great project that will contribute to our overall mission of 'improving the lives of all Wyandotte citizens.'"



## Environmental Festival &amp; Spring Tire Collection

# Events met with record success

Last week the Wyandotte Nation's Planning & Natural Resources Department held its annual Environmental Festival Friday, April 14, at the Tribe's Pow-Wow grounds for more than 500 students, teachers, and guests. Additionally, the department collected the most tires to date during its Spring Tire Collection event.

"The first Environmental Festival was in May of 2008," said Kathleen Welch, Environmental Program Manager for the Tribe. "We had hosted the event every year since then, excluding two years because of COVID."

Welch said they set up 16 booths run by 42 workers and had 27 tribal employee volunteers help at the festival. Eight northeast Oklahoma tribes participated in this event, including the Wyandottes, Eastern Shawnee, Seneca-Cayuga, Cherokee, Modoc, Miami, Ottawa, and Peoria. She estimated 500 students, 30 teachers, and three paraprofessionals (from Wyandotte public schools) participated in the annual festival designed to educate students on the environment, environmental problems, and solutions. The students also took home some goodies.

In addition to the Friday festival, the week started with the Spring Tire Collection event during which the Wyandotte Nation collected a record 1,244 tires, according to Welch. The collection event ended Friday at the Lost Creek Recycling Center.

For the past 10 years, the department has held a collection event twice each year, one in the spring



PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

(ABOVE) The Wyandotte Nation's environmental staff, Myron Shield and John Gerhard, lead a booth during the Environmental Festival April 14. (BELOW, L-R) Environmental Program Manager Kathleen Welch helps guide students arriving from the bus to the various stations; The Cultural Division's Chris Houk discusses sap boiling; a record 1,244 tires were collected during the Spring Tire Collection event at Lost Creek Recycling Center.

and the other in the fall. The next collection event is in October and is a great opportunity for those who were not able to drop their tires off this time to do so in the fall.

"These tires are picked up by RTR Environmental from Noble, Oklahoma, and are transported back to their facility where the tires are shredded, all metal

removed and then used for various other products," Welch said.

For more images from the event, check out the Wyandotte Nation's Facebook page.





# Local teams sport new fields for opening day

(By Andy Searcy, Four States Home Page) -- Opening day had an even more special feeling in Wyandotte Tuesday afternoon.

The school held a dedication ceremony for their new turf field at the baseball stadium. In fact, the baseball, softball, and football facilities will all have new turf fields thanks to the Wyandotte Nation.

The tribe footed the bill for the \$2.8 million project. For the school district, it's a dream come true.

"It's hard to explain but just the fact that they're willing to invest in their kids and to see a need and present that need, it's just overwhelming actually. I've never experienced anything like that," said Brad Wade, Wyandotte Superintendent.

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend said, "It's a great opportunity for these kids. You know to be in a small rural school to be able to play



Wyandotte Nation leadership along with the Wyandotte High School baseball team and school representatives ready for the opening of the new baseball field.

PHOTO: COURTESY OF JIM ELLIS | MIAMI NEWS RECORD

on turf fields ... some kids never have that opportunity and so you know to be able to be a part of this and that

we're helping the kids out, it's just a great feeling."

Chief Friend threw out the first

pitch for the game, it was a strike of course. The Bears entertained Kansas in the season opener.

# Tribe stands against sexual assault crimes

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, on behalf of the Tribe, signed a Proclamation Monday, April 17, to recognize Sexual Assault Awareness Month, to draw attention to the crimes of sexual violence, and the commitment to future prevention.

Chief Friend also recognized the work done by the Tribe's Family Violence Prevention Program staff.

"We have a great group that works with our sexual assault and domestic violence victims," Chief Friend said. "I get phone calls from law enforcement all over the area, talking about how great it is to work with our department and with these girls who do this daily. I want to commend you for what you do and the Wyandotte Nation appreciates you very much."

Unfortunately, the problem with sexual assault and domestic violence is only increasing, making prevention programs essential in advocating for victims and raising awareness of this very real problem.

"We have been very, very blessed by the Wyandotte Nation," said Lisa Arnold, Domestic Violence



Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend signs a proclamation recognizing Sexual Assault Awareness Month and the Tribe's commitment to prevention while DV Advocate/Educator Supervisor Lisa Arnold discusses the problem.

PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Advocate/Educator Supervisor for the Wyandotte Nation's Family Violence Prevention Program. "We are very appreciative of everything

everyone does for us and the clients we serve because they just keep coming. The numbers keep increasing so it is very important that this

program stays alive and well so that we can continue to do the outreach in our community."

The Proclamation stated American Indian and Alaskan Native women experience a disproportionate rate of violence at 2.5 times higher than any other ethnicity with more than 1 in 2 women experiencing sexual violence in their lifetime. The Wyandotte Nation is committed to raising awareness and combating the problem of sexual violence.

"Sexual assault results in conviction only 3% of the time," Arnold told the crowd gathered to watch the proclamation. "This is really upsetting for us as advocates dealing with victims wanting some sort of resolution or justice for what they endured."

"For our program and clients we work with, we've only twice had cases that did not go to trial. I'm really proud of the work that is done in our department and the follow-through everybody has. These advocates... don't stop, they keep making phone calls, pushing, and making sure justice is met. I am really proud of the voice that they are."





Events in Images:

# Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow & Wyandotte Nation Annual Easter Egg Hunt



PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

**PRESCHOOL POW-WOW** (TOP & ABOVE LEFT) The Wyandotte Nation Preschool hosted its annual Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow Thursday evening, April 13, at the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds. Princess Sara Wright performed the 'Lord's Prayer' in sign language to kick off the event. Grand Entry and the introduction of the Tribes followed and led into the preschoolers participating in the Pow-Wow dances and songs. The Host Drum, Michael Killer & Medicine Eagle, led the preschoolers and their families in a Round Dance, Snake Dance, and Buffalo Dance. Joshua Garcia was the Head Man, Sara Wright was the Head Lady, John Webb was the Honor Guard Representative and presented the Colors, and the Emcee was Choogie Kingfisher.

**EASTER EGG HUNT** (ABOVE & BELOW LEFT) Area youth participate in the egg hunt held at the Pow-Wow grounds Saturday, April 1.



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director*

The Human Resources Department has hired, Nancy Ezell, as a Human Resources Coordinator. Nancy has a



EZELL

B.S. in Criminal Justice Administration. She worked for 10 years at the Turnaround Ranch, then moved to Maumelle, Ark., where she worked in Human Resources. She moved back to Missouri and worked for Freeman Health System in their HR department before coming to work for Wyandotte Nation. Nancy's hobbies include spending time with her family, reading, and playing games. She enjoys spending time with family, and friends and supporting the activities her children are involved in. Nancy has been a band parent and is now currently a "baseball mom!"

We are very fortunate to have Nancy at the Wyandotte Nation and wish her much success in her new position.

Madilynn Lyman and Hailey



LYMAN

Hemann have joined the Education Department as After School Childcare Assistants. Madilynn is a tribal citizen and worked for Wyandotte Nation during the summer youth program. Her hobbies include making cups and t-shirts and she also enjoys watching movies.



HEMANN

Hailey is a junior at Wyandotte High School. She enjoys shopping, and spending time with her family, friends, boyfriend, and her dog. Hailey loves kids. She has four siblings, she loves to play with her

4-year-old brother. She has played basketball for seven years and ran track for three years.

We are pleased to have Hailey and Madilynn and wish them much success in their new positions.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Andrew Shyers as a Police Officer. Andrew graduated from Wyandotte High School. He has experience working in the jail and two years of experience working patrol. He enjoys fishing and spending time with his children.



SHYERS

We are very excited to have Andrew in his new position and wish him much success.



FRIEND

The Accounting Department is happy to welcome Kayla Friend as an Accounting Clerk II. Kayla is married and has twin boys. She attended Miami High School and studied at Northeast Technology Center. When she's not running around picking up after her boys, Kayla enjoys quiet moments with a cup of coffee, outdoor activities, and catching up with friends and family.

We are very fortunate to have Kayla on our team and wish her much success in her new position.



COOPER

The Facilities Department welcomes Brendan Cooper as a Facilities Technician. Brendan enjoys working out, sports, and reading. He enjoys spending time with God, his family, and his friends.

We are very fortunate to have Brendan on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director*

If you haven't been to Wyandotte in a few years you definitely need to make it a point to visit this year! The Tribe has experienced so much growth in the last five years that it is even hard for us locals to keep up. The new True Value hardware store will be open shortly, an Elder's nutrition center is under construction, a new Education building will break ground soon as well as multiple housing projects, just to name a few signs of the growth. The Family Services staff is thankful for Tribal leadership who continually plan for future generations and work toward building and maintaining a strong government, economic and cultural foundation.

In the next few weeks, all adult tribal citizens will be receiving a "Programs & Services" brochure. This brochure combines all of the Tribe's programs and services into one convenient publication. The goal is for the brochure to be updated annually to help tribal citizens become more aware of services available as well as a brief description of each program. This information is also available on the Tribe's website [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) along with applications, additional guideline information, and submission instructions. Please note that program applications do change with each year and the current year application must be used. If you have direct deposit set up with the Tribe, please make sure all banking information is current. If there have been any changes, you will need to submit the proper paperwork. Keeping your address current with the Tribe is also very important so you don't miss out

on information!

As a reminder, Enrollment applications must either be hand delivered or postmarked by Aug. 15 to be considered for citizenship at the Annual Meeting Sept. 9. Applications must be submitted with an original state-certified birth certificate. Hospital and county health department birth certificates are not acceptable for enrollment purposes. If at all possible, please turn in applications early in case there are errors that need to be corrected. Enrollment applications are updated each year, so be sure that you're using the current application. We don't include this application on our website, but one can be mailed or emailed to you when requested. The Enrollment Officer will be working with the Enrollment Committee to update the Enrollment Ordinance throughout 2023. Significant changes will be highlighted on our website and in future newsletters.

If you are an enrolled citizen who lives in Oklahoma, you may notice some changes to the motor vehicle tag policies. Any new vehicle will require proof of domicile form before a title/registration can be issued. This form can be mailed, emailed, or found on our website for your convenience. The Supreme Court ruling that allows Oklahoma Tribes to title and register vehicles requires that they be "principally garaged in Oklahoma Indian Country," so it is extremely important that we follow the law to protect our program. Another exciting announcement is that Wyandotte Nation Veterans will soon be able to receive special plates honoring their service to our country! The design as well as guidelines will be posted to the website once finalized.

**Continued on Page 10**

## 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.**



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 9

Housed within the Family Services Department is the Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP). This program assists victims of Crime with various services. These services include, but are not limited to, advocacy, court accompaniment, housing, food, clothing, transportation, legal, counseling, etc. Services are available to anyone within a 25-mile radius as well as limited services to Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide. They also provide presentations to make the public more aware of the issues surrounding certain crimes and to help the community know more about the services they can provide. During the past 12 months, this program has assisted over 200 victims. The month of May is designated as Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons awareness month. Throughout the month, the FVPP will be hosting a couple of events to bring awareness to the epidemic that is affecting Native communities across the country. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the murder rate is 10 times higher than the national average for women living on reservations and the third leading cause of death for Native women. Please follow the FVPP Facebook page "Wyandotte Nation Domestic Violence Program" for important information, tips, and announcements

for their program events.

We encourage tribal citizens to mark their calendars and attend The Gathering of Little Turtles June 23-25, The Gathering Sept. 5-8, and the Pow Wow Sept. 8-10! The Cultural Department and Cultural Advisory Board put a great deal of effort into making each of these events memorable, entertaining, and informative. Also, the Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Sept. 9. Since the national pandemic emergency will have expired, there will not be a drive-thru option this year. Tribal citizens who attend the meeting will be required to show their tribal ID to receive the meeting stipend. If the tribal ID does not include a photo, a photo ID will need to be provided as well. Additional meeting details will be announced in the August newsletter.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve the Wyandotte people. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our programs.

**Family Services Staff:**  
**wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org**  
**Director, Dana Butterfield, 918-678-6319**  
**ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg, 918-678-6355**  
**ICW Worker, Carmalita Ward, 918-678-6485**  
**Tag Administrator, Tiffany Gar-**

**ner, 918-678-6353**

**Family Services Specialist, Lee-anna Radabaugh, 918-678-6329**  
**Enrollment Officer, Haylee Botts, 918-678-6321**

### **Family Violence Prevention Program Staff:**

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

**DV Advocate/Educator, Lisa Arnold, 918-678-6324**  
**FVPP Manager, Cesilie Chandler 918-678-3269**

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

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

**Supervised Visitation Specialist, Chelsea King, 918-678-3257**

**DV/SA Advocate, Becky Maples, 918-678-6373**

**DV/SA/Pandemic Support Advocate, Gabby Ezell, 918-678-6402**

## Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,  
Education Director*

Wyandotte Nation's Library is now open to the public! The library hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. 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](http://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.okvirtuallibrary.overdrive.com](http://www.okvirtuallibrary.overdrive.com). You can also download the "Libby" app to access the virtual library. By doing this, you will gain access to several different eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and videos. You may contact the Librarian, Madeline Harnar, at [mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org) or by calling the library at (918) 678-6332 for more information.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship

Program is currently processing the spring 2023 semester scholarships. At this time, the undergraduate and master's scholarships are awarded in the amount of \$3,000, for full-time enrollment. Beginning in the fall of 2023, the scholarship amount for 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 transcript, which will have your spring grades and fall schedule listed. An unofficial transcript is required at the end of each semester in order for us to process your next semester's scholarship. If you are new to the scholarship program, we want to inform you of some guidelines that you are required to meet to maintain the scholarship:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to 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.
- The deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is May 1.

To obtain an Undergraduate, Master's, or Vocational Scholarship application, they are now available on our website, or you can email your request or any questions that you may have to Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist at [ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto: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 graduating from college, but who 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 documenta-

## 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.**

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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tion 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.

Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is currently full in our infant/ones/toddler rooms. We are accepting applications to be placed on a waiting list for age groups: infants, ones, and toddlers. Our preschool is coming to an end for the 2022-23 school year but we do have a couple of openings if you are interested in your child attending. Our summer program is already full, but we are still accepting applications to be put on the waiting list. Applications are available on our website, or you may contact Lindsay Cooper for an application by email, at lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org or by phone at (918) 678-3267.

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, 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 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

*Submitted by Brenda House,  
Elder Services Director*

It is so nice to see the trees and flowers blooming, birds tweeting, and the grass turning green.

Our new Elder Services (Title VI) Building is coming along. The walls for the safe room are up and everything is moving quickly. We are getting so excited!

Our Mother's Day Dinner is Thursday, May 11 and Father's Day Dinner is Thursday, June 15.

We will be collaborating with other members of the Northeast Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition to host a prom for our Elders at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Gym Friday, May 12, from 10 am to Noon. Lunch will be provided.

## CAREGIVER

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

We are continuing to provide

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 ehutulke@wyandotte-nation.org

## Elder Services



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

The eldest Valentine Shirley DeLong receives a gift during the Valentine lunch in February.

respite care vouchers for Caregivers to have a much-needed break.

It is always a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation tribal 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.

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

## Housing

*Submitted by Kathy DeWeese,  
Housing Director*

The Heritage Acres Housing Area provides rental units for elders and families. Two family duplexes are in the process of construction, and one Elder duplex is in the beginning stage of construction. This area now has 60 rental units with future plans of expanding even more. If you are interested in a rental unit, the application is available online or in the housing

office. This program is based on federal income guidelines. If you have questions, contact the housing department.

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

The new equipment will be installed at Heritage Acres Park this summer. The projected date will be in June. The Community uses the park and it is a great place for family reunions or birthday parties.

Wyandotte Housing Assistance Fund, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021, is available

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Planning & Natural Resources

Submitted by Christen Lee,  
Environmental & Planning Director

### Environmental

The New Year has started off with a bang as staff continues to monitor eight local water bodies for water quality parameters. The staff has also been attending online GIS/ GPS training that will enhance the department further with mapping capabilities for our program and other tribal departments.

Various meetings that department staff attended were NATURE (Native American Tribes Understanding Resources in the Environment), TECO (Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma), and RTOC (Regional Tribal Operations Committee).

February was a month filled with regular daily activities plus training. On Thursday, Feb. 2, Myron Shield participated in Fire Extinguisher Training. On Feb. 14, Kathleen Welch and Water Utilities Tech Braulio Ramirez traveled to Catoosa, Okla., for a Lead Service Line Inventory Training that pertains to the three tribal wells.

The month of March brought the excitement of spring. On March 8, John Gerhard and Myron held an Environmental Education Class with the Tribal Turtle Tots Preschool. They developed and presented a video and PowerPoint that showed the 4-5-year-old classes the importance of recycling and how it affects water pollution. Approximately 45 kids were in attendance.

On March 24, Kathleen and John attended an Elder's Spring Health Fair in Miami, Okla. Our depart-



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

### The tires collected during the Spring Tire Collection Event in mid April.

ment had an informational booth on environmental services and issues. Approximately 250 elders were in attendance and visited the booth.

With the warmer temperatures, our outside recycle bins have been filling up almost as quickly as they are emptied.

Below are the totals collected for the months of January thru March:

### Other Environmental Duties:

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

### Services Provided

- Private Well Drinking Water Sampling
- Private Home Owner's Septic Assessments
- Lost Creek Recycle Center

**Note: For private well sampling appointments, contact Kathleen Welch, John Gerhard or Myron Shield.**

### Planning Grants Submitted:

- **Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS):** To fund a School Resource Officer, as well as provide a vehicle, equipment, and training for the officer. A Needs Assessment will be conducted, to identify training gaps and prioritize

2nd Quarter:	
CARDBOARD	16623
PLASTIC	1099
ALUMINUM	271
TIN	671
NEWS PAPER	0
MAGAZINES	0
SHREDDED	1078
QTR. TOTAL	19742

training needs.

- **Family Violence Prevention Services Act (FVPSA):** This program provides direct services, housing assistance, and emergency shelter, as well as outreach/awareness.

- **Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG):** The beneficiaries of this new housing construction project are families of low- and moderate-incomes that meet the criteria of NAHASDA and 24 CFR 1000.104, NAHASDA Sec.

202, and 24 CFR 1000 Subpart B. Ten (10) eligible families will benefit from the new housing construction project by providing safe, decent, and sanitary housing, which will be assisted with funding under this NOFA and other leveraged resources.

- Construct ten (10) single-family housing units
- Make one (1) of the ten (10) housing units accessible for individuals with disabilities.

### -Solid Waste and Infrastructure

Continued on Page 13

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to homeowners affected by COVID. If you are behind on your mortgage payments, please fill out and return the application for assistance, 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 avail-

able 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, or 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



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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### for Recycling Project (SWIFR):

Wyandotte Nation's proposed SWIFR project encompasses several features that expand and improve the Lost Creek Recycling Center. This would include; planning and constructing major renovations and permanent improvements to the facility, purchasing collection bins for recyclables, purchasing recycling equipment and other items for post-consumer materials management recovery, and hiring a full-time recycling technician to assist in recycling the increase in solid waste materials. Once implemented, the proposed project will help reduce solid waste generated in the tribal community by enhancing, improving, and maintaining the recycling program.

**-Basic Library Grant:** Increase literacy and learning services for youth and their families.

**-Native American Services Enhancement Grant:** Develop and enhance library events and educational activities in order to enhance the Wyandotte Nation Library.

- Story Walk Project at Bear Park for parents, teachers, and other adults to take young children to enjoy reading stories together in order to promote early learning while providing a service for children and families.
- Incorporate one (1) Reading Buddies Program to encourage and improve reading by younger students with their older peers in order to create civic literacy.
- Conduct six (6) outdoor movie nights based on either a book, season, or native theme in order to advance community and civic engagement as well as provide a service for the rural community.

**-Tribal Opioid Response (TOR):** Increase access to culturally appropriate and evidence-based treatment for opioid use disorder, reduce unmet treatment needs, and develop and implement a comprehensive Tribal Opioid Response Program to address the opioid crisis in our tribal community.

### Tribal Transportation:

The Tribal Transportation Improvement Plan for the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) was submitted in March. This is a five-

year plan that is submitted annually, to prioritize road construction and maintenance. We submit annually because priorities may change from year to year.

Submitted new routes into Road Inventory Field Data System (RIFDS). All roads and parking lots must be in inventory with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) in order to use the funding. Wyandotte Nation has new parking lots and roads that have been submitted for approval. There are also two (2) county roads that are next to the new Turtle Hill Estates that have been submitted. We attended a County Commissioner's meeting to have a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed in order to submit the county roads, this allows us to improve the county roads for better accessibility, and for our tribal citizens to receive services.

### Department Contacts:

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

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

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

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

**Jon Quick (Recycling)** 918-678-6352

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

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

## Healthcare & Wellness

*Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director*

### Annual Wellness Visits - Medicare Part B

The Annual Wellness Visit (AWV) is a yearly appointment with your primary care team to create or update a personalized prevention plan. This plan may help prevent illness based on your current health and risk factors. Keep in mind that the AWV is not a head-to-toe physical.

Also, this service is similar to but separate from the one-time Welcome to Medicare preventive visit.

### Eligibility

Medicare Part B covers the Annual Wellness Visit if:

- You have had Part B for over 12 months
- And, you have not received an AWV in the past 12 months

Additionally, you cannot receive your AWV within the same year as your Welcome to Medicare preventive visit.

### Covered services

During your first Annual Wellness Visit, your care team will develop your personalized prevention plan. Your care team may also:

- Check your height, weight, blood pressure, and other routine measurements
- Give you a health risk assessment: This may include a questionnaire that you complete before or during the visit. The questionnaire asks about your health status, injury risks, behavioral risks, and urgent health needs.
- Review your functional ability and level of safety: This includes screening for hearing impairments and your risk of falling; Your care team must also assess your ability to perform activities of daily living (such as bathing and dressing), and your level of safety at home.
- Learn about your medical and family history
- Make a list of your current providers, durable medical equipment (DME) suppliers, and medications: Medications include prescription medications, as well as vitamins and supplements you may take
- Create a written 5-10 year screening schedule or checklist: Your care team should keep in mind your health status, screening history, and eligibility for age-appropriate, Medicare-covered preventive services
- Screen for cognitive impairment, including diseases such as Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia: Medicare does not require that care teams use a test to screen you. Instead, care teams are asked to rely on their observations and/or on reports by you and others.
- Screen for depression
- Provide health advice and

referrals to health education and/or preventive counseling services aimed at reducing identified risk factors and promoting wellness: Health education and preventive counseling may relate to weight loss, physical activity, smoking cessation, fall prevention, nutrition, and more.

AWVs after your first visit may be different. At subsequent AWVs, your care team should:

- Check your weight and blood pressure
- Update the health risk assessment you completed
- Update your medical and family history
- Update your list of current medical providers and suppliers
- Update your written screening schedule
- Screen for cognitive issues
- Provide health advice and referrals to health education and/or preventive counseling services

### Costs

If you qualify, Original Medicare covers the Annual Wellness Visit at 100% of the Medicare-approved amount when you receive the service from a participating provider. This means you pay nothing (no deductible or coinsurance). Medicare Advantage Plans are required to cover AWVs without applying deductibles, copayments, or coinsurance when you see an in-network provider and meet Medicare's eligibility requirements for the service.

During the course of your AWV, your care team may discover and need to investigate or treat a new or existing problem. This additional care is considered diagnostic, meaning your care team is treating you because of certain symptoms or risk factors. Medicare may bill you for any diagnostic care you receive during a preventive visit.

Source: <https://www.medicareinteractive.org/get-answers/medicare-covered-services/preventive-services/annual-wellness-visit>

To schedule a Medicare Wellness Exam Contact:

Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center  
1 Turtle Drive  
Wyandotte, OK 74370  
918-678-2282



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Language Notes

BY BECI WRIGHT  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Kweh qmatēru? ! (Hello, friends!)  
So glad to see yeráhke:deh (spring) arrive but before you know it, wayetē?yeh (summer) will be here!

We are excited to share tribal citizen Ruthy (Emily) Logan's seasonal drawing for anyone to color! Yawahstih! (It's great!) Pronunciation for all vocabulary words can be found at [www.wandat.org](http://www.wandat.org) along with the file to print more copies as needed (click on the Turtle Speaks Audio button).

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

*Tižamēh! Etsiskwayē? (I will see y'all again)!*

**Pronunciation Reminders:** ? is a glotal 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 Kopriss. 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> - Tižamēh!

Remember: there is always Wa'dat Wednesdays! This informal, stand-alone vocabulary class happens on 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](mailto:bwright@wyandotte-nation.org).

## Cultural Division

Submitted by Kim Garcia (Tētsi?tara?),  
Cultural Preservation Officer (Inyomarihú?te?  
Ahehtasta?)

Staff from the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Division were invited to an event at the Seneca Art & Culture Center – Ganondagan in Victor, NY. The event was to welcome 18 rare and important objects associated with wampum from the Musée du Quai Branly in Paris, France. One wampum belt was a gift from the Hurons to the Immaculate Virgin. The Seneca people held a ceremony to welcome all the visitors from other nations and then to welcome the wampum pieces back to their lands. The people in attendance were then allowed to photograph and hold these items that were made by their ancestors. The experience was emotional and helped to heal relationships that were damaged many generations ago. The exhibit for the public is now open through Sept. 16 and we encourage all Wyandottes to visit.

In March, we finished tapping the trees and did a sap boil. We also had a basic sewing class taught by the "Sewing Aunties" at the same time – participants learned to sew a bag. We had a nice chili dinner prepared by the Elder Nutrition staff and then we had a social dance. The Wa'dat singers have been meeting every Thursday evening to learn our traditional longhouse songs. Having these social dances every few months pushes the singers to learn new songs and to take turns leading. It's such a good thing these Wyandotte men have stepped up to learn our traditional songs. Yawahstih!

April began with the Easter Egg Hunt at the Pow-Wow Grounds and then a pottery class taught by Wyandotte Citizen Nathan McAlister. The pots will



COURTESY PHOTO

Staff members of the WNCC: (From left to right) Kim Garcia, Joshua Garcia, Beci Wright, Chris Houk holding the Immaculate Virgin wampum belt.

be fired April 29. We hope they all make it! The preschool pow-wow was led by our own Josh Garcia serving as Head Man and Princess Sara Wright serving as Head Lady. The 2nd sewing class will be April 22 – learning how to make a ribbon skirt.

May 6 is our first Graduation Pow-Wow! Wyandotte Citizen Caleb Garcia is serving as Head Man and we will be honoring all high school and college graduates. Please join us!

May 13 will be the day to honor women. We will have a shawl class in the afternoon and a Mother's Day Social Dance in the evening after dinner.

We will have our Lacrosse Camp June 19-22. This camp is open to all kids ages 12 and older. In the evenings, we plan to host a mini-camp for kids 11 and

younger. June 23-25 is our Gathering of Little Turtles. This year we will be learning about plants used for food, medicine, and tools. This is geared towards all kids from zero to 15 (with older kids helping as mentors to the younger kids).

Sept. 5-8 will be our Gathering. (We are planning a kayak trip on Sept. 4.) Pow-Wow will be Sept. 8-10.

There are lots of opportunities for all Wyandottes to learn and participate in cultural activities. We have people from all over the country joining us via Zoom and in-person. Please check out the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center Facebook page for more information and links to register for events. If you're not from around here and are visiting, please come visit. Let us know beforehand so we can prepare for you.

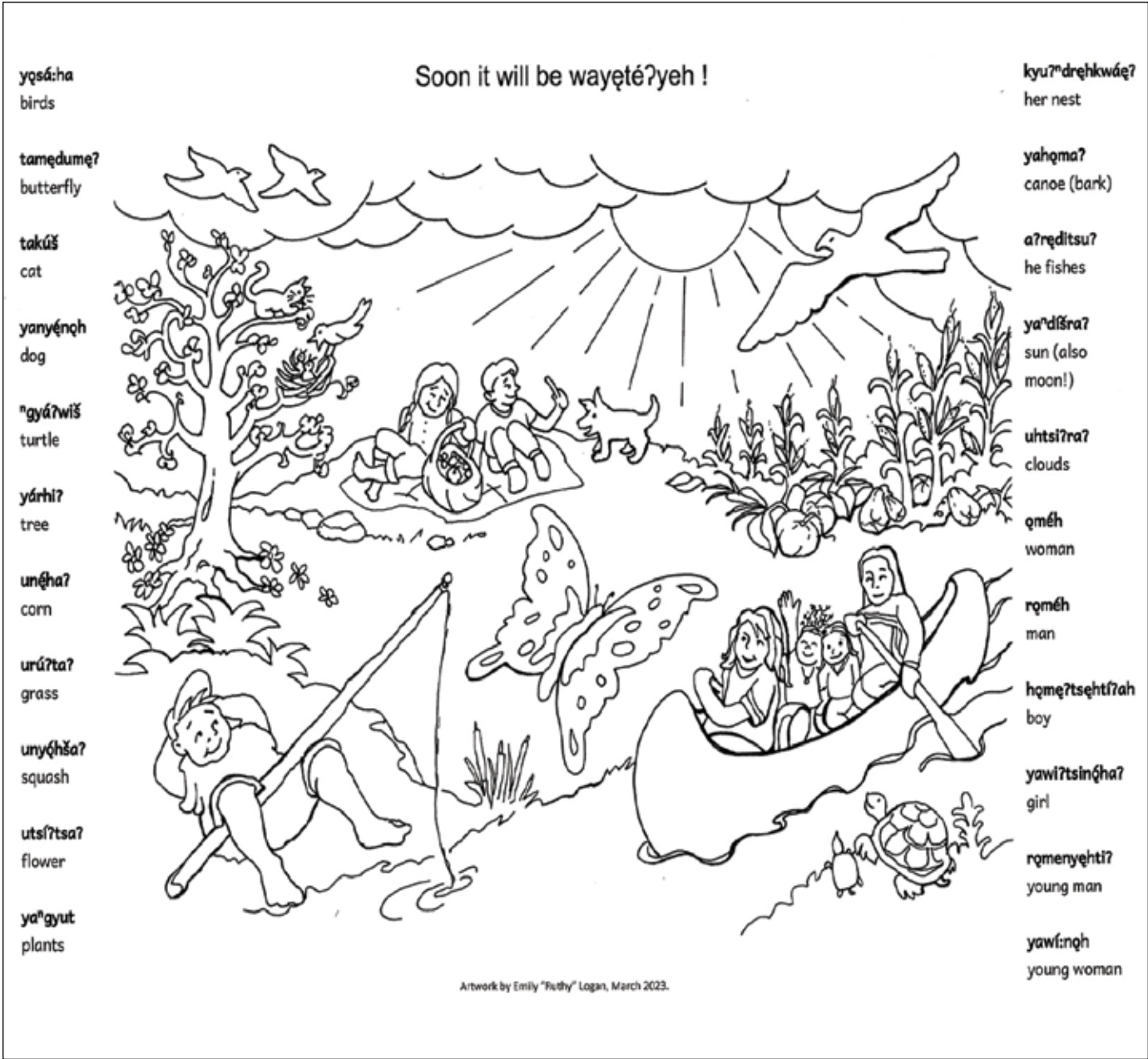
### Department Contacts:

**Kim Garcia**  
[kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org)  
918-678-6317  
**Sherri Clemons**  
[sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org)  
918-678-6344  
**Chris Houk**  
[chouk@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:chouk@wyandotte-nation.org)  
918-678-6318  
**Beci Wright**  
[bwright@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:bwright@wyandotte-nation.org)  
918-678-6480  
**Teresa Wilson**  
[twilson@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:twilson@wyandotte-nation.org)  
918-678-6385





# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS



## 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 May title will be *The Inconvenient Indian* by Thomas King and Book Club will be held **WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 2023** at noon and 7:30 PM Central Time.

Our next selection is *Motorcycles and Sweetgrass* by Drew Hayden Taylor for **MONDAY, AUG. 7, 2023** at noon and 7:30 PM Central Time.

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](mailto: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. 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!) Tižameh!

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](mailto:bwright@wyandotte-nation.org).



# Important Numbers

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Education / Library / Child Care**  
Cristi Hudson (918) 678-6334  
chudson@wyandotte-nation.org

**Environmental / Planning / Development**  
Christen Lee (918) 678-6341  
clee@wyandotte-nation.org

**Housing**  
Kathy DeWeese (918) 678-6339  
kdeweese@wyandotte-nation.org

**Police Department**  
Ronnie Gilmore (918) 678-6365  
rgilmore@wntpd.com  
Non-emergency: (918) 678-3100  
police@wntpd.com

**Cultural Division**  
Kim Garcia (918) 678-6317  
kgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org  
Sherri Clemons (918) 678-6344  
sclemons@wyandotte-nation.org

**Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center**  
Kelly Friend (918) 678-3259  
kfriend@wyandotte-nation.org

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

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

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

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

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

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

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## GRADUATION POW-WOW

**MAY**  
**6**  
3pm @ Pow-Wow Grounds



## PRESCHOOL GRADUATION

**MAY**  
**8**  
7pm @ Fitness Center Gymnasium



## MOTHER'S DAY DINNER

**MAY**  
**11**  
@ Title Vi Building



## FATHER'S DAY DINNER

**JUNE**  
**15**  
@ Title Vi Building



## LACROSSE CAMP

**JUNE**  
**19 - 22**



## GATHERING OF LITTLE TURTLES

**JUNE**  
**23 - 25**



## FIREWORKS CELEBRATION

**JULY**  
**3**  
Gates open 6pm @ Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow Grounds



## GATHERING

**SEPT.**  
**5 - 8**



## 32ND ANNUAL POW-WOW

**SEPT.**  
**8 - 10**



## ANNUAL MEETING

**SEPT.**  
**9**  
10am @ Bearskin Fitness Center Gym



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