



# The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish

# Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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February 2024



Artie Nesvold Elders Center

## New facility now open

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The Wyandotte Nation  
8 Turtle Drive  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

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



### Inside:

- Local Food Distribution events a success
- **Town Hall Meeting headed to Denver, Colorado**
- Merry Grinchmas the theme of Christmas Party

## 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:**  
 Chief Billy Friend addresses those in attendance at the Elders Center dedication.

PHOTO: JOSHUA GARCIA

## 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.

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



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[www.youtube.com/WyandotteNation](https://www.youtube.com/WyandotteNation)



From the Chief

Billy Friend

# More opportunities coming in 2024

Happy New Year from the Wyandotte Nation! We hope everyone enjoyed the holiday season with friends and loved ones and are ready to take on a new year full of expectation and promise. At the Wyandotte Nation, we are planning for the years ahead with foresight and determination to meet our mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Wyandotte people.

The New Year is always the perfect time for making resolutions. Many of us make personal resolutions with the arrival of the New Year. We resolve to exercise more, eat less, read more, spend more time with family, etc. Each of us has his or her own personal set of resolutions, most often created and reviewed as the New Year arrives.

For the Wyandotte Nation, I believe the prime resolution for 2024 is continue to create more opportunities. It has long been the message of the Wyandotte Nation that we are here to "give a hand-up and not a handout." To provide opportunities that our citizens may not be able to receive elsewhere.

With so many activities ongoing at the Wyandotte Nation, it is important we regularly review our tribal mission. We want to be certain we are traveling the good path as

we in your tribal government serve you. One of the simplest yet most important things we do in government is open doors for Wyandottes everywhere. And when a Wyandotte walks through that open door, we want him or her to discover all the wonderful opportunities available.

In 2024 we plan to create opportunity in education, housing and health care. New opportunities in tribal business will be forthcoming. Our Wyandotte youth, elders and families will benefit from opportunities presented them by the Tribe.

There is so much more to the Wyandotte Nation than our variety of programs and services. These essential elements the tribe offers are tremendously important to Wyandotte people, but there is so much more available beyond the "front door" of the Wyandotte Nation.

Beyond the grants, scholarships and other programs we offer students are the successful careers, families and lives those programs help create. The tribal housing initiatives are more than simply roofs over the heads of Wyandotte families, they fulfill dreams and help form the foundation for happy, well-lived lives. The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness facility is more than a building filled with equipment and

medical staff, it is a healing center where Wyandottes and other Indian people can regain their most valuable possession.

Our tribal businesses offer so much more than profits - they provide important employment opportunities and lifelong careers. Our preschool, after school programs and cultural camps and activities are more than simply a good time together, they are helping lay the groundwork and teach important life lessons to our young people as they make their life choices.

We had many reasons to celebrate throughout 2023, including several important milestones. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center and our Tribe grew to more than 7,000 citizens worldwide.

2024 looks to be another promising year with many events, accomplishments, progress and continued growth on the horizon. We are grateful to our dedicated workforce who is unified in our shared mission to serve the Wyandotte people, as well as our many communities and partners in our success. Together, we will continue to build an even stronger Wyandotte Nation in the years ahead.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand,

# Our influential history

Kweh Omateru  
 Hello, my friends. At the moment I am writing this article about 75% of the United States is in a deep freeze. Wind chills of 25 to 30 below zero are very uncommon for Oklahoma. I hope Mother Nature has gotten it out of her system because we don't need cold weather like this, but on the other hand,

the last few winters have been mild so I guess we are due to have some frigid weather. Oh well, I got that out of my system for now.

The new Title VI building is finished. They have moved in, we had the dedication on Jan. 9, and I am proud to announce the Artie Nesvold Elder Center is open. This will be a great place for all elders

to gather to eat and enjoy fellowship with one another. Our Senior Turtles run a nice gift shop, and for their enjoyment, there will be a dance once a month with live music. Since it's cold outside you





## COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

### Tribal citizen awarded Native American writer's grant

The Native American Media Alliance announced the recipients of the third Annual Native American Writers Accelerator Grant. With support from Netflix, the organization launched the Native American Writer Accelerator Grant for fellows from their highly successful TV writers' lab. Wyandotte tribal citizen Rylan Tuohy was a recipient of the grant.

"This grant gives Native American writers the ability to develop their careers as the industry enters another challenging era," said Ian Skorodin, Director of Strategy for the Native American Media Alliance. "Previous grantees have found great success in staffing, producing independent work, and finding their artistic voice."

Tuohy is a writer and director and proud tribal citizen of the Wyandotte Nation who grew up in rural Greenville, Kentucky. Using YouTube as both a showcase for his earliest short films and a place to learn how to hip-hop dance, he realized he had a knack for the former and

considered applying to film school. Instead, he accepted a nomination to the United States Naval Academy where he earned an applied physics degree and a commission as a Civil Engineer Corps officer. While serving in uniform and in his spare time, he found a niche in creating comedic videos, which gained a following and millions of views. This momentum propelled him into his new career as a writer and director after honorably completing his service.

He has collaborated on commercial projects with Paramount's Top Gun: Maverick, Amazon's The Terminal List, NFL Star Rob Gronkowski and developed a one-hour drama television pilot as part of his selection in the Writers Guild Foundation's Veterans Writing Project.

Created to give new opportunities to Native American writers, the Native American Writer Accelerator Grant provides \$10,000 in grants and professional support to help recipients develop their craft and bolster their writing careers. In its third year, the accelerator will award 12 Native American writers from the 8th Annual Native

American TV Writers Lab.

The accelerator is designed to encourage Native American writers to expand on their current opportunities. The collaboration with Netflix on the Native American Writer Accelerator Grant is part of Netflix's Fund for Creative Equity.

**Other recipients of the Native American Writer Accelerator Grant:** Kendall David (Choctaw), Gina East (Pueblo), James William Evans (Cherokee), Meera Divecha Forespring (Cowlitz), Michelle Hernandez (Wiyot), Sloane Leong (Hawaiian), Simon Luedtke (Potawatomi), Maddox Pennington (Cherokee), Stefan Perez (Coast Miwok), Ahyoka Saas (Cherokee), and David Zuckerman (Pueblo).

**About the Native American Media Alliance:** The Native American Media Alliance provides multi-faceted educational programs for studios, networks, production companies, talent agencies and unions, working in the Native American space, to promote an authentic voice in film, television and new media.

## 2nd Chief

Continued from Page 2

don't even have to get out of your car because we have a drive-thru window for your convenience. The Artie Nesvold Elder Center will be a fantastic addition to the Wyandotte Nation.

The Turtle Hill Duplex Addition is nearing completion for the latest phase of the project. There will be a park in the center of it with playground equipment, a basketball court, and a pickleball court. We are still building duplexes in Heritage Acres so get your name on the list if you might be interested in living here on the Wyandotte Nation. We will be adding new classrooms to the preschool in front of the old Title VI building which will become the preschool lunchroom. We are also assisting the Town of Wyandotte to increase the size of their wastewater treatment plant which is almost at capacity now since we have been expanding so much. A lot of good things happening here at the Wyandotte Nation.

This little bit of history gives us a pretty good insight into the influence the Wyandotte people had in the history of North America. Plus hopefully, everyone will find it fascinating:

*Many Wyandotte Nation families*

**"As individual fingers we can easily be broken, but all together we make a mighty fist."**

--Sitting Bull

*played a prominent role in the establishment of the Hudson Bay Trading Company. The company remains the oldest company on the North American Continent. After becoming established with the assistance of many members of the Wyandotte Nation, the company flourished for many years by controlling the flow of trade on the fur routes.*

*During the time period when the Wyandotte controlled the Fur Trading routes, point blankets were one of the main European items sought by native peoples in exchange for beaver pelts, buffalo robes, pemmican, moccasins, and other trade goods. They were desired because of wool's ability to hold heat even when wet, and because they were easier to sew than bison or deer skins.*

*Wool cloth of one kind or another was traded as far back as the French regime in North America (1500 – 1765), but Hudson Bay Company point blankets were introduced in 1780 to compete with similar blankets offered by the Montreal-based traders. From the*

*early days of the fur trade point blankets were made into hooded coats called capotes by both natives and French Canadian voyageurs which were perfectly suited to Canada's cold winters.*

*The Hudson Bay Corporation occupies a prominent place in both the economic and the political history of Canada. It was incorporated in England on May 2, 1670, to seek a northwest passage to the Pacific, to occupy the lands adjacent to Hudson Bay, and to carry on any commerce with those lands that might prove profitable. It still exists as a commercial company and is active in real estate, merchandising, and natural resources, with headquarters in Toronto. It is the oldest incorporated joint-stock merchandising company in the English-speaking world.*

*The territories originally granted to the Hudson's Bay Company became known as Rupert's Land (after Prince Rupert of the Palatinate, who was a cousin of King Charles II of England and the first governor of the company). The boundaries of Rupert's Land were never clearly*

*defined, but the area was commonly understood to extend from Labrador to the Rocky Mountains and from the headwaters of the Red River to Chesterfield Inlet on Hudson Bay.*

*The Hudson's Bay Company engaged in the fur trade during its first two centuries of existence. In the 1670's and '80s, the company established a number of posts on the shores of James and Hudson bays. Most of these posts were captured by the French and were in French hands between 1686 and 1713 when they were restored to the company by the Treaty of Utrecht. After the British conquest of Canada (1759 – 60), increasing competition led the company to build fur-trading posts inland, starting with Cumberland House in 1774.*

*In the 20th Century the Hudson's Bay Company remained one of the largest fur – collecting and marketing agencies in the world but turned increasingly to retail merchandising. Today the company retains the distinction of being the oldest corporation established upon the North American continent.*

*It always amazes me how much history the Wyandotte Nation influenced within North America.*

# Local families benefit from food events

Thanks to grant funds from the USDA, the Wyandotte Nation was able to distribute free, local food to nearly 600 families in our community (Native and non-Native) during recent distribution events.

“The Tribe was able to provide nutritious and delicious food in November and December to nearly 600 families,” said Wyandotte Nation Grant Writer Michael Lowery, who coordinated the events. “Thankfully, countless volunteers from various departments helped prepare for the distribution events. This boosted office morale as it brought employees together for a common cause.”

The first distribution event was held at the new Artie Nesvold Elders Center and the second at Wyandotte Nation Administration Building. Local families who took part in this opportunity received food that included beef, bison, bread, coffee, fruit, turnips, goat cheese, local honey, pecans, vegetables and much more.

Wyandotte Nation received grant funds from USDA’s Local Food Purchase Assistance Cooperative Agreement Program. Lowery said money for this project allows the Tribe to distribute locally grown, sourced, and produced food to our underserved community.

River Bend Casino was involved as well with their employees and maintenance crew. In fact, Lowery said, the General Manager was able to acquire a trailer with refrigeration



**Volunteers (pictured above and below) helped distribute food boxes to the local community during the December distribution event.**

PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

and freezer space to store the food. Lowery said they anticipate at least two more distribution events – one in the spring and another in the summer. The Tribe wishes to thank all the volunteers who helped and be sure to watch for announcements for the next event.





## Dedication of new facility held in January

# Artie Nesvold Elders Center now open for service

With updated equipment and expanded space, the new Artie Nesvold Elders Center is now open for food service. The Wyandotte Nation Elder Services Department moved from the location just off of Hwy 60 to the new location (14430 Porcupine, Wyandotte, OK 74370) in December.

The dedication of the center to Artie Nesvold was held Tuesday, Jan. 9.

"The dedication of the 'Artie Nesvold Elders Center' is our way of memorializing forever her work and commitment to the Wyandotte Nation," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "For over 40 years Artie adamantly help protect and preserve our history and artifacts to keep our traditions and culture alive. Without her steadfastness and dedication to those efforts we not be where we are at today."

The new facility features all new equipment, including double the ovens and fryers, steamers, two ice machines, expanded walk-in cooler and freezer space, and much more. Elder Services Director Brenda

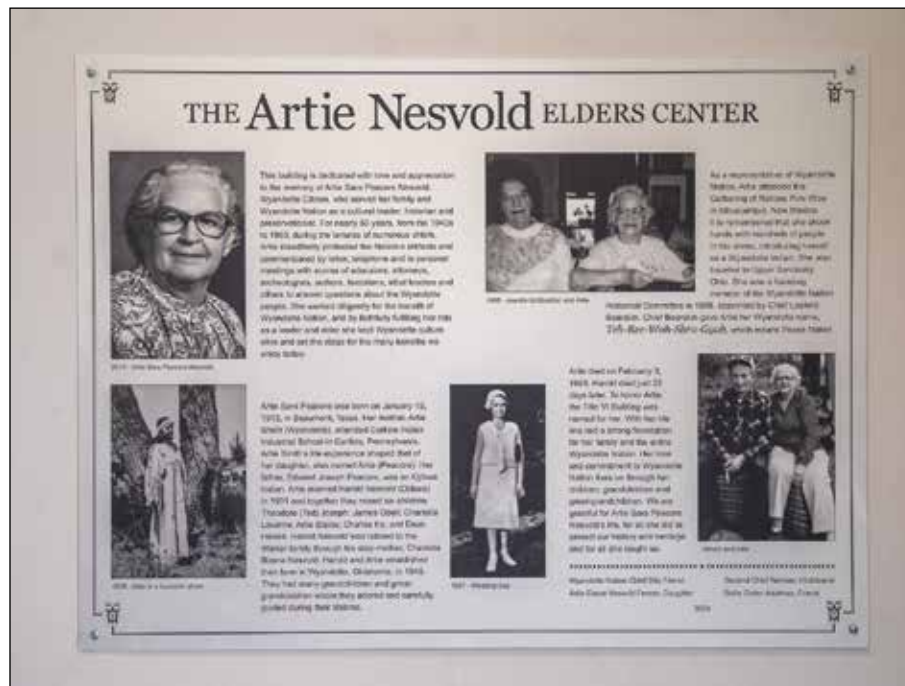


PHOTO: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION

**A dedication to the new Artie Nesvold Elders Center was held Jan. 9.**

House said more ovens and fryers will make it easier to cook more food at once, and the steamers will allow them to steam rather than

cook the vegetables so they retain more nutritional value. She also said the elders have a larger gift shop and the location makes it nice

for everyone because it is closer to elder housing and Bear Park.

"It's beautiful and we have a drive thru window so the Elders can pick up their meals without having to get out of their vehicles," House said. "Very convenient for days that it is raining or they may just not want to have to get dressed up to come and get lunch."

The expanded space will also help better accommodate the bigger holiday events the center hosts.

"The newly completed Artie Nesvold Elder Center will be a place where all the area elders can come get a hot meal and socialize with their fellow elders," said Second Chief Norman Hildebrand. "There will also be activities planned every month to get elders out of their homes and to get them to be more active to increase their mental and physical wellness. This facility is larger than the old Title VI building and will be able to easily accommodate the large crowds we have for our holiday dinners."







Merry Grinchmas!

|

Childrens Christmas Party

|

Photos by William Swaim



# Town Hall Meeting scheduled for April in Colorado

Save the date!

The Wyandotte Nation will once again host a Town Hall Meeting in the Denver, Colo. area. The Town Hall Meeting is the opportunity for us to bring our Annual Meeting, held

every September, on the road.

The meeting will be 10 am Saturday, April 27, at Embassy Suites Denver International Airport, 7001 Yampa Street in Denver.

Tribal citizens who reside in

the state of Colorado will receive postcard invitations. However, any tribal citizen who would like to travel to the meeting is welcome.

We just ask that you register in advance. We do have a courtesy

block of rooms if tribal citizens want to stay at the hotel. Please see our Facebook page and post for the link to the rooms.

We hope to see you there!



# Wyandotte Nation

4th annual



## Easter Egg Hunt



**March 23, 2024**  
**Saturday at 9 am**

**Location To Be Determined**



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director*

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department is very happy



**SCOTT**

to welcome Shae Scott. Shae will serve as a DV/SA/EA Advocate. She completed her general studies at Northeastern State University. She worked for the Department of Human Services for four years as a child welfare specialist. Shae enjoys boating, kayaking, fishing and sports, and spending time with her family and friends on the lake or river. We are very fortunate to have Shae on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Department is proud to welcome tribal citizens Brynlee Wilson and Ciara Cotter as our new Cultural Assistants.



**WILSON**



**COTTER**

Brynlee graduated from Union High School. She is currently going to Southern New Hampshire University majoring in marketing, focused on event planning. She has worked two years at the Cultural Center as a summer intern. Brynlee's hobbies include DIY projects and crafts as well as spending time with her family and friends. She has also served as part of a non-profit girl's organization that teaches young girls leadership, friendship, and respect for parents and guardians.

Ciara has her Associates of Arts and is continuing her education at the University of New Mexico for Indigenous and Pacific Islander studies and communications. Her hobbies include traditional singing, writing, art and reading in her free

time. She spends her spare time with her grandparents where they enjoy laughing together. Ciara works with teenagers and friends from across the world to improve mental health standards for kids.

We are very fortunate to have Brynlee and Ciara and wish them success in this new position.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department is proud to welcome Kyle Lankford as a School Resource Officer and Leon Crow as our Emergency Manager.

Kyle graduated from Seneca High School and has been in Law Enforcement since 2014 where he worked for Miami Nation Police Department. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, and spending time with his family at sporting events.



**LANKFORD**



**CROW**

Leon attended Wyandotte High School, Crowder College, and spent 39 years in the Fire/EMS field. He enjoys fishing and spending time with his wife as well as traveling. Leon has lived in Wyandotte his entire life and loves the small town feel. We are very excited to have Kyle and Leon in

their new positions and wish them success.

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center is very happy to welcome tribal citizen Lynnette (Shelly) Oakley as an LPN. Shelly graduated from Miami High School and later graduated NE Tech Center's PN program. She has been a travel nurse since 2012 and came home to spend time with her family. Shelly enjoys riding motorcycles with her husband, St. Louis Cardinals baseball (or any baseball for that matter,) gardening/growing flowers, her chickens, and traveling. She



**OAKLEY**

also enjoys spending her spare time with her family - 6 children and 14 grandchildren. Shelly is proud to be a Wyandotte tribal citizen. We are very fortunate to have Shelly on our team and wish her much success in her new position.

The Facilities Department welcomes Shelby Williams as a Facilities Technician at Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center. Shelby spent his career focusing on grounding a



**WILLIAMS**

physical maintenance opportunity. He acquired a degree in welding from Northeast Technology Center, then went in to the mechanical trade and secured a Journeyman's license in mechanical maintenance. Shelby is a graduate of Quapaw High School. His hobbies include fishing, boating and anything outdoors. He enjoys spending time with his wife and daughter. They enjoy racing and motorsports events and the outdoors in general, as well as going to ballgames to support their daughter, who is a cheerleader. We are very fortunate to have Shelby on our team and wish him much success in his new position.

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director*

Old Man Winter is definitely making himself known this year! We're currently experiencing frigid temps here in Northeast Oklahoma, but hopefully, they will be short lived and we'll be back to just regular cold soon. The Family Services staff is looking forward to the New Year and amazing activities being planned by tribal programs. Be sure to follow Wyandotte Nation on social media platforms so you can stay up-to-date on all of the activities.

In December, the Tribe hosted the Annual Children's Christmas party and had a record attendance of 200 children ages birth to 15. Attendees enjoyed donuts, rice crispy treats,

punch, crafts, time with Santa and even some Wyandotte language. The party theme was "Merry Grinchmas" and each child received a themed blanket and beanie. The Grinch, the Mayor of Whoville and another Whoville resident paid us a special visit to party with the kiddos. The party takes place each year on the 2nd Saturday in December, so be sure to mark your calendars now for next year!

**Other 2024 events to note on your calendars:**

- Easter Egg Hunt – Saturday, March 23rd (watch Social Media and the website for location)
- Gathering of Little Turtles – June 21-23
- The Gathering – Sept. 9 - 13
- Pow-Wow – Sept. 13 – 15
- Annual Meeting – Sept. 14, 10 am at the Bearskin Wellness Center Gymnasium

## Town Hall

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held in Denver, Colo., on Saturday, April 27. Tribal citizens who reside in the state of Colorado will receive post card invitations. However, any tribal citizen who would like to travel to the meeting is welcome to attend.

## Services Brochure

By the time you receive this newsletter, you should have already received the Services brochure. All Tribal services are included in this new brochure, which we hope to publish and mail annually. If you did not receive a copy, you can contact us to have one sent. Also, please be sure to keep your mailing address updated with the Tribe so you will continue to receive future mailings. You can update your address on our website here: <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/familyservices/programs/change-of-address/> or we can send you a form to complete via mail.

## Payment Processing

As we, the Tribe, continue to grow and program services expand, we ask that you please allow up to 30 days from the time we receive your completed application for payment. If you have direct deposit set up and have a change in your account, you must notify us two weeks prior to a payment

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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being processed. If for some reason a direct deposit is returned, a check will automatically be issued. Unfortunately, if a payment is made to an account you no longer have access to, but is an active account, we will not be able to pull those funds back.

## Tribal Enrollment

The deadline for applications to be considered for enrollment at the 2024 Annual Meeting is Aug. 15. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate (long form that includes the tribal parent's full name). Applications must be received in the office or postmarked by this date. Applications received prior to a child's first birthday will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card, a blanket embroidered with the Tribal Turtle and, thanks to the Cultural Division, either a ribbon skirt or ribbon shirt.

## LIHEAP Expanding

The LIHEAP program is now being processed through the 477 program and the service area has increased to be available to all individuals who are enrolled with a Federally recognized tribe in the 100 mile service area. The Winter/heating program dates are Dec. 1 – Feb. 29, with crisis applications being accepted year round. Applications can be obtained from either the 477 intake clerk at the Education building or the at the Family Services office. This is an income-based program.

## Family Violence Prevention

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

For a complete list of Family



Services programs, applications and information, please visit our website at [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) or refer to the Services brochure.

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

## Family Services Staff:

**wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org**  
Director, Dana Butterfield 918-678-6319, [dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:dbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org)  
ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg 918-678-6355, [tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:tgragg@wyandotte-nation.org)  
ICW Worker, Carmalita Ward, 918-678-6485, [cward@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:cward@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Tag Administrator, Tiffany Garner, 918-678-6353, [tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:tgarner@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Family Services Specialist, Leeanna Radabaugh, 918-678-6329, [lradaugh@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:lradaugh@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Enrollment Officer, Haylee Botts, 918-678-6377

## Family Violence Prevention Program Staff:

**fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org** –  
**Hotline number 877-276-0669**  
Program Manager, 918-678-3257, [cking@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:cking@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Lead Advocate, Gabby Ezell, 918-678-6402, [gezell@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:gezell@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Program Advocates: Lacy Butler, Kristi Johnston, Chelsea King, Shae Scott and Becky Maples  
Family Services/FVPP Administrative Assistant, Hannah Rhodes, 918-678-6321.

## Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,  
Education Director*

Our goal at Wyandotte Nation is to create safe and stable families, raise educational achievement, develop and enhance employment opportunities, integrate employment and training services, and increase self-sufficiency. 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.

Services provided under the 477 Plan include: job training and work experience, educational assistance, and childcare assistance, which allows families to maintain or achieve self-sufficiency through work or education. We provide financial assistance for classroom training, vocational training, and other job readiness services.

Wyandotte Nation also provides funding assistance to our Native American community in order to increase the availability, affordability, and quality childcare services. Each family is able to select a childcare provider that fits their needs. The childcare assistance portion of the federally funded 477 Program is designed to assist low income families in paying for daycare for children ages 0 – 12 years old. Families who are eligible for services will pay a monthly copay (based on their income) to their childcare provider while subsidy will pay the majority of the cost. Families accepted on the program will recertify their eligibility once a year. Currently, the program is getting ready to recertify clients on the March Recertification cycle. The program also assists childcare providers who have been on the program for at least a year, with mini grants to improve the quality of childcare and assist with the provider's needs. These needs could be items such as training, childcare equipment, or replacement of old utility equipment such as air conditioning units, washer/dryer, or refrigerators. At this time, the subsidy program providing services for approximately 110 children through various daycare providers in the service area.

Kweh! 2024 is off to a great start for the Wyandotte Nation Historical library. Recently, the library was able to purchase new computers for the media lab. This was made possible by the Capital Project Fund. Wyandotte Nation library was also awarded an IMLS Enhancement grant. This grant will allow us to bring new and exciting events, such as movie nights in the park and Book Walks, to the local community. More information will be made available for these upcoming events soon!

Wyandotte Nation's library hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday

8 am to 3:30 pm. New books and DVDs have recently been added to the shelves. In order to check out items from the library, you must be a registered library patron. If you are not currently a patron at the library, you may sign up by filling out the application on the website at [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org), or you can sign up in person at the library. Wyandotte Nation library also offers virtual library access through Oklahoma Virtual Library. Through Oklahoma Virtual Library, you will have access to many different eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and videos. To access your virtual library account, visit [www.okvirtuallibrary.com](http://www.okvirtuallibrary.com). You may also download the "Libby" app to access the virtual library. For more information about the Wyandotte Nation Library or virtual access, you may contact the librarian, Madeline Harnar via email or phone, [mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org) or 918-678-6332.

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is currently accepting applications for our 3-5 year old preschool program. Children must have been 3 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2023, to qualify for this program. Our infant & toddler program remains full with a waiting list. We have been busy the last couple months. We celebrated Thanksgiving on Nov. 9 with a lunch time feast for students, parents, grandparents, and staff members to enjoy. We had an excellent turnout of around 250 people. After Thanksgiving, the preschool was transformed into a winter wonderland for our students and

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 9

staff. Staff members did an amazing job decorating the doors, halls, and walls of our facility. We had several different themes including the polar express, winter wonderland, Whoville, the North Pole, Rudolph, and the Grinch. We had our Christmas program and parties on Dec. 19 along with a visit from Santa Claus. We are currently in Valentine's Day mode as we prepare for our Valentine's Day program scheduled for Feb. 14 at 9 am in the preschool gymnasium. We are also gearing up for our annual Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool PowWow that is scheduled for Thursday, April 11. We have been working with Josh Garcia and Chris Houk from our cultural department to help us prepare. Preschool graduation will take place on Monday, May 6, 2024 at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Gymnasium. For more information about Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center, you may contact Lindsay Cooper via email or phone, lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org or 918-678-3267. We are available to assist you with the application process in any of our programs and we look forward to working with you soon.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is currently processing the spring 2024 semester scholarships. Beginning with the fall 2023 semester, the scholarship amount for the undergraduate and master's scholarships increased 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 amount of hours you are attending. If you are currently on the scholarship program, please remember to send in your latest unofficial transcript that includes fall grades and spring 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, we want to inform you of some guidelines that you are required to meet to maintain the scholarship:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight (8) semesters.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.



- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the programs duration.
- Deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is May 1. To obtain an Undergraduate, Masters, or Vocational Scholarship application, they are available on our website, [www.wyandotte-nation.org](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org) 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 members who are graduating college but did not obtain a scholarship from Wyandotte Nation. You

will be required to fill out the stole application, located on the website, and submit all documentation that is required to get a stole mailed to you. If you live local, you may pick up a stole at the Education Department once your application is approved and you have been notified.

### Department Contacts:

Cristi Hudson – Education Director  
918-678-6334 or [chudson@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:chudson@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Sami Butterfield – Caseworker/Childcare Specialist  
918-678-6330 or [sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Lindsay Cooper – Early Childhood Program Coordinator  
918-678-3267 or [lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Madeline Harnar – Librarian  
918-678-6332 or [mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Evan Hotulke – Caseworker/Education/Employment Specialist  
918-678-6331 or [ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Kasey Lewis – Intake Clerk  
918-678-3268 or [klewis@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto: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 will be available soon. This area now has 66 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 bedrooms, are equipped with appliances, and a garage. All yard work is done for you. Title VI (Elder food program) and Bearskin Clinic are close by. If you are interested, please fill out an application and return it to the housing office.

A walking tract will be added to the Heritage Park this spring. This will be a great addition to the park.

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. The application 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 for 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. This program will only run through March.

### IHS -121 Program

This program is funded through the Department of Health & Human Services, to ensure safe drinking water and proper sanitation facilities for our tribal families. These services include drilling wells, installing septic systems, rural water hook-ups, and connections to city water and sewer. There are no income guidelines. Tribal members must reside in the following counties: Craig; Creek; Delaware; Mayes; Nowata; Okfuskee; Okmulgee; Ottawa; Rogers; Tulsa; Wagoner; Washington.

### Department Staff:

Kathy DeWeese-Housing Director  
Don Graham- Housing Specialist  
Paul Parker- Project Coordinator  
Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator  
Randy Qualls and Drew Lankford- Residential Maintenance Technicians



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

The final Christmas meal in the old building as our Elder Services Department opened a new facility, the Artie Nesvold Elder Center.

## Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director*

We moved into our brand new building Dec. 18, 2023. It is beautiful! Please come and see us! We would be happy to give you a tour! We do have a drive thru window for those that prefer to pick their meals up and not have to walk into the building.

Our Valentines Dinner and party will be Wednesday, Feb. 14, 2024, through the noon hour. We will honor the oldest Valentine, the couple that has been married the longest, the newlyweds and the one that has been married the most times and is willing to admit it.

Our Easter Party will be Thursday, March 28 through the noon hour. We will have an Easter Bonnet Contest, Men's Leg Contest, and an Easter Egg Hunt at Bear Park just across the road from our new building. The one that finds the most eggs and the prize egg will receive a prize.

### CAREGIVER

Our Caregiver Support Group is the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 am - 11:30 am in the new conference/safe room in the north

end of our new building. Lunch provided in the Title VI dining room 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.

### SENIOR TURTLES GIFT SHOP

The Senior Turtles Gift Shop is open in our new building. The hours are 10 am - 2 pm Monday-Friday.

If you would be interested in joining our Senior Turtles Gift Shop Group, please contact Brenda or anyone in the group.

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.

## Planning & Natural Resources

*Submitted by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director*

text Wyandotte Nation's mission is, "To advance the standard of living of the Tribe...and to promote in any other way the general welfare of the Indians of the Wyandotte Nation." To carry this mission forward in our tribal community, the Planning and Natural Resources Department provide a variety of services including, but not limited to, private well drinking water sampling as and septic assessments for private home owners. For private well sampling appointments, contact Kathleen Welch, John Gerhard or Myron Shield. We also encourage and provide a place to recycle. Lost Creek Recycling Center is open to the community and surrounding area Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and 8 am to 3:30 pm on Friday. The facility can accept the following materials: paper, plastic, cardboard, tin and aluminum.

Happy New Year! Our department stayed busy with day-to-day duties. The Lost Creek Recycling Center has been increasingly busy during these past few months. Jon Quick, our Recycling Technician and the rest of the staff have done an excellent job keeping this operation running smoothly. Amounts collected between the months of October and December are listed in the table below:

### October

On Oct. 6 and Oct. 26 our department had to environmental information booths at two separate health fairs. One at the Northeastern Tribal Health System and the other at Bearskin Health and Wellness Center. Approximately 300 participants attended each event. Department staff provided information on various environmental concerns within the Wyandotte Nation lands.

During the week of Oct. 9 – 12, Myron Shield and John Gerhard attended the Tar Creek Conference at NEO College in Miami, Okla.

During the week of Oct. 16 – 20, we hosted a tire collection event at the Lost Creek Recycle Center and collected a total of 494 tires. If you



were unable to participate in this event don't panic, we will be hosting another event during the week of May 6-10, 2024.

### November

The week of Nov. 6 – 10, John and Myron attended the National Non-Point Source Workshop in Minneapolis, Minn. The following week of Nov. 13 – 17 found Kathleen Welch attending the EPA Region 6 & 8 combined Tribal Caucus and RTOC Meetings in Albuquerque, NM.

On Nov. 7-8, our department hosted a Tar Creek Climate Action Plan Workshop. The workshop was held at the Bearskin Wellness Center classroom and participants from tribal employees and tribal citizens.

Myron and John performed quarterly nutrient and E-coli sampling on Nov. 29, per our EPA Water 106 Grant.

**Continued on Page 12**



## Elder Services Menu

[www.wyandotte-nation.org/elderservices/elder-services-menu](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/elderservices/elder-services-menu)



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 11

### December

The month of December kept department staff busy with virtual and in person meetings.

On Dec. 19 our department worked with a certified ODEQ contractor to replace a failing septic system with a new system.

### Other Environmental Duties:

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 four private well drinking water samples during this time frame. Staff has attended several online and in person meetings and trainings such as RTOC, NATURE, TECO, TCTC, TCTCIT, TSMD and others.

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. We recently received several grant awards that will allow the tribe and its departments to serve Wyandotte citizens within our service area and beyond, when possible. A list of competitive awards and their amount is provided in the table below.

Grants Awarded from October thru December 2023	
COPS Office Tribal Resources Grant Program - Hiring	\$484,001
COPS Office Tribal Resources Grant Program – Equipment and Training	\$181,550
Solid Waste Infrastructure for Recycling Grants for Tribes	\$947,266
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,612,817</b>

Solid Waste Collected from October thru December 2023	
Cardboard	19,018 lbs.
Plastic	1,208 lbs.
Aluminum	315 lbs.
Shredded Paper	1,072 lbs.
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>21,613 lbs.</b>

Department Contacts		
Title	Name	Email
Director	Christen Lee	clee@wyandotte-nation.org
Environmental Department 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 1	Braulio Ramirez	bramirez@wyandotte-nation.org
Water Utilities Operator 2	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

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

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Cultural Division

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

It was a very busy Fall and Winter at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum! November was Native American Heritage Month and we stayed busy EVERY. SINGLE. DAY! If you follow us on Instagram or Facebook, you know that we post daily facts and words of the day in our Wa<sup>n</sup>dat language. Most of the staff and Cultural Advisory Board went to Monroe, Mich., to do field trip presentations for Wyandotte Days at the River Raisin National Battlefield Park. We presented to over 2,000 kids! We also did many presentations at local schools and via Zoom to other schools out of the area. If you ever want us to do presentations for your kids' schools, please contact us early. We fill up quickly for November.

On Jan. 13, we hosted our Winter Gathering. We were hoping for 150 people to attend and it looked like we'd exceed that number until the impending winter weather was announced. Single digit temperatures and predicted snow prevented many from attending. We still had nearly 100 in attendance! It was a great time of hominy making, story telling, and social dancing with our Wa<sup>n</sup>dat singers. For these events, it takes many departments to come together to make it a success. We had some great meals prepared by Family Services and Elders Services, the Fitness Center allowed us to use their facilities and they, along with Maintenance, set up all the chairs, tables, and more. Wyandotte Nation really is a great place!

In 1824, the Mission Church was built in Upper Sandusky, Ohio for the Wyandot people. We will be focusing our events this year on our time in Ohio. Also, to honor the 200th anniversary, we are planning a trip to Ohio in May. We will have a church service at the Mission Church and then tour various sites in Ohio. Please be on the lookout for more details about the trip.

## Upcoming Events

(Be sure to check out our social media for more details and additional classes):

### Weekly

- Wa<sup>n</sup>dat Songs every Thursday at 6 pm
- Sap Boil – Every Thursday afternoon during the month of February
- Language Classes

### Monthly

- Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum with Lloyd Divine – the last Tuesday of the month
- Wa<sup>n</sup>dat Wednesday – the 3rd Wednesday of the month
- Wyandotte Beading – The 2nd Tuesday of the month

### Quarterly

- Wyandotte Book Club

March 2	Presentations at First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City
March 23	Ribbon Skirt Class
April 5-6	Corn Husk Mats Class
May 4	Medicine Pouch Class
May 4	Graduation Pow-Wow
May 11	Shawl Class, Mother's Day Social Dance
May	Ohio Trip
May 24	Pow-Wow Golf Scramble
May 27	Memorial Day Service at Wyandotte Cemetery
May 30 – Aug. 8	Weekly, Native Youth Night, Thursday evenings
June 8	Lacrosse Tournament
June 10-14	Lacrosse Camp
June 21-23	Gathering of Little Turtles
June 29	Small Clay Pots Class
July 3	Fireworks – Independence Day
July 12-13	Uskwetrah Class
Aug. 10	Moccasin Class
Sept. 9	Kayak Trip
Sept. 10-13	Gathering
Sept. 13-15	Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow
Sept. 14	Annual Meeting
Sept. 30	Orange Shirt Day
November	Native American Heritage Month

## Language Notes

BY BECI WRIGHT  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Kweh qmatəru? ! (Hello, friends!)

Do you have u<sup>n</sup>dinyəhtaé:tah (snow on the ground)? Here, a?qđút (it rained) and melted most of it – for now! Uturé? <sup>n</sup>deketatéh – it is a cold day. But soon it will be yeráhke:<sup>n</sup>deh (spring) and our ya<sup>n</sup>gyut relatives (plants) will be branching out into new life and color.

Chris Houk, our lifeways researcher, is busy planning when to start harvesting ura<sup>n</sup>da? (sap) to boil down into weyari (syrup). Keep an eye out on our social media pages for updates!

The calendar graphic displays all the November 2023 Wa<sup>n</sup>dat Word(s) of the Day (Josh Garcia did a yawahstih job on social media!) with terms for various locations that have been – and continue to be – important to us! The calendar includes the web address (or use the handy QR code) to take you to a web page with a printable calendar as well as the link to all the audio files.

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

Thanks to a recent grant, we have a limited number of activity books utilizing our language featuring counting and clothing. Please contact me if you are interested.

Tizameh! Eskwaye? (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 Koprís. All mistakes are my own. – Beci

## Wyandotte Nation Basics!

Would you like to learn the basics about our civil structure, history and culture? Twice a year the Cultural Center offers an online class (using Zoom) covering these basics and also providing a space to encourage citizens to connect from all parts of the country. We also discuss how to stand up as a Wyandotte wherever we live. Our next session will be on Sunday, May 5 at 4pm Central Time. To register for this class, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBasics>. If this opportunity doesn't fit in your schedule, the next offering will occur in December 2024.



# Important Numbers

**Family Services Enrollment**  
wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org  
Dana Butterfield (918) 678-6319  
Leeanna Radabaugh, (918) 678-6329  
Haylee Botts, (918) 678-6377

**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

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Wyandotte Nation Police Department

### 'Shop With A Cop' delivers Christmas for those in need

Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas. That is where the "Shop With a Cop" program comes in, joining underprivileged children with Wyandotte Nation police officers, providing the children with money to shop for Christmas presents for their families and themselves. The program is made possible through local donations.

While the officers weren't able to take the kids shopping this year because of a rise in COVID around the time, the department was still able to provide 20 families with 54 kids and 12 Angel Tree kids with around \$200 spent per child. In addition, the families received a \$200 food basket and \$50 fuel certificate.

The police department also received a letter from 2nd District of Oklahoma Rep. Josh Brecheen:

"We are writing to thank you for putting on your annual Shop With a Cop event for Wyandotte students. We were inspired by the kindness you have displayed by putting this event together. This is a true act of compassion that exemplifies what is great about Oklahoma.

This is a valuable service your department does to brighten up the Christmas season for children and families in the Wyandotte community. We are truly grateful for all that you have done to help create memories for families in your community.

We wish you all the best in the future! Please do not hesitate to reach out to our office if there's anything we can do for you.

God Bless, Josh Brecheen, Member of Congress"

## 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. Join us at our next session on Feb. 29 where we will discuss Night of the Living Rez: Stories by Morgan Talty. Book Club will meet at noon and 7:30pm Central Time.

Future 2024 Dates & Titles -  
May 20: As Long As Grass Grows by Dina Gilio-Whitaker  
Aug. 8: Warrior Girl Unearthed by Angeline Boulley  
Nov. 6: My Heart is a Chainsaw by Stephen Graham Jones  
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 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 insure it is not used by anyone else during your lifetime. (Over the years, records have been kept in several places and we don't want to accidentally overlook anyone!) Tižameḡh!

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).

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

2023 November		<div>Wandat Word of the Day</div> <div>for Native American Heritage Month!</div> <div>Audio Files at: www.wandat.org/NAHM</div>					
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	
30	31	01 U <sup>n</sup> di?tatsi?yeh U <sup>n</sup> di?~ta~tsi?~yeh Chicago	02 Tatare:re? Ta~ta~re:~re? Chillicothe	03 Uhižu? U~hi~žu? Ohio	04 Ake:roṭéhše? A~ke:~ro~ṭéh~še? Wabash	05 Ekweyayerat E~kwe~ya~yē~rat Indiana	
06 Ya <sup>n</sup> data?yeh Ya~ <sup>n</sup> da~ta?~yeh Detroit	07 Karṭu? (Turṭu?) Ka~ro~tu? (Tu~ro~tu?) Toronto	08 Eka <sup>n</sup> dehšateh E~ka~ <sup>n</sup> deh~ša~teh Canada	09 U <sup>n</sup> gyara? U~ <sup>n</sup> gya~ra? Niagara Falls	10 Hekanṭduh He~ka~nṭ~duh New York	11 A?tekwatṭ?mesṇnyṭ? <sup>n</sup> de tiske?rayéhṭa? A?~te~kwa~ṭṭ?~me~sq~nyṭ? <sup>n</sup> de ti~ske?~ra~yéh~ta? We give many thanks for our warriors	12 U <sup>n</sup> datayṭmeh U~ <sup>n</sup> da~ta~yṭ~meh Washington, D.C.	
13 Qmeṭsa?yṭmeh Q~mē~tsa?~yṭ~meh Maryland & Virginia	14 Kyunṭayṭḥ Kyu~nṭ~ta~yṭḥ Pennsylvania	15 U <sup>n</sup> di?tatsi?yeh U~ <sup>n</sup> di?~ta~tsi?~yeh Illinois	16 Žehuweh Že~hu~weh Iowa	17 Tsa <sup>n</sup> duhstih Tsa?~ <sup>n</sup> duh~stih Sandusky, Ohio	18 Kyutahuwa?ta? Kyu~ta~hu~wa?~ta? Cincinnati	19 Kyu <sup>n</sup> dižerih Kyu?~ <sup>n</sup> di~žē~rih Kansas City, KS	
20 Ayṭme <sup>n</sup> deh A~yṭ~me~ <sup>n</sup> deh Oklahoma (Indian Territory)	21 Ha?tewatukwahta? Ha?~te~wa~tu~kwa~hta? West of Oklahoma	22 Ka <sup>n</sup> datuwanēḥ Ka~ <sup>n</sup> da~tu~wa~nēḥ St. Louis	23 A?tekwatṭ?mesṇnyṭ? A?~te~kwa~ṭṭ?~me~sq~nyṭ? We give many thanks	24 te?wayekwihstaē? te?~wa~ye~kwih~sta~ē? I don't have money	25 Ya <sup>n</sup> dawižu?yeh Ya~ <sup>n</sup> da~wi~žu?~yeh Mississippi & Missouri	26 Uwatayṭ <sup>n</sup> deh U~wa~ta~yṭ~ <sup>n</sup> deh Arkansas	
27 Ekwehtuwanē?s E~kweh~tu~wa~nē?s Tennessee	28 Skēṭayṭtaratih Skē~ta~yṭ~ta~ra~tiḥ Europe	29 A?sa-re? yṭme <sup>n</sup> deh A?~sa~re? yṭ~me~ <sup>n</sup> deh U.S.A.	30 Wa <sup>n</sup> dat <sup>n</sup> dekyṭmeṭsateh Wa~ <sup>n</sup> dat <sup>n</sup> de~kyṭ~mē~tsa~teh Wandat land	01	02	03	

## Interested in learning our language?

We had a great turnout for our newest beginner class thanks to interested people signing up for our mailing list! Most 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 Wandat Wednesdays! This informal, stand-alone vocabulary class happens the third Wednesday of every month, and is online using ZOOM. One session is at NOON Central Time and the other at 8pm CST. 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).



TRIBAL ENROLLMENT | 7,150 TOTAL | 176 NEW CITIZENS (BELOW)

Alikor, Amarachi Ann
Allen, Weston Crew
Andreoff, Dakota Wilder
Armstrong, Maverie Rae
Ballard, Davi Brinn
Bennett, Elliott Thomas Edward Jacob
Blaeske, Evander Brach
Blaeske, Everett William
Blythe, Aria Trinity
Boney, Potts Michael Fred
Boomer, Basil Jobe
Boomer, Iris Magnolia
Botts, Deakon Rhett
Brown, Audry Nichole
Brumback, Travis James Benjamin
Brumbaugh, Asa Sebastian Yates
Callahan, Robert Mitchael
Callahan, Sean James
Campbell, Jaiden Parker
Casey, Carly Lynn
Casey, Taryn Rae
Cavender, Elliot Graham
Chartier, Atticus Sage
Conrow, Kolt Thomas
Contreras, Lucy Rainn
Cook, Carter Lawrence
Coye, Colette Margaret
Coye, Stella Mary
Craig, Christopher Martin
Craig, Christopher Nigel
Craig, Cleo Desmoni
Craig, Eva Martine
Craig, Jonathan Scott
Craig, Lilah Elizabeth
Craig, Olivia Carter
Craver, Codie Kye Gordon
Culver, Evelyn Rose
Curtis, Beau Brady
D'Adesky, Remy Anderson
Dailey, Bear Dean
Dean, Rylan Aaron
Deb, Arjun Dawson
Delorenzo, Jayden Josiah
Dixon, Jenna J

Dixon, Teagan Dawn
Doerger, Owen Michael
Edwards, Abigail Irene
Edwards, Graham Lennox
Edwards, Kaitlyn Anna
Edwards, Melanie Ruth
Enyart, Sadie Elizabeth
Espy, Della Penelope
Ewell, Colt Joseph
Farmer, Quincy Belle
Fleming, Madilynn Michelle
Fleury, Kataleyah Anistyn Renae
Frye, Hardy Bronson
Gallaspy, Freya Brynn
George, Joseph Scott
Gleidt, Caysen Douglas
Goldey, Emberlee Reign
Gomez, Sophia Ava
Gong, Colette Ryan
Gower, Kade Alan
Griffith, Kyle Jo
Hagert, Liam Curtis
Hamilton, Elizabeth April
Hamilton, Emily Abigail
Hancock, Violet Snow Mae
Harper, Cash Walker
Hassan, Onyx Nile
Hassan, Rowan Andi
Hendricks, Imogen Paige
Hendricks, Olivia Sloane
Hilton, Brentli Dae
Hohnerlein, Cody Ryan
Hopper, Maddison Lee
Howard, Blaine William
Hulsey, Kaitlin Grace
Hurt, Holly Catherine
Hyde, Brody Neil
Idleman, Rhett Don
Ingram, Atticus Charlie Manual
Isaacs, Harlan Pryor
Isaacs, Keaton Warner
Jacobsen, Emmah Marie-Lola
Jepson, Emilia Grace
Johnson, Luka Gene

Johnston, Charlotte Mae
Jones, Christopher Aiden
Katschke, Lucy Charlotte
Keeler, Crystal Deann
Keeler, Hailee Madison
Keldsen, Aziah Mykel
Keown, Brylie Shayne
Keown, Macie Render
King, Helena Lynn
King, Kennedy Ann
Klass, Evelyn Melanie
Krieghauser, Atlas Thomas
Lajaunie, Mackenzie Anne
Lawson, Athena Janine
Lawson, Avery May
Leister, Calvin Wayne
Leister, Millie Kaye
Lilly, Radley Vance
Lilly, Raegan Mae
Lilly, Rakell Jo
Lilly, Rhydian Brandon
Lilly, Rozlyn Hoyt
Ling, Cataleya Yaretzy
Ling, Tanner Raymond
Lofland, Eliana Aurora
Lollis, Hunter Allan
Long, Zyaire Jamill
Lucas, Jeremiah Robert
Lucas, Nolan Eugene
Lucas, Scarlet Elizabeth
Mann, Ryker Joseph
Marsh, Emerson Bryan
Martinez, Xander Saint
Mathis, Obsidian Nix
Mathis, Oliver James
McCool, Baker Rowe
McElroy-Girard, Amilya Mariyah
McLain, Isla Joy
McLain, Kooper Duane
McNally, Jaylin Elizabeth
Meeds, Zydaine Skyler
Miller, Lauren Ann
Miner, Colson Hux
Mizell, River August

Morris, Zayne River
Nation, Amanda Mildred Claire
Naylor, Willow Moon
Parker, Wylder Todd
Parnell, Lincoln Leelynn
Parnell, Niccolas Aamon
Parnell, Oakley Irene Renea
Parnell, Percival Alaric
Pennock, Axel Jaxson
Peterson, Jovie Rae
Reed, Avery Marie
Reese, Toby Lee
Reid, Eric Christopher
Rieck, Brady Kait
Rook, Kingston Aurelius
Sams, Crew Mackenzie
Sams, Josie Mae
Sanders, Harlowe Aria
Schindler, Kane Lawrence
Shadowens, Buford Bud Michael
Souders, Atreyu Ki
Sumption, Cheyenne Rose
Thompson, Mayz Gene
Trejo, Avyanna Tamara Marie
Trejo, Tianna Rayne Kansas
Tugmon II, Bobby Joe
Tugmon, Honey Bee Ann
Turner, Harper Renee
Tussinger, A'Rayah Sunshine
Vandever Jr., Joshua William
Vandever, Harleen Quinzal
Vandever, Skylar Anthony
Vandiver, Hallie Mae
Vaughn, Beau Henry
Wallis, Jude Carter
Weber, Calvin Gregory
Webster, Remi Rene
Webster, Whitley Paige
Weeks, Ford Harris
Wiarda, Wesson Scott
Woodkey, Michael Rhett
Young, Peyton Skye
Ziegeldorf, Ryker William
Ziegeldorf, Virginia Raen