



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 27, Issue 4

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

November 2023

Events in Images

## Pow-Wow wraps up busy week for Tribe

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

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### Inside:

- Gathering, Annual Meeting highlight week of events
- **Bearskin Healthcare Center celebrates 25 years**
- Tribe's first education director passes away

## 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:**  
 Tribal Citizen  
 Joshua Garcia  
 during Grand  
 Entry at the  
 Pow-Wow.

PHOTOGRAPHER: WILLIAM SWAIM

## Contact Us

### Have News?

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

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

# State of the Nation

## *From the 'State of the Nation' address at the Annual Meeting Sept. 9, 2023:*

So today, let me first of all thank you for allowing me to be your Chief. I can think of no greater honor or privilege than to serve the Wyandotte people. We will continue building our nation, together.

We have seen growth and progress this past year. We have seen growth in our business sector as well as in the programs and services available to the Wyandotte people, but we can do better. A mark of a great nation is how it works for its people. We are all proud of what we have accomplished, together.

The journey of the Wyandottes never concludes, each ending brings a new beginning. Our success cannot be measured in any one single achievement. The success that we are experiencing today began in seeds planted long, ago. It took many people along the way to make it happen.

Throughout time, Wyandottes have always overcome. We have struggled, but we have triumphed. So many of the stories have almost become lost. Many today do not know of the hardships and of what has been endured. Our ancestors continually had to learn to adapt and persevere in very challenging times. I do not say this so we can feel sorry for ourselves because we don't. I say this because we're proud. We are strong and each time someone or some group or some government has taken away from us, we have come back stronger and more prosperous than before.

Our mission statement is to "improve the quality of life for every tribal citizen". When we first started there were four key areas that we focused on health, housing, education and economic development. Each area impacts the other: health care leads to healthier, more productive lives; housing provides safety, security and a sense of pride; education opens the doors to new

opportunities; economic development provides us with needed funds, improved communities and jobs.

We have met many of the goals in each of these four areas and consequently have been able to be successful in many others that we have started anew. Meeting one goal only means we begin working on the next. The work of the Wyandotte people is never done and our journey continues.

Our businesses are important to the future of the Wyandotte Nation. Revenue from these enterprises provides the funding needed for tribal operations. Good use is being made of these funds. This money allows the funding of senior programs, Wyandotte-specific health programs, education scholarships, youth and family programs, housing programs and other beneficial purposes.

It is vital to our future that we continue to look for new opportunities to diversify our business interests. Our economic development team works diligently to look for new opportunities that will be profitable and provide quality jobs for our people.

Our Annual Meeting and Gathering that just took place is a time to celebrate the remarkable achievements that the tribe and its people have made. We are seeing some positive results, but we know there are some things that we don't do as well as we should. We are continuing to strive to improve all the services and all the things that we do.

We should not rest until every Wyandotte has an opportunity for an education...until every elder is properly cared for...until every Wyandotte has a decent place to live...until every able-bodied Wyandotte is employed...until our culture and traditions are once again thriving...until quality healthcare is available to every Wyandotte...until we have completed our vision for our tribe.

When it comes to education, housing, health care, nutrition, family services and special needs programs, for our people we are continuing to design those things in such a way

as to help people live better lives. I think all of us will agree that each generation has the hope that its children will have it better.

It is probably safe to say that the next generation, our children and our grandchildren right now, will indeed be able to avail themselves to more opportunities than we've had. Just as the challenges that we face have been different from those of our parents, so will the challenges of our children be different still. As have our parents at raising us, we must work to prepare our children for those challenges that will be unique for their generation. That is why we are working so hard to build the tribal economy to provide education opportunities and work opportunities. And to foster good health and safe living for all of us.

If we are able to help the next generation provide for themselves, they will be free to work for goals and objectives which they in turn will set for their next generation. Our challenges are many, but so are our opportunities. Wyandotte people have never shied away from our problems. We have always been strong and independent, working together to overcome obstacles.

In closing, let me say that without the dedication of our ancestors to make sure that the Wyandotte Nation continued to exist and to grow, we would likely not be here today to review our accomplishments.

Our ancestors put us on the road to being the great nation of people that we are today, so we owe them a debt of gratitude. Their foresight and desire to make the future better have enabled us to grow and to prosper. As we celebrate our remarkable achievements, let us also celebrate those who came before us and made it possible for me to report to you that the state of the Wyandotte Nation has never been better!

Fellow Wyandottes, the state of the Wyandotte Nation is strong. It will take us all...but we will continue building this great nation together. God bless the Wyandotte people and God bless the Wyandotte Nation.



From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

# New projects coming along



Kweh Omateru  
Hello, my fellow Wyandotte Citizens. We are experiencing some beautiful weather right now, but anyone who has been in Oklahoma knows it can change rapidly. Good weather means all of our construction projects are progressing without too many problems. Except when you ordered a vital piece of equipment months ago and it still hasn't arrived.

The new Title VI building is progressing nicely. We are not sure about the opening date due to delivery issues, but it will be a great facility for our elders. The new duplexes on Turtle Hill and Heritage Acres are really going up at a steady pace. Do you remember the movie saying, 'Build it and they will come'? Well, our duplex project is a perfect example of that. We have a long waiting list of people needing a place to live.

The corner where the new Fire Station is will be widened and asphalted as soon as the culverts are delivered. The preschool expansion will be out for bid as well as the Town of Wyandotte's Waste Water Treatment Plant. With all of our building projects, it didn't take long for the Waste Water Treatment Plant to be at near capacity. There has been tremendous growth in the Wyandotte area with more planned in the future.

In September we had a great Gathering, Annual Meeting, and Pow-Wow. There were huge crowds all three days of the pow-wow. I think we had the largest attendance for the week of the Gathering and for the Annual Meeting. I had the honor of introducing our new Senior Princess Chloe Friend and our new Junior Princess Veyda Marlow. Both are outstanding young ladies and will certainly represent the Wyandotte Nation well. So congratulations to these two fine young ladies!

This little bit of history is a letter from Rev. James Wheeler giving a detailed description of the hard-

**"The genius of a good leader is to leave behind him a situation which common sense, without the grace of genius, can deal with successfully."**

--Walter Lippman

ships encountered by the Wyandots having relocated from Upper Sandusky, Ohio to Kansas Territory:

*The Wyandots, since their arrival in the Indian Territory, west of the state of Missouri, have been and still are encamped on the Kansas River, about two miles above its junction with the Missouri River. They are endeavoring to make a permanent location; and a delegation has been out in the Indian country seeking for lands unoccupied by other nations of Indians, that they may select, and have secured to them by the Government of the United States, the amount of territory agreed upon in their late treaty. As yet, they have found none on which they think they could live contentedly, surrounded by rude and uncultivated nations, with whom they would have to mingle.*

*It excites in the minds of the Wyandots as much curiosity to see a wild Indian, with no clothing save a blanket, and that perhaps under his arm, as it does for those who have never seen an Indian, to see a Wyandot, and with such they manifest but little disposition to associate. Their design is to secure the land promised to them by the Government wherever they find that which they shall be best suited; but they have just made a treaty with the Delaware, in which they have purchased a small territory of land at two dollars per acre, lying between the Kansas and Missouri Rivers, and at their junction. It is a delightful tract of land; and there is on it one of the most beautiful sites for a town, it is said, that can be found on the Missouri River. They will immediately move on to the land and commence making*

*preparations for living.*

*Having been encamped so long, many of them were getting homesick and began to wish they had never left Sandusky. To add to their discouragements, they have suffered much since their arrival from sickness and the death of nearly all the younger part of their children. While at Cincinnati, some imprudent person, excited by curiosity, came on to the boat where we were embarking, just breaking out with the measles. Some of the children took them, and since our arrival here they have spread, among those who had not previously had them, through the whole encampment. In addition to this, a distressing diarrhea has prevailed among them, and not being in a situation in their camps to take proper care of themselves or children, they have suffered severely, but they have suffered patiently, and manifested a good degree of resignation to the will of Providence. Previous to our removal we entertained fears that through anxiety and difficulties on the way, many of the members of the Church would become lukewarm that some might fall into temptation and finally backslide, but the Lord has been better to us than all our fears. It is true that temptations were plentifully thrown around us, to which too many of the intemperate yielded, but the members of the Church have continued to pursue their Christian course with much steadfastness. About three weeks after our arrival, a camp meeting was held at the Shawnee camp ground, in which the missionaries to the Shawnee, Delaware, Kickapoos, Peorias, Potawatamies, Kansas*

*and Wyandots, and the superintendent of the Manual Labor School united; it continued for nine days. It is thought to have been one of the most interesting meetings ever held in this Indian country. A goodly number were converted among whom were most of the young men and women at the School; fifty-four from the different nations presented their applications for membership; but the greatest good resulting from it, was its quickening influence on the Church. It closed on Saturday; and on the Sabbath afternoon the Wyandot class met near to each other in their camps for class meeting, after which they immediately assembled for prayer meeting, which lasted until nearly midnight, when others came forward, professing a 'desire to flee the wrath to come, and be saved from their sins.'*

*I feel considerably encouraged to hope that their removal to this country may prove a benefit to them both temporally and spiritually. It is thought by those that I suppose have a right to know, that it would be no more than discharging the requirements of duty to continue in the Indian work; and if it is, so let it be, for in whatever direction the way of duty leads, I will endeavor to travel, and desire no other path. My present calculations are to go to Ohio for my family, and return in the spring, as I cannot get back sooner. In so doing I shall expect your prayers and the prayers of the Church for myself and family, and the blessings of Heaven to rest upon our labors. I remain yours in the cause of missions and the cause of God.*

— James Wheeler, September 30, 1843

To say the least, those were very trying times for our ancestors. But as always they persevered and made the best of what was presented to them.

# Wyandotte Preschool welcomes all

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For more than a quarter of a century, Wyandotte Nation's nationally recognized program has been serving tribal and non-tribal children alike. The preschool is open year-round (including many school holidays) and the program is always open to parents who want to join in.

"We are part of the Wyandotte Nation tribe, so we do receive tons of support. We don't require children to bring any school supplies at all, everything they need to get through the school day, we provide to them," said Lindsay Cooper, Early Childhood Program Coordinator, Wyandotte Nation Preschool Program.

"The most important thing I found is it's an actual school," says parent Brad Abell. "It's not just a daycare. My kid learns something new every day and he's excited to come home and tell me about it."

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool was an early national model for preschools and was ranked the nation's best in the mid-1990s. Today, their focus on developing the whole child continues to appeal to families.

The preschool draws students from neighboring communities such as Fairland, Grove, Miami and Afton, and even Joplin and Seneca, Missouri.

"That speaks very highly of our program, the teachers and the staff that we have built here," notes Lindsay Cooper.

Best of all, everyone is welcome at the preschool. Cooper estimates that on average, 50% of the children attending the program are non-tribal.

"There's no differentiator here as far as 'this is a tribal kid and this is a non-tribal kid,'" adds Abell. "They're just kids that go here."

"Having a place like this that's close to us and it's reasonably priced, it gives us an opportunity to have a career, you know, and not just a 9-5 hourly job."

## Anniversary Celebration Bearskin Wellness Center turns 25

Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, 1 Turtle Drive in Wyandotte, Okla., celebrated its 25th Anniversary Thursday evening, Sept. 15, with food, inflatables, a raffle, and goodies.

"We are honored to celebrate 25 years of continual quality health service to not only our tribal citizens but also to the northeast Oklahoma community," Chief Billy Friend said.

"Over these 25 years, we have been able to increase our capacity and expand our services to our patients."

Chief Friend cut the ceremonial cake.

The Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center was originally located at the Tribal Administration Headquarters before relocating to the current facility. Since then, the Wellness Center has added services, and undergone renovations and expansions to the clinic and fitness center to better serve tribal citizens and non-tribal



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend cuts the cake during the anniversary celebration. There were activities, free T-shirts, food, and goodies.

citizens alike. The Center was the result of a collaboration between

the Wyandotte Nation and Eastern Shawnee tribes.

## COMMUNITY NEWS & NOTES

### Thankful for scholarship help

**Dear Chief Friend & Second Chief Hildebrand,**

My name is Amy Hickman. I am a tribal member of the Wyandotte Nation. This letter is written to thank the Tribe for everything you have done to help me earn my Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner degree.

I started my journey in 2012 when I started back to college. Over the last 10 years, I have gone through an LPN program (ASUMH), LPN-to-RN an accelerated program (ASUMH), Bachelor of Nursing program (GCU), and the PMHNP program through Cox College in Springfield, Mo.

I recently passed my board certification and will be practicing at Mountain Home Psychiatric Medicine in Mountain Home, AR. I am adequately able to express the depth



of my appreciation to my tribe and everyone working in the Education Department who helped me with my scholarships. I know I would not be where I am today without the help the tribe gave me.

Those scholarships meant the difference between me staying an LPN and moving on to become a nurse practitioner. This has not only affected my own life but my family

as well.

I am the daughter of Anne Marie and J.C. Roper. My children are Ciara and Chase Cotter. I cannot thank you enough for all of the assistance that each of us has received in one form or another.

If there is anything I can do to be able to be of service and give back to my tribe, please let me know.

I have attached a few pictures of my graduation that I wanted to share. It was a very special day for everyone that helped to get me there.

*Sincerely,  
Amy Hickman, PMHNP, MSN*

**Congratulations Amy! We wish you the best in your future endeavors!**



# Tribe's first education director passes away

It is with saddened hearts that the Wyandotte Nation announces the passing of Carla Culver on Sept. 28.

"Carla's name will always be synonymous with our Turtle Tot's program," said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. "She was the matriarch of the Wyandotte Nation educational program and she will always be honored among our people."

Carla was a longtime resident of the Wyandotte area and a proud member of the Wyandotte Nation. Her mother, Gladys Powell, was a member of both the Wright and Pipe Wyandotte families. Carla graduated from Fairland, Okla., High School. She received her Associate of Arts Degree from NEO A&M College in Miami, Okla., and her Bachelor of Science Degree from Missouri Southern State College in Joplin, Mo.

Carla spent her professional life primarily in Education. She began working as a substitute teacher in the Wyandotte, Okla., school system and after graduation from MSSC became a full-time teacher there. On Jan. 1, 1986, she became an employee of the Wyandotte Nation and in 1987 Carla Culver became the first Director of Education for the Wyandotte Nation.

The Wyandotte Nation received an Indian Child Welfare grant initially funding the childcare program. When the initial grant ended, another grant proposal was developed to start a preschool with Carla. The program was one of four that was funded in the United States and it



(ABOVE) Carla Culver was honored in 2015 as the 'Honored Person of the Year' by Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand. Culver with Chief Leaford Bearskin (TOP) and Second Chief Hildebrand (BOTTOM).

began with 30 students. Prior to the implementation of all-day Kindergarten, it operated an afternoon program for those children. The program moved into its current location with the assistance of an ICDBG (Indian Community Development Block Grant).

In 1993 the Wyandotte Nation Preschool was recognized as a national model for preschools.

In addition to her education efforts, Carla was a 10-year member of the Pow-Wow Committee, working alongside her friends to help make the annual Pow-Wow a success.

Her dedication to her people and their education has left a legacy for

all those who come after her to strive toward.

"The passing of Carla Culver was a sad day here at the Wyandotte Nation," said Second Chief Norman Hildebrand. "She was the first education director for the Turtle Tots, and was instrumental in the development of what it is today."

"At the preschool she was mostly all business, she took her job seriously and always had the kids and her staff as the number one priority. When Carla retired and didn't have the stress of a job anymore a different side of her came out. She was always joking with everyone, she would sit in Title VI and visit with the other



COURTESY PHOTOS

elders and reminisce about events of the past. Her joking and that laugh will certainly be missed, I have a lot of memories of Carla that I will always cherish, so long my friend."

As a testament to her lifelong efforts to educate the future of the Wyandotte Nation, Carla was honored in 2007 with the dedication of the new Education Center being named after her. In 2015, the Wyandotte Nation named Carla as the Honored Person of the Year.

"The Wyandotte Nation will forever be grateful to her for her commitment and dedication to the education of our citizens," Chief Friend said.



PHOTO: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION  
National Night Out was an opportunity for the community to meet with officers as well as enjoy food and entertainment.

## Police host 'National Night Out' event

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department hosted its annual National Night Out event Tuesday, Oct. 3 at Heritage Acres Park (14400 S. Porcupine Rd, Wyandotte, OK 74370).

It was an opportunity for the community to come together and visit with neighbors and local law enforcement to form stronger partnerships.

The event featured exhibitors, food, drinks, music, goodie bags, giveaways, and much more. It is designed to heighten crime prevention awareness, strengthen neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships, and generate support

and participation in the local community.

National Night Out is celebrated each year. The introduction of National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," began in 1984 as an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, neighborhood camaraderie, and to send a message to criminals letting them know that neighborhoods are organized and fighting back. Annually, communities across the United States join forces and celebrate National Night Out.



## 32nd Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow



PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM |  
WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation hosted the 32nd Pow-Wow in September. During the event, Wyandotte Nation Princess Sara Wright (pictured below) passed the crown to Senior Princess Chloe Friend (pictured left, top) and Junior Princess Veyda Marlow (pictured left, bottom).

Visit our Facebook page to see all images from the 32nd Annual Pow-Wow:  
[www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](https://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation)





## 2023 Gathering

PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Division hosted the annual Gathering in September. It was the biggest Gathering the Tribe has had with more than 250 in attendance throughout the week. Plants were the focus of this year's Gathering and was an opportunity for tribal citizens to learn about how ancestors used plants for food, medicine and tools.



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION  
**'Honored Person of the Year' Scott Bentley with Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand.**

## Tribe recognizes Bentley as 'Honored Person of the Year'

The Wyandotte Nation recently recognized Scott Bentley as its 'Honored Person of the Year.'

Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented Bentley with the award at the Annual Meeting.

Scott has served as the Superintendent of the River Raisin National Battlefield Park for the last 12 ½ years. In each National Park where Scott has served, he has been a part of researching, developing, and building world-class visitor centers and expanding quality visitor

services where stories are told as accurately and from as many viewpoints as possible. Through the last 12 ½ years, he began to uncover the complete history of the 1813 Battles of the River Raisin and its aftermath.

Scott partnered with the Wyandotte Nation to help learn the truth about their history and share their story at the River Raisin. During that time, the Tribe became more than a source of information and partnership, they became beloved friends and mentors.



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director*

Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center would like to welcome tribal



**TANNER**

citizen Calvin Tanner as a Youth Program Assistant for the Youth Program at the fitness center. Calvin graduated high school and has completed one year of college. He worked in maintenance for the Tribe last summer. Calvin's hobbies include lifting, football, and gardening. He spends his time with friends, working out at the gym, and taking care of his garden. We are very fortunate to have Calvin join our team.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Whitney Moore as an Early Childhood Teacher.



**MOORE**

Whitney graduated from Northwood High School in 2003. She attended Liberty University and received her Bachelor of Interdisciplinary Studies- Summa Cum Laude and Bachelor of Elementary Education- Summa Cum Laude. Her hobbies include quilting, cross stitching, other forms of sewing, reading, and cheering for the LSU Tigers. She is also a PTA mom and is very active in her kids' school. Whitney spends most of her days at the ballfield/court watching her daughters and son's sports including baseball, basketball, softball, and track. When they aren't at some sporting event, they like to spend time at her parent's farm in Welch or at the lake with her in-laws. Whitney is from Louisiana. Before starting her family, she was a firefighter/EMT-Basic with many departments there. We are happy to have Whitney join our team.

The Education Department would like to welcome Lilly Alexander as a full-time Childcare Assistant. Lilly graduated high school and received



**ALEXANDER**

her certification of Mastery Early Education from NEO. Her hobbies include reading, painting, and swimming. Lilly spends her time at work or with her family. We are happy to have Lilly join our team.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would also like to welcome Victoria Ingalls as an After School Program Lead Assistant and tribal citizen Ben Hobbs as an After School Childcare Assistant.



**INGALLS**



**HOBBS**

Victoria attended NEO as an equine & ranch management major but never used her schooling as a career. She jumped right into being a mom and has spent most of her time as a stay-at-home mom. In her free time, Victoria enjoys reading, gardening, and spending time with friends and family. She loves fishing, playing games, and traveling. Victoria moved to Oklahoma soon after graduating high school in Pulaski, Wisconsin.

She chose Oklahoma to attend NEO in Miami where she met her husband, who has lived his whole life here in Wyandotte.

Ben's hobbies include sports and gaming. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends.

We are happy to have Victoria and Ben join our team.

The Education Department would also like to welcome Melanie Friend, Tina Windle, and tribal citizen Traylen Robitaille as substitutes.



**FRIEND**

Melanie has her Bachelor's in Fine Arts and graduated from Missouri Southern State



**WINDLE**



**ROBITAILLE**

University. She enjoys photography, art, and dancing. She spends her spare time with her family, going to church, and exploring new places.

Tina graduated from NEO A&M College and NSU Tahlequah. She taught Speech Language Therapy at First Pioneer Pleasant Vale in Enid, Okla., as well as Miami Public Schools for 28 years. She retired but then returned and taught pre-k at Wilson Early Childhood Center for 6 years. She retired again in May 2022 with 35 years of experience. Tina enjoys cooking and spending her time with her family: her wonderful husband, two beautiful grown daughters, and grandsons. She also enjoys playing with her dog and gardening.

Traylen loves sports. He enjoys spending time with his family and friends.

We are happy to have Melanie, Tina, and Traylen join our team. The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would also welcome Tina Burwell as an Early Child Food Service Cook and welcome Twylia Stone into a Custodian/Bus Driver Position.



**BURWELL**



**STONE**

Tina has 12 years of experience in this field. She has lived in Seneca, Mo., all her life. She loves the small town. Tina loves crafting and flowers. She enjoys spending her spare time with her husband and all of her family, especially her grandchildren. We are happy to have Tina join our team.

Twylia is a high school graduate and enjoys painting, hiking, and playing with her grandkids.

She spends her time with her family and enjoys going on vacations.

We are very happy to have Tina and Twylia join our team and wish them much success in their new positions.

The Wyandotte Nation Courts Department is proud to welcome tribal citizen Sarah Smith as our Bailiff for the Wyandotte Nation District Tribal



**SMITH**

Court. Sarah is OK CLEET certified and has experience working with the Rogers County Sheriff's Office as a reserve officer, search & rescue, mounted patrol, Honor Guard, and courthouse security. Her hobbies include

showing cattle, rodeo, and raising mini Australian cattle dogs (aka blue heelers.) She volunteers at her kids' events such as Round Up Club, 4-H, and FFA. Sarah loves spending time with her husband, Brooks. Her two boys are her world and she loves to be involved in all their activities from FFA, 4-H, and rodeo to basketball and baseball. Sarah grew up on a ranch and has raised and shown beef cattle her entire life. Sarah has also been a licensed Master Instructor of Cosmetology for 20 years. She likes to work and has many different interests that keep her busy! We are very fortunate to have Sarah and wish her much success in this new position.

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director*

How fortunate are we as Wyandottes that we are getting to see the fruits of the labor of our ancestors? As indigenous people, we're taught to follow the Seventh Generation principal, meaning that in all that we do and the decisions that we make today should be to help the next seven generations to prosper with healthy productive lives. To think that that my 5th Great-grandfather, Adam Brown, had the insight to make plans

**Continued on Page 9**



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 8

and decisions that affect my life today is an amazing concept. Adam Brown was actually a white child who was captured in approximately 1756 at the age of 8 years old. He was adopted by the Wyandottes, raised in their ways and married a Wyandot woman who he had several children with. As one of his many descendants, I'm proud of his choices and the decisions that have been made by all of my ancestors to get to where we are today. I can only imagine the prosperity the next seven generations are going to see due to the diligence and efforts of our current Chiefs, Board of Directors, Cultural Preservation team and so many others.

The Holiday season is a favorite time for the Family Services staff and we're looking forward to the fun activities coming in the next two months. Staff will be decorating the lobby beginning the first week of November, so be sure to stop and see the beautiful trees and fun décor. The Family Services Department, along with several other tribal departments, will be hosting the Children's Christmas party on Saturday, Dec. 9 at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gym. The theme for this year's party is "Merry Grinchmas" and will be from 10 am to Noon. All enrolled Wyandotte Nation children age 15 and under will receive a gift from Santa as well as other fun surprises. Each family, with children in attendance, will also receive a \$25 Walmart gift card.

The Family Services staff is happy to announce that several of the Department programs will have increased benefit amounts for FY24, which began on Oct. 1, 2023. Programs with increases include; Extracurricular increase from \$100 to \$200 per child, Jr/Sr Program increase from \$250 to \$300, Elders Assistance from \$250 to \$300, and Burial Assistance from \$2,500 to \$3,000. Beginning Jan. 1, the Supplemental Health Program (aka the Benny card) will increase to \$1,500 for adults and \$2,500 for families (adult Wyandotte citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte children). The staff is extremely grateful to tribal leadership and the economic development team for making this possible.

Soon, Wyandotte households will be receiving a Services Brochure

## Children's Christmas

**Party: Saturday, Dec. 9  
10am-Noon**

Bearskin Fitness Center Gym  
For enrolled children, ages 15 & under. Come enjoy the fun!

where all tribal programs and services can be found in one convenient location. Please be sure to keep your address updated with the Enrollment Office so you will receive the Brochure as well as other important mailings from the Tribe.

We continue to ask for your patience when processing applications and allow up to 30 days for payment receipt. Also, if you have set up a direct deposit in the past and this information has changed you need to let us know prior to any payment processing. We certainly don't want your benefit payments being delayed or maybe even lost due to going to an old account or an account you no longer have access.

If you're a Facebook user and not already a member of the "Wyandotte Nation Citizens" group, please consider joining. Information is shared to the group in between newsletters regarding program updates, deadline reminders, event announcements, etc. It's also a great place to interact with other tribal citizens.

Applications and information for all Family Services programs can be found on the Tribe's website here: <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/familyservices/>. You will also find contact information for Family Services staff on the website. In the remainder of this article you will find highlights for just a few of the programs housed in the Family Services Department.

**Tribal Tags** – The Motor Vehicle Tag program is available to enrolled Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside within Oklahoma Indian Country. Tribal citizens who participate with this program are asked to sign a domicile form for each vehicle owned. Something new and exciting for the program is that we now are able to offer Veteran's plates. Please reach out to the Tax Administrator at 918-678-6353 for additional questions.

**Supplemental Health Benefit (Benny Card)** – This program has been renewed and accounts will be

re-loaded on Jan. 1, 2024. The benefits will increase to \$1,500 for adult (18 and over) tribal citizens. Tribal citizens who have enrolled Wyandotte Nation dependents will receive an additional \$1,000 for a maximum of \$2,500 per account. Individuals who were voted into citizenship at the Annual Meeting will receive their account information in December and accounts will be active on Jan. 1, 2024. Trustmark mails an annual statement in December to show remaining balances. Account balances can also be obtained by calling 877-267-3359. There is also a handy app for smart phones where you can check balances, scan in-store items to check eligibility and file reimbursement claims. Please see the Nation's website for a flyer detailing the steps to set-up accounts on the app. As a reminder for the end-of-year for the program, 2023 funds must be expended by Dec. 31. There is not a grace period for the use of the debit card. If the card is used Jan. 1 or after, the funds will come out of the 2024 allowance. If you have 2023 charges you need to claim after Jan. 1, you will need to make the payment, then file for a reimbursement no later than Feb. 28, 2024.

**Family Violence Prevention Program (FVPP):** This program is funded through grants from the Office of Violence Against Women (OVW), Office of Family Violence Prevention Safety Act/Administration for Children and Families and Office of Victims of Crime. Funds can be used to provide advocacy to individuals who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, human trafficking, stalking, elder abuse and all victims of crime. Services for victims include shelter, utilities, food, clothing, transportation, court accompaniment, counseling, legal assistance, etc. and can be provided to victims who reside within a 25-mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation headquarters. Victims do not need to be Wyandotte or Native to receive services.

As always, it's a pleasure and honor to serve the Wyandotte Nation citizenship. Please feel free to reach out to the Family Services team if you have any questions, **918-678-6321** or [wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org). **Family Violence Prevention Program: [fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:fvpp@wyandotte-nation.org)**

## Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,  
Education Director*

Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center began its first day of preschool on Aug. 16. We are currently accepting applications for our preschool program. We are full in our infant/ones/toddler programs. We are accepting applications to be placed on a waiting list for those age groups. Applications are available on our website, or you may contact Lindsay Cooper for an application by email, at [lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org) or by phone at **918-678-3267**.

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program is currently processing the fall 2023 semester scholarships. Beginning with the fall 2023 semester, the scholarship amount for the undergraduate and master's scholarships 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 in the scholarship program, please remember to send in your latest unofficial transcript that includes spring grades and fall schedule. An unofficial transcript is required at the end of each semester in order for us to process your next semester's scholarship.

If you are new to the scholarship program, we want to inform you of some guidelines that you are required to meet to maintain the scholarship:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight (8) semesters.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the program's duration.
- The deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is May 1.

To obtain an Undergraduate, Masters, or Vocational Scholarship application, they are now available on our website, [www.wyandotte-nation.org/services/education](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/services/education) or you can email your request or any questions that you may have to Evan

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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 who have participated in the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program. The stoles are also available to Wyandotte Nation tribal citizens who are graduating college but did not obtain a scholarship from the Wyandotte Nation. You will be required to fill out the stole application, located on the website, and submit all documentation that is required to get a stole mailed to you. If you live locally, you may pick up a stole at the Education Department once your application is approved and you have been notified.

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. 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/services/education/library](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/services/education/library), 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.

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

### *Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director*

The Heritage Acres Housing Area provides rental units for elders and families. A new family duplex is in the process of construction, and one new Elder duplex has been completed. This area now has 64 rental units with future plans of expanding even more. If you are interested in a rental unit, the application is available on line 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, 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

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:

- Complete, signed, and dated application
- Member of a federally recognized tribe
- Selective Service Registration Card
- Proof of residency in the Service Area

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

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

## Housing

out an application and return to the housing office.

The Splash Pad has been closed for the season, but the park is still available. New equipment has been added recently. There are two pavilions available for use. A walking track and exercise equipment will be added in the near future.

Wyandotte Housing Assistance Fund, which is part of the Consolidated Appropriation Act of 2021, is available to homeowners affected by COVID. If you are behind on your mortgage payments, please fill out and return the application for assistance, which is found on the Wyandotte Nation website. Income guidelines do apply. This is a nationwide program. If you have questions regarding this process, please call or email our office.

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP) is

now available for help 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.

### **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.

## Elder Services

### *Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director*

It is hard to believe that the holiday season is already upon us.

We will be collaborating with area tribes and other entities to host a Veterans Honor Luncheon and Awards Ceremony at the First Christian Church in Miami, Okla., on Thursday, Nov. 9 beginning at 10 am. The Wyandotte Nation Honor Guard will post the colors. Lunch will be provided.

Please join us for our Annual Thanksgiving Dinner on Thursday, Nov. 16, beginning at 11:30 am. We will have turkey, dressing, and all the trimmings.

Our Christmas Dinner will be on Thursday, Dec. 14. We will have smoked brisket and all the sides. Santa will be handing out homemade

goodies made by the Title VI Elves.

We will be traveling to Branson, Mo., on Friday, Dec. 15, to see the Christmas Wonderland at the Kings Castle Theatre. The bus will leave at 8 am. Lunch is provided at noon at the Grand Country Buffet. The show will begin at 2 pm. Tickets are \$31 each. The deadline for ticket payment is Friday, Dec. 8.

### **CAREGIVER**

Our Caregiver Support Group is the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 to 11:30 am in the small conference room in the administration building until we move to our new building. Lunch is 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 grand-

**Continued on Page 11**

## Elder Services Menu

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



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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children.

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 currently located in the Title VI Saferoom until we move into our new building. The hours are 10 am to 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*

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 provides a variety of services including, but not limited to, private well-drinking water sampling and septic assessments for private homeowners. 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 facil-



ity can accept the following materials: paper, plastic, cardboard, tin, and aluminum.

Wow, this summer has flown by! 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 July and September are listed in the table included in this article.

**July:** This month several employees attended in-house trainings, such as "Motive Matters" and "Positive Leadership." On July 18, John Gerhard and Kathleen Welch attended a NATURE (Native American Tribes Understanding Resources in the Environment) Meeting at the Ottawa Tribe in Miami, Okla. This group has members from the 9 local tribes within Ottawa County. We meet every other month to discuss environmental issues that affect both the tribes and tribal citizens.

**August:** On Aug. 22-23, Kathleen and John attended the Tri-State Trustee Council Meeting, which was held at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma's Annex Building. This meeting occurs twice a year and brings together Tribal, State, and Federal employees to discuss environmental issues that affect the Tri-State Mining area, which encompasses Oklahoma, Kansas, and Missouri.

On Aug. 31, Kathleen and John, along with a State Certified contractor, performed five septic system assessments. Of those five assessed, we found one failing system that is scheduled to be replaced in the fall.

**September:** This month is always exciting as it kicks off with the Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow! Our department places recycle bins throughout the Pow-Wow area in hopes that attendees will be more aware of the need for recycling and keeping these recyclables from ending up in roadside ditches, area waterways, and landfills.

On Sept. 8, Kathleen and Myron had an education booth at the Eastern Shawnee Water Festival. Fourth and fifth-grade students from four area schools attended this event. We educated the students about the importance of healthy water and the effects that pollution has on the water at our booth.

**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 timeframe. The 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. Funding agencies include a variety of federal partners as well as money from the U.S. Department of Treasury. A list of competitive and non-competitive awards and their amount is provided in the table included in this article.

## Solid Waste Collected from July thru September 2023

Cardboard	18,366 lbs.
Plastic	1,187 lbs.
Aluminum	330 lbs.
<b>Combined Total</b>	<b>20,325 lbs.</b>

## Grants Awarded from July thru September 2023

Superfund Management Assistance	\$156,383
Basic Library Services	\$10,000
Library Services Enhancement Grant	\$106,218
Family Violence Prevention and Services (FVPS)	\$63,805
Capital Project Funds	\$167,504
Public Safety and Community Policing	\$637,194
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,141,104</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



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Wellness Visits

Per medicare.com

### Yearly "Wellness" visits

If you've had Medicare Part B (Medical Insurance) for longer than 12 months, you can get a yearly "Wellness" visit to develop or update your personalized plan to help prevent disease or disability, based on your current health and risk factors. The yearly "Wellness" visit isn't a physical exam. Your first yearly "Wellness" visit can't take place within 12 months of your Part B enrollment or your "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit. However, you don't need to have had a "Welcome to Medicare" preventive visit to qualify for a yearly "Wellness" visit.

### Your costs in Original Medicare

You pay nothing for this visit if your doctor or other health care provider accepts Assignment. The Part B deductible doesn't apply. However, you may have to pay coinsurance, and the Part B deductible may apply if your doctor or other healthcare provider performs additional tests or services during the same visit that Medicare doesn't cover under this preventive benefit. If Medicare doesn't cover the additional tests or services (like a routine physical exam), you may have to pay the full amount.

### What it is

Your doctor or other health care provider will ask you to fill out a questionnaire, called a "Health Risk Assessment," as part of this visit. Answering these questions can help you and your doctor develop a personalized prevention plan to help you stay healthy and get the most out of your visit. Your visit may include:

- Routine measurements (like height, weight, and blood pressure).
- A review of your medical and family history.
- A review of your current prescriptions.
- Personalized health advice.
- Advance care planning.

Your doctor or other health care provider will also perform a cognitive assessment to look for signs of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. Signs of cognitive impairment include trouble remembering, learning new things, concentrating, managing finances, and making decisions about your everyday life. If your doctor or other health care provider thinks you may have cognitive impairment, Medicare covers a separate visit to do a more thorough review of your cognitive function and check for conditions like dementia, depression, anxiety, or delirium and design a care plan.

## Healthcare & Wellness

*Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director*

Happy fall, ya'll! With each new season arises change. With each new fiscal year comes change. Entering into Fiscal Year 2024 has brought a few exciting "changes" to Bearskin Healthcare. These adjustments are in the way of additional services for citizens of the Wyandotte Nation and the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma. Beginning immediately, citizens will have availability to durable medical equipment (DME) deemed necessary by Bearskin Healthcare Providers and specialists to whom Bearskin Healthcare refers the patient. These orders must be approved or written by Bearskin Healthcare Providers. Coverage through Bearskin Healthcare will follow Medicare Durable Medical Equipment Guidelines. A patient will not be able to be reimbursed for purchases made on their own. DME that Medicare covers include, but isn't limited to:

- Blood sugar meters
- Blood sugar test strips
- Canes
- Commode chairs
- Continuous passive motion machines, devices & accessories
- Continuous Positive Airway Pressure (CPAP) machines
- Crutches
- Home infusion services
- Hospital beds
- Infusion pumps & supplies
- Lancet devices & lancets
- Nebulizers & nebulizer medications
- Oxygen equipment & accessories
- Patient lifts
- Pressure-reducing support surfaces
- Suction pumps
- Traction equipment
- Walkers
- Wheelchairs & scooters
- The patient's Medicare and Insurance eligibility will be checked prior to the purchase or rental of equipment.
- A total amount of \$500 is

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 918.678.3247 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>≥ 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>

the maximum allowance toward the purchase of a Lift Chair.

- A total amount of \$500 is the maximum allowance toward the purchase of a Power Wheelchair.
- A total amount of \$500 is the maximum allowance toward the purchase of a Power Scooter.

- Nebulizers are available at the Bearskin Health Clinic.
- Hoyer Lifts, hospital beds, wheelchairs, and crutches will be



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Continued from Page 12

rented for 2 months. After that time, it will be re-evaluated if the patient still needs rental for this equipment. After 2 months, if not turned back in, the patient will be responsible for any charges incurred.

In addition, look for digital X-rays to begin in 2024! This will enable providers to have additional measures to be considered for diagnostic purposes. Our mission is to provide primary and preventive healthcare of the highest quality to tribal members and the community we serve, utilizing all available resources. This includes looking for opportunities and avenues to expand and build on current services. Your care is of the utmost importance to us. Thank you for trusting us with your health.

To schedule a Medicare Wellness Exam Contact:

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

## Wyandotte Nation Basics!

Would you like to learn the basics about our civil structure, history & 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 Wednesday, Dec. 6 at 7 pm Central Time. To register for this class, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBasics>.

## Cultural Division

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

Kweh!

Like all the other events this year, the Gathering was the biggest we've had yet! We had over 250 in attendance during the week. We started off Monday with a kayak trip. It was windy but it was a great time! Tuesday afternoon we began after lunch and we had a full schedule throughout the week. This year's focus was on plants; we learned about how our ancestors used plants for food, medicine, and tools. Olivia Mangum started each day with a fun time of getting to know each other. Lloyd Divine brought our history classes. Beci Wright, along with Dr. Craig Koprís and the language facilitators presented the language classes. Amanda Butcher and Chris Houk presented on nutrition and hominy. Cheri Maitland and Will Smith, volunteers from the River Raisin National Battlefield Park, presented on plants through the national parks as well as a special plants class where they taught how to take cuttings. Ty Melgren and Matthew Lutt presented about the Wyandot Heritage Digital Archives (WHDA) and the digitization of the Connelley Collection. Each afternoon, we had crafts, which included arrow fletching with Chris Houk, Josh Garcia, and Richard Zane Smith, beading with Peggy Kinder and Angie Morgan, baby ribbon skirts with Marilyn Young, Janie Cole, and Cindy Pulido, basket weaving with Faye Trice, and corn husk dolls with Amanda Butcher. On Friday, we had our naming ceremony and pow-wow grounds blessing, the Memorial

Walk, and a special breakfast. We ended the week with a Talking Circle. It was a great time with all our relatives and if you missed this year, make sure to come next year!

We also hosted the Wyandotte Artisan Showcase. It was HUGE! We almost doubled our amount of entries from last year! We've got some amazing Wyandotte artists! We hope to see it continue to grow in the years to come.

On Sept. 28, 2023, Wyandotte Nation lost one of our matriarchs – Carla Culver. She was the Education Director for Wyandotte Nation for many years and had a passion for education for all Wyandottes – from preschoolers to college students. We will always remember her with fondness and gratitude for what she did for our people.

November is Native American Heritage Month. The entire month, the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum Staff will be presenting different aspects of being a Tribe. We will host three Lunch and Learns throughout the month to teach Wyandotte history and a few crafts. We will post daily different facts and words of the day. Nov. 8 is the Wyandotte Book Club – reviewing the book *Bad Indians*. Every Thursday night at 6:30 pm the Wadat singers practice the longhouse songs. On Nov. 11, we are co-hosting a Veterans' Pow-Wow along with the Miami and Peoria Tribes located at the Miami Tribal Complex. On Nov. 14, I will be teaching a beading class on raised beadwork where we will be beading a frame. On Nov. 18, we will be hosting a day of fun. At 1 pm, we will learn how to make a medicine pouch with Chris Houk and I (Kim Garcia) will teach how to bead the edges. We will have dinner at 5 pm

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## Language Notes

**By BECI WRIGHT**  
WYANDOTTE NATION

Kweh ȳmateru? ! (Hello, friends!)

Ętawahstá:nȳh – we are enjoying some nice weather! In Oklahoma, we have seen our first uhšęraę? (frost) and know that uȳdinyęhtaę:tah (snow on the ground) may be here sooner than we would like.

Tribal citizen Ruthy Logan's drawing this quarter takes us from Autumn into Winter, touching on many of the holidays and special times we enjoy. I am especially fond of the sleepy ati:žu? (animals).

Remember, pronunciation audio for all vocabulary words can be found at [www.wandat.org](http://www.wandat.org) along with the coloring page to print more copies as needed (click on the Turtle Speaks Audio button).

November is also when we celebrate with a Wadat Phrase of the Day on social media. Be sure to check out the Cultural Center Facebook and Instagram accounts to learn our words for various locations that have been – and continue to be – important to us!

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

Tižamęh! Eskwayę? (I will see y'all again!)

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

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

## Interested in learning our language?

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> - Tižamęh!

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

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



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS



Artwork by Emily "Ruthy" Logan, October 2023.

omakya?tá<sup>nditahkwih</sup>  
"Our Sustenance" (3 sisters)  
uyá:re?sa?  
beans  
unyôhša?  
pumpkin, squash  
unéha?  
corn  
anyonyé?  
bear  
di?tatsí?ah  
skunk  
u<sup>ndinyehtaé:tah</sup>  
snow on the ground  
yá?ngwêhs  
snow falling, it snows/is snowy  
homě?tsehti?ah  
boy  
tišq?  
star

meté?yeh ya<sup>ndišra?</sup>  
sun (day orb)  
a<sup>ndehta?</sup>  
pine tree  
yanôhšetsih  
longhouse  
yqsá:ha  
bird(s)  
tu:kweža:kweh  
raccoon  
skêhšú?  
fox  
ya<sup>ndažaháteh</sup> u<sup>nda?tara?</sup>  
fry bread  
ya?qma?  
bread tray  
uta?wahstá?  
she fell asleep  
huta?wahstá?  
he fell asleep

ngyá?wiš  
turtle(s)  
u<sup>ndehtôta?</sup>  
turkey  
tsišékweh  
spider  
tsi?nqma?  
worm  
tsi<sup>ndé?skya?</sup>  
frog  
u<sup>ngwáhša?</sup>  
grapes  
u:ngyerá?  
nuts  
yá?tq?  
old woman  
yawí?tsinôha?  
little girl  
roméh  
man

takúš  
cat  
yanyénôh  
dog  
kyu?ngyêtseh  
snake  
tsúzuwat  
apples  
a?wayá:nyq?  
she cooks  
ha<sup>ngyu:žé?š</sup>  
he is stirring it  
uté:ka?  
the fire is burning  
užáhêh weyá?wih  
it boils, the soup  
ya?neú?  
kettle  
uhsata?  
smoke

## Continued from Page 13

and then dance at 6 pm. On Nov. 22, Chris will have a ladies' belt class. On Nov. 28, Lloyd Divine will be teaching Wyandotte history.

We always have a lot going on. Please don't miss anything by following us on Facebook and Instagram. All of our events, registrations, and more information are at [www.linktr.ee/wncm](http://www.linktr.ee/wncm).

## 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 November title is *Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir* by Deborah Miranda. Book Club was held at noon and 7:30 pm Central Time on Nov. 8. Our next title will be *Night of the Living Rez: Stories* by Morgan Talty. Book Club will meet on a day to be determined in early February 2024.

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@wyandottenation.org](mailto:bwright@wyandottenation.org).



# WYANDOTTE NATION POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORT

## CAD Summary Statistics by Nature (July-September)

Description	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total	% Total
No Description	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0.10
ALARM UNKNOWN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
ALARM-BUSINESS	9	8	5	3	8	8	3	42	4.14
ALARM-FIRE	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.20
ANIMAL CONTROL VICIOUS ANIMAL	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3	0.30
ANIMALS DOGS/CATS/OTHER	0	1	3	1	0	0	4	9	0.89
ASSAULT REPORT ALL BUT DOMESTIC	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.20
ASSIGNMENT	24	20	21	25	23	27	21	161	15.88
BURGLARY BURGLARY IN PROGRESS	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.10
CIVIL MATTER ALL EXCEPT STANDBY	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
CLEAR	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
CRS STOLEN CAR REPORT	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.10
DISTURBANCE FIGHT IN PROGRESS	0	0	1	1	0	2	0	4	0.39
DISTURBANCE IN PROGRESS	4	2	2	0	0	0	0	8	0.79
DISTURBANCE LOUD NOISE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.10
DISTURBANCE UNKNOWN	2	0	2	2	2	1	0	9	0.89
DISTURBANCE VERBAL-NOT DOMESTIC	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	0.20
DOMESTIC IN PROGRESS	2	1	0	0	0	1	2	8	0.59
DOMESTIC IN PROGRESS PHYSICAL	2	0	0	1	0	1	1	5	0.49
DOMESTIC IN PROGRESS-VERBAL	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.10
DRUGS FOUND	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.10
ESCORT	27	37	43	45	44	71	33	300	29.59
EXTRA PATROL ALL	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	3	0.30
FIGHT IN PROGRESS	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.10
FIRE AUTOMOBILE	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.10
FIRE OTHER	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.20
FIRE WILDLAND (GRASS)	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
FOLLOW UP FOLLOW UP INVESTIGATION	4	4	3	4	3	2	1	21	2.07
FRAUD ALL	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0.20
HARASS THREATS	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
INFORMATION	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.10
INVESTIGATE	5	2	1	1	1	9	5	24	2.37
JAIL TRANSPORT	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0.20
JUVENILE CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.10
JUVENILE NUISANCE,TRUANT,OTHER	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
LARCENY	1	1	1	0	1	2	1	7	0.69
LOST OR STOLEN PROPERTY	1	0	0	0	1	0	1	3	0.30
MEDICAL BLEED/LACERATIONS	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.10
MEDICAL BREATHING PROB	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0.10
MEDICAL FALL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
MEDICAL HEART PROBLEMS	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	0.20
MEDICAL OTHER	0	0	1	1	0	1	0	3	0.30
MEDICAL SICK	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0.10
MOTORIST ASSIST	2	3	5	3	2	2	3	20	1.97
OFFICALS OR VISITORS PRES	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2	0.20

Description	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total	% Total
OFFICER FLAG DOWN	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
OPEN DOOR	0	1	1	0	1	0	1	4	0.39
PAPER 10-17 PU PAPERWORK	0	1	3	0	0	2	0	6	0.59
PED CK PEDESTRIAN CHECK	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	6	0.59
POSS DRUG INTERDICTION	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	0.20
PUBLIC SERVICE	4	1	2	4	5	3	0	19	1.87
PURSUIT IN PROGRESS	0	1	0	2	1	1	2	7	0.69
RECKLESS DRIVER	2	4	2	1	6	1	0	16	1.58
RECOVER STOLEN PROP/VEH ALL	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
REPORT	0	1	1	0	0	0	2	4	0.39
SHOTS FIRED SHOTS FIRED	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	3	0.30
SIG 30 SIGNAL 30-DEATH	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	2	0.20
SIG 76 SIGNAL 76-MINOR ACCIDENT	1	0	0	1	0	2	2	6	0.59
SIG 82 SIGNAL 82 ACCIDENT WINJURIES	1	0	0	2	1	1	1	6	0.59
SIG 87 SIGNAL 87 WALKING DRUNK	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0.20
SIG 88 SIGNAL 88-DRUNK DRIVER	1	1	0	2	0	1	2	7	0.69
SIG 89 SIGNAL 89-HIT/RUN ACCIDENT	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	4	0.39
SPEAK WITH OFFICER	0	2	2	0	1	1	1	7	0.69
STABBING IN PROGRESS	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.10
STAND BY	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.10
SUICIDAL SUBJECT	2	1	1	0	1	0	1	6	0.59
SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY	0	3	2	2	3	0	1	11	1.08
<small>ALL INFORMATION IS AS OF 09 SEP 2023</small>									
Description	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Total	% Total
SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE	3	0	2	2	3	1	4	15	1.48
TRAFFIC ROAD HAZARD	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.20
TRAFFIC STOP	23	16	20	22	33	26	27	169	16.67
TRESPASS IN PROGRESS	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	2	0.20
TRESPASS REPORT ALL	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1	0.10
UNIT ASSIST	0	1	3	1	0	0	1	6	0.59
UNKNOWN USE IF TROUBLE UNKN. EDIT LATER	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0.10
VANDALISM	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0.10
WARRANT	1	0	2	1	0	0	4	8	0.79
WELFARE CHECK	0	2	3	0	2	3	0	10	0.99
Totals:	134	125	144	139	153	182	137	1013	



## Directory of Wyandotte Names

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

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

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) 678-6377
- 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



## SUMMER 2024 TAR CREEK APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (TCAP)

### Program Recruitment

Seeking students who are interested in earning money in northeast Oklahoma while connecting with nature on a cultural level and gaining firsthand experience in natural resources restoration. High school, Vo-Tech, and college students (ages 16-21) are being sought from the following tribes: Cherokee, Eastern Shawnee, Miami, Ottawa, Peoria, Seneca-Cayuga, and Wyandotte.



6-week Program  
starting Wednesday,  
**May 29, 2024**

Participants earn  
income & an  
Oklahoma Lifetime  
Hunting & Fishing  
License.

Reconnect with  
nature on a cultural  
level while helping  
the environment.  
Join the adventure!

APPLY NOW.  
Space is limited.



**TRIBAL SPONSORS:**  
Cherokee, Eastern Shawnee,  
Miami, Ottawa, Peoria,  
Seneca-Cayuga, &  
Wyandotte

For more information, call or text:  
TeNona Kuhn (918) 325-9207  
Tami Lowery (918) 541-8305