



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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November 2024

## 33rd Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow- Wow

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- Town Hall Meeting returns to where it all began
- Preschool to participate in food program
- NNO brings police, community together

### 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: Fancy dancers during Saturday evening's Grand Entry at the Pow-Wow.

PHOTO: 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.

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



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From the Chief

Billy Friend

# Celebrating 25th anniversary of our constitution

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

I want to thank everyone who helped make this year's Cultural Gathering, Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting one of the best yet. We had record attendance for each event and our staff did an outstanding job of helping to facilitate all of the activities.

This year as we celebrate the 25th anniversary of the new Wyandotte Constitution ratified in 1999, we have an opportunity to contemplate the importance of that milestone in our history.

The great progress of the Wyandotte Nation since that time can be traced to the solid foundation our constitution provides. Those who worked hard to draft and ratify this document did so knowing its significance to our modern government and our future. We truly appreciate their determination and foresight to ensure the longevity and success of our tribal government.

Our constitution is the framework by which our government operates as a sovereign nation to secure the rights of the Wyandotte people. Today, we continue to rely on its guidance as a tool that asserts this inherent sovereignty.

Government is such a constant presence in our world that few give much thought to the reason governments exist and the core purpose they serve in our society.

Nevertheless, the views of the founders regarding the purpose of government are spelled out in the Declaration of Independence.

It is very likely the following phrase from that historic document will sound familiar.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

**Our constitution is the framework by which our government operates as a sovereign nation to secure the rights of the Wyandotte people. Today, we continue to rely on its guidance as a tool that asserts this inherent sovereignty**

Those powerful words take on even greater meaning when followed by the next phrase - "that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men."

That phrase outlines what the founders of the United States saw as the fundamental purpose of government.

While governments take a wide variety of actions and perform numerous functions, their primary reason for being is to protect the rights of their citizens.

Our 1999 Wyandotte Constitution is the framework for a representative government that works to secure the rights of the Wyandotte people as an essential part of our mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Wyandotte people.

A long history of treaties and other agreements between the Wyandotte Nation and the federal government has established a special government-to-government relationship between the United

States and the Wyandotte Nation.

That trust relationship affords the Wyandotte people certain rights, which we have a responsibility to protect through our constitutional government. The Wyandotte people have rights to federally-funded health care, housing, education and other services based on that trust relationship.

We work to secure those rights through compacts and contracts that enable us to effectively deliver those federally-funded services.

In 1995, the Wyandotte Nation became one of the first tribes in Oklahoma to compact with the federal government to assume responsibility for operation of our own health care system. By establishing this compact with the Indian Health Service, we protected the rights of Wyandottes to receive federal funding for health care, while also laying the groundwork for improving the quality of health care services.

Many of the legal actions we have taken in recent years are also based on our responsibility to protect the rights of Wyandotte people. The federal government has a trust responsibility to Native American tribes in regard to lands, financial assets, water and other resources.

Our mission to enhance the overall quality of life of the Wyandotte people includes a solemn responsibility to secure the rights you have as citizens. At the Wyandotte Nation we work every day to ensure we meet that responsibility.

Throughout the last few decades, we reformed our government and constitution, focused on serving Wyandotte people and doing the right things as a government should. Our patience and unity have been rewarded. The Wyandotte Nation is now a strong and thriving Nation once again.

It has been a long road, but it has been a road to success. Here's to a new century of progress and prosperity for all Wyandottes.

## From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.



# Our many construction projects progressing nicely

Kweh Omateru. Hello my friends and fellow Wyandotte Citizens, if any of you out there in Indian Country is getting more rain than you need please send it our way, we are literally drying up and blowing away here in Oklahoma.

I exaggerated the blowing away part, but we sure could use some rain. But on a good note the lack of rain hasn't slowed down any of our construction projects, they are progressing nicely. The preschool addition is done except for some touching up, they should be able to move in in a few weeks. The park on Turtle Hill is almost complete, waiting on the paint to cure on the basketball and pickle ball courts and fixing an irrigation leak is all it needs. We are close to bidding out the new Domestic Violence building for construction, it's a shame we have to build them their own building but that department has grown significantly.

The Town of Wyandotte's sewage treatment plant expansion is probably ahead of schedule, anyway it looks like it is. Work on the Pow-Wow grounds upgrades should start soon. The addition of another gymnasium at the wellness center is still in the planning phase. So everything here on the Wyandotte Reservation is progressing and we are looking forward to starting many more projects, but hopefully not all at the same time.

Next month is Thanksgiving as we all know. I know Tribal leaders from the Northeast and they all pretty much told me they do not celebrate Thanksgiving, they claim it never happened like everyone was taught. I ran across an article by Tim Giago from Native Sun News Today a few years ago and found it interesting, I hope you will too:

*Thanksgiving is America's holiday of the Imagination.*

*There is a saying amongst the Lakota that when the pilgrims first landed at Plymouth Rock they fell on their knees and prayed and then they fell on the Indians and preyed. So much fabrication has been woven into the landing of the pilgrims and their dealings with indigenous*

*people they met that first year it is hard to separate fact from fiction.*

*The Mayflower landed on Cape Cod on Nov. 11, 1620, at a place that would become Provincetown. The landing site proved to be unsuitable. Robert Coppin, the Mayflower's pilot, remembered another site more suitable to permanent settlement.*

*On Dec. 16, 1620 the settlers sailed into the harbor the Indians called Patuxet. There are no 17th Century sources that mention landing on a rock, but the Pilgrims called the landing site Plymouth Rock nonetheless.*

*We were all taught about the first winter in which many settlers died until only 52 of the original 102 remained alive. The history books also teach us that the Indians helped the settlers survive by teaching them how to plant corn, squash, and other vegetables.*

*The Wampanoag were the first Indians to actually meet and speak with the Pilgrims. An Abenaki named Samoset who spoke English he learned from fisherman who visited the coast introduced them to a man named Tisquantum or Squanto. Squanto had been taken to England as a prisoner and spoke fairly fluent English. Squanto met the Pilgrims in peace.*

*Strangely enough, most early works of art depicting the first harvest feast of the Pilgrims shows the settlers fleeing from a hail of arrows. Squanto actually met the pilgrims in a peaceful fashion. The first modern image showing the Indians and settlers enjoying a feast in harmony did not occur until after the so-called Indian wars were settled. It was only after the Indians became the Vanishing Americans that they became an integral part of the Pilgrim Story.*

*The indigenous people of what was to become New England had little to be thankful for in the ensuing years. Many died of smallpox, measles, and other diseases to which they had no immunity or they died at the hands of the settlers. Their villages were burned to the ground and their women and children sold into slavery or*

*murdered. Bounties were placed on those who survived and soon hunters and trappers showed up at the trading posts collecting money for their "redskin trophies."*

*George Washington chose a day to give thanks for the establishment of a "new nation" in 1789. After the war of 1812 James Madison called for a day of thanks in 1815. History does not expound upon the fact that it was the combined Indian forces of Creek and other Southeastern tribes that helped turn the tide in favor of the Americans at the Battle of New Orleans, a battle that was essential in turning the war against the British.*

*In 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, at the urging of Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of Godey's Lady's Book, set aside the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day. In 1941 Congress passed a joint resolution making the fourth Thursday of November the official holiday of Thanksgiving. During the 1960's Indian activists began to gather at Plymouth Rock on Thanksgiving Day to protest the treatment of the indigenous people and to rail against a holiday based on fiction. Little did the Pilgrims know that the Indigenous people had celebrated with feasts and*

*dancing to offer thanks for special happenings in their lives for hundreds of years.*

*It is a general belief that the United States government began to visualize Indians as part of the first Thanksgiving at Plymouth Rock in order to demonstrate a move toward diversity. Immigrants from many nations, some not so fair and blonde, landed at Ellis Island in search of freedom and a new life.*

*The troops of the U. S. Seventh Cavalry had celebrated Thanksgiving just five weeks before they slaughtered 300 innocent Lakota men, women, and children at Wounded Knee on December 29, 1890. With the Indian Wars far behind, and the Indian, now listed as "The Vanishing American," it was now almost romantic to create a story about the time the Pilgrims brought the Indians to their table at Thanksgiving to share a sumptuous meal centered around a turkey.*

*I would call this story food for thought, no pun intended.*

*It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve the Citizens of the Wyandotte Nation!*

## Wyandotte Nation

### Children's Christmas Party

AT BEARSKIN HEALTHCARE AND WELLNESS CENTER

Enrolled

Children ages 15

Saturday

December 14th at

10:00 am

and under

Must RSVP by

November 15th

Please contact family services to RSVP  
918-678-6377

All parents, grandparents, siblings, etc. are welcome to come see what Mrs. Clause has been cooking in her kitchen.



## 33rd Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow

Photos by William Swaim (above 5 images)  
& Joshua Garcia (bottom 3 images)

For more images from the three days of the 33rd Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow, please visit the Wyandotte Nation Facebook page.



## Town Hall Meeting

# Tribe returns to site of very first meeting

In 2013, with the hope of reaching more tribal citizens outside the tribal reservation area of Wyandotte, Oklahoma, Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend established Town Hall Meetings.

The idea of the Town Hall Meetings was to bring the Annual Meeting to those who couldn't always make it back to Oklahoma in September for the informative meeting.

The first Town Hall was held in Seattle and the Tribe made its third trip and return to the area in October of this year.

"It was great being back in Seattle where we held our first Town Hall meeting in 2013," Chief Friend said. "It is our hope that the information we provide at these meetings will help inform and educate tribal citizens about our tribal government, tribal culture, and economic development."

In addition to bringing the Annual Meeting on the road to help



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION  
**Chief Billy Friend meets with tribal citizens before the Town Hall Meeting held a few weeks ago in the Seattle area.**

keep tribal citizens informed of the everyday happenings of the Tribe, the ultimate goal of the Meetings

were to provide tribal citizens with better connections – a better connection to the Tribe and a better

connection to other tribal citizens living in their area of the country.

At these meetings citizens are able to meet the Chief, Second Chief and key Wyandotte Nation staff, hear the state of the Tribe, and reunite with family members and other citizens who reside in their local areas.

With the growth of the Tribe and the building of community on the reservation, a number of tribal citizens have started to move back to Oklahoma, taking advantage of affordable housing and other benefits the Tribe provides.

"The Town Hall meetings over the years have helped to re-connect our tribal citizens who live outside of our reservation and give them a sense of importance and belonging," Chief Friend said. "We have even had people who have attended these meetings move back to Oklahoma and become a part of our local community."



PHOTOS: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION

## National Night Out

The Wyandotte Nation Tribal/Municipal Police Department hosted its 12th Annual National Night Out with a Community Block Party Tuesday, Oct. 1, at Heritage Acres Park (14400 S Porcupine Road) in Wyandotte. There was complimentary food and beverages, exhibitors, emergency vehicles, law enforcement personnel, music, goodies, giveaways and more.

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



# Tribe presents \$250k to Wyandotte Public Schools

The Wyandotte High School football game vs Salina Thursday, Oct. 17 – a victory -- was 'Wyandotte Nation Night.' The Tribe covered the cost of admission for those who attended the Bears' game.

"It was our privilege once again to cover the cost of admission at 'Wyandotte Nation Night,'" said Chief Billy Friend.

More importantly, however, the Wyandotte Nation continued to show its ongoing support for Wyandotte Public Schools (WPS) education and athletics by presenting school officials with a check for \$250,000.

"We are very proud of our relationship and partnership with the Wyandotte Public Schools. Because of the growth of our community, the Wyandotte Schools have added over 100 new students this past year," Chief Friend said. "Being the only school on our Reservation, our Board of Directors led the way through financial support to see that our students have every opportunity to succeed in whatever endeavor they pursue."

Chief Friend said it can be very difficult for small rural schools with very little tax base to operate without generous support, and the Tribe is happy to help provide that support for WPS.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, along with Board of Directors Keith Gray, Rob Nesvold, Eric Lofland and Vivian Fink, present a \$250,000 check to representatives of Wyandotte Public Schools.

## Wyandotte Nation Preschool

# Child development center to participate in food program

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center announces its participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals at no extra charge to the parents.

The program ensures children have access to nutritious meals and snacks. CACFP contributes to the wellness, healthy growth, and development of young children and adults in the United States.

Following federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating

based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity.

Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal

Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete Form AD-3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866) 632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant's name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the

Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by:

- mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410;
- fax: (833) 256-1665 or 202) 690-7442; or
- email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

## Guide to Tribal Tags & the Mason Treat Act

What to do when purchasing a vehicle from a dealership and trading in your used vehicle:

1. Remove the tribal tag from your trade-in vehicle.
2. Tell the dealership that you will be registering your vehicle with your tribe, and you will need the following:
  - o An actual title (not an electronic title)
  - o A temporary paper tag
3. The dealership will issue a temporary paper tag that expires 10 days from purchase.
4. Within those 10 days, appear in the tribal tag office with your documents from the dealership. (Bill of Sale and Finance documents)
5. Once the tribal tag office has verified that the buyer is eligible for a tribal tag, we will issue a numbered license plate (or transfer a previously issued plate – Veteran or personalized plate) and a temporary decal that expires within 30 days.
6. After receiving the title for your new vehicle, you must return to the tribal tag office to complete the registration process and receive your title, registration, and decal which will be good for one year from the month of registration.

What to do when purchasing a used vehicle from a private owner:

1. The seller or buyer must pre-register the vehicle listing the new owner's information within two days from the date of sale to receive a temporary paper tag that expires in 10 days.
2. At any time during those 10 days, you may register your vehicle with the tribal tag office and receive your title, registration, and decal which will be good for one year from the month of registration.

## MOVE MORE – SIT LESS

Sitting for more than 7-8 hours a day at home or in the office, can decrease muscle strength, and increase the risk of diabetes and blood clots over time. Reduced sitting time has benefits even for those who are physically active.

### Moving more

- Helps lower blood sugar levels for people with diabetes
- Helps boost circulation and muscle strength
- Reduces stress and improves mental health
- Improves quality of life



### Interrupt sitting every 30 to 60 minutes



Produced by the IHS Division of Diabetes Treatment and Prevention  
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01/2024

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# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director*

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department would like to welcome tribal citizen Kailey Bearskin as the new Administrative Assistant. Some of Kailey's hobbies include crafts, cooking and sewing. In her spare time Kailey enjoys spending time with her friends and family playing board games, and watching movies. Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation Family Kailey and we wish you great success!



**BEARSKIN**

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Kali Heatherly, Bryson Walker and Kylie McIntruff as Afterschool Child-care Assistants, Angie Wolfinbarger as a Childcare Teacher's Assistant, Breanna Barger as a Substitute, and Sara Stovall as a Sub for the Pre-school/Afterschool Program.



**HEATHERLY**



**WALKER**



**MCINTRUFF**

Kali has a lot of experience babysitting every chance she gets and enjoys being around children. Some of Kali's hobbies include fishing, hunting, making shirts and car freshies. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family and friends.

Bryson is currently a sophomore at Miami High School and is also concurrently enrolled at NE Tech in the STEM Program. In his spare time Bryson enjoys golfing, fishing, hunting and playing



**WOLFINBARGER**



**BARGER**



**STOVALL**

working with lambs and helping little kids.

Sara is in her senior year at Wyandotte High School. Some of her hobbies include FFA, AG, showing pigs and cheer. In her spare time Sara enjoys spending time with her friends and family, and traveling to Mississippi.

Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation family and we wish you all much success!

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department would like to welcome David Hyde as a Police Officer.



**HYDE**

pickle ball. Kylie is in her junior year at Wyandotte High School. Some of her hobbies include doing nails and crocheting. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her friends.

Angie comes to us with 13 years' experience in early childhood working as a Paraprofessional. Angie's hobbies include craft shows, doing crafts and baking. In her spare time Angie enjoys spending time with her kids and grandkids who bring her so much joy.

Breanna attends school at Wyandotte High School. Some of her hobbies include cheer, FFA, and National Honor Society.

In her spare time Breanna enjoys

working with lambs and helping little kids. Sara is in her senior year at Wyandotte High School. Some of her hobbies include FFA, AG, showing pigs and cheer. In her spare time Sara enjoys spending time with her friends and family, and traveling to Mississippi.

Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation family and we wish you all much success!

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department would like to welcome David Hyde as a Police Officer.

David graduated from Stockton High School and then attended the Missouri Southern State University Law Enforcement Academy. Some of David's hobbies include hiking, swimming, fishing, science

## HR News

### Retirement

A retirement celebration was held in August honoring Una McElhaney for her 9 years of service at the clinic.

Wyandotte Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand presented her with a Pendleton Blanket to show our appreciation for her dedication and service to the Tribe. Congratulations Una!



### Employee Appreciation

We treated our employees to Ghetto Tacos food truck the week following the Pow Wow and Annual Meeting! Thanks to our employees for all their hard work, and to Ghetto Tacos for the delicious tacos and Mexican street corn!

and reading. In his spare time, he enjoys working on vehicles, reading and learning new topics. Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation David and we wish you the best success as a Police Officer!

The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department would like to welcome Jalin Enyart to the team as an Environmental Recycling



**ENYART**

Technician. Jalin is a Wyandotte tribal citizen and a graduate of Wyandotte High School. He is currently attending NEO studying business. Some of his hobbies include hunting, football and golf. In his spare time Jalin enjoys hanging out with his friends and watching sports. Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation family and we wish you great success in your new position!

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center would like to welcome Wendy Jo Hance as a Registered Nurse and Stephanie Nesvold as the new Nurse Practitioner.

Wendy Jo comes to us with several years of experience as a nurse.

Becoming a nurse has been one of her proudest accomplishments. Her hobbies include spending time in the show barn. In her spare time Wendy Jo enjoys being with her family on their farm where her and her husband Darrin raise Hereford cattle. They enjoy traveling around watching their daughters display their hard work.

Stephanie comes to us with 20 years of nursing experience, mostly in critical care, and 6 years of experience as a nurse practitioner. She received her education from Pittsburg State University.



**HANCE**



**NESVOLD**

Her hobbies include watching KU basketball. In her spare time Stephanie enjoys going to the lake, spending time with her family and watching her kid's activities, which include basketball, football, dance and cheer.

We are fortunate to have Wendy Jo and Stephanie join our staff at Bearskin and wish them great success!



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,  
Family Services Director*

The Wyandotte Nation had an amazing turnout for the Annual Meeting this year with 426 adult tribal citizens registering. The Gathering also had record numbers and the Pow-Wow had their largest number of contest dancers ever, with just under 200! We enjoyed seeing all of our tribal citizens and getting to spend time with their families during these events. Huge shout out to the Cultural Center and Museum for all of their hard work to make these events successful.

To say the Family Services love the Holiday season is an understatement! Staff are already preparing for the Children's Christmas party and working with Santa to make sure each child who attends the Children's Christmas party receives a gift that they will love. We're asking parents/guardians to complete an RSVP for any children, age 0-15, who will be attending the party this year. Post-cards were mailed to all children who attended the party last year, with a QR code to RSVP. Forms can also be obtained from the office. The party will be held from 10 am to 12 pm on Saturday, Dec. 14 in the Bearskin gymnasium. This year the party will be all things Gingerbread and the staff have some fun things in store for those who attend. As always, we love families to attend together and each family will receive a \$50 Walmart gift card to help with transportation or other holiday expenses.

Beginning Oct. 1, 2024 there will be a new program for enrolled Wyandotte Nation children/youth. This new program will replace the separate programs of the School Supplies, Winter Clothing and Extracurricular. Items that were previously eligible under any of the three programs will now be eligible in the new "Youth Program" for children age 3 (must be 3 on Oct. 1) to 18 (and enrolled in high school). Each child will be eligible for up to \$700 for any combination of eligible items. Enrolled children who have not yet turned 3 by October first will be eligible for the new "Infant/Toddler Program" and will receive up to \$300 per fiscal year. Applications and guidelines for both

of these programs can be found on our website [www.wyandotte-nation.org/familyservices/programs](http://www.wyandotte-nation.org/familyservices/programs). If you have any questions please feel free to give us a call or send an email. There will be a learning curve for both staff and citizens the first year, but we feel this change is for the better and will allow parents/guardians to determine the needs of the child. This will also allow for access to the program fund year round, not just certain time frames.

Walmart cards are still available and details can be found on the applications/guidelines.

Also beginning Oct. 1, 2024, the Sr. Energy and Elders Assistance programs increased to \$350 per program as well as Burial Assistance increased to \$3,500. All of these applications can be found on our website as well. We hope to have the new Services Brochure mailed soon to every Wyandotte household that will provide program information across all Wyandotte Nation departments.

The Supplemental Health Program (aka Benny card) will continue to be funded for 2025 at the same level as the current program which is \$1,500 for individuals and \$2,500 for families. Keep in mind that this program ends on Dec. 31 and any funds not used by this date will not roll over to the next year. However, you will have until Feb. 28, 2025, to file for reimbursements for 2024 funds. If you use your benefit card after Dec. 31 the funds will be debited from your 2025 funds. Another reminder is that you will never need to enter your SSN for this program. When asked for your SSN or your Member ID number it will be your roll number. For instance, if you are asked to enter your SSN you will enter is as 000-00-(your 4 digit roll number). If you need to check the balance on your account you can call the number on the back of your card and follow the prompts.

WINTER LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) offered under 477 Program Utility



## Wyandotte Nation 477 Program Victim Services

Wyandotte Nation offers a wide range of supportive services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, elder abuse, and other violent crimes. Services are available to eligible children, adults, and elders whether the victims are Native or non-Native. Wyandotte Nation aims to address the urgent safety needs, economic stability, and long term needs of victims with the goal of aiding in the development of self-sufficiency.

### How can we help?

Advocacy, Crisis Intervention, Emergency Clothing/Supplies, Legal Expenses, Rental Assistance, Counseling, Substance Use Treatment, Court Accompaniment, Transportation, Utility Assistance, Supervised Visitation, Safety Planning, Childcare Assistance, Education Assistance.

### Statistics:

- More than 4 in 5 American Indian and Alaska Native adults have experienced some form of violence in their lifetime.
- 30% to 60% of intimate partner violence perpetrators also abuse children in the household.
- 81% of women and 43% of men reported experiencing some form of sexual harassment and/or assault in their lifetime.

Continued on Page 10

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## (Family Services)

### Continued from Page 10

Assistance, is available Dec. 1 – Feb. 28. This program is income-based and serves Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside within a 100-mile radius of tribal headquarters as well as those who live anywhere in the state of Oklahoma.

At the Annual Meeting this year we added 139 new tribal citizens to the roll, a list of those added can be found in this newsletter. This brings our current total tribal enrollment to 7,254. If you have children who need to be added to the roll, please be sure to have their completed applications, along with an original state certified long form birth certificate submitted prior to Aug. 15, 2025. We would urge you to submit as early as you can in case there are errors that need to be corrected on either the form or the birth certificate. We do have new forms each year, which can be obtained from the Enrollment Officer by calling 918-678-6377 or by email [wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org).

Other programs housed within the Family Services Department include Victim Services, Indian Child Welfare, Tribal Enrollment, Tribal Tags, Jr/Sr. Assistance, Emergency Assistance and hardship assistance with fuel.

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.

**FOSTER PARENTS NEEDED!**  
Since Wyandotte Nation has reclaimed land reservation status, there is an even greater need for Foster Families. We also need families to foster Wyandotte children in other states as we ensure the Indian Child Welfare Act is being followed across the nation. The greatest need has been in Oregon, Washington, California, Michigan, Ohio and Kansas. Please contact the Family Services Department to see how you can become a Foster Parent today!

**DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:**  
Wyandotte Nation Family Services, [wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org)  
477 Victim Services, [wn477@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:wn477@wyandotte-nation.org)  
Wyandotte Nation Family Services Front Desk: 918-678-6321

## Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,  
Education Director*

### Scholarships

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department have been busy processing all of the Fall 2024 semester scholarships for participants currently enrolled in our Concurrent, Undergrad, and Masters Scholarship Programs as well as assisting members who are currently enrolled in our Vocational Program seeking gainful employment.

Each year we have seen an increase of tribal citizens taking advantage of our Scholarship Programs for the first time. This year is no different with 46 new participants for the Undergrad Program, 12 for the Masters, 4 in the concurrent, and 3 in our Vocational Program. The total numbers for the program are currently:

- Concurrent: 11 Active participants
- Undergrad: 170 Active participants
- Masters: 35 Active participants
- Vocational: 12 Active participants

Concurrent Scholarships are available to Wyandotte tribal citizens who are enrolled in high school and are taking college courses. Funding assists students with dual enrollment as they begin course work on the college level prior to HS graduation. Many states waive the cost of tuition and we assist with the fees.

Undergraduate Scholarships are awarded to enrolled Wyandotte tribal citizens who are attending or will be attending an accredited college or university. If you are currently in the scholarship program, please remember to send in your latest unofficial transcript that includes your spring grades and current fall schedule. An unofficial transcript is required at the end of each semester in order for us to process your next semester's scholarship. If you are new to the scholarship program, the following are guidelines you are required to meet to maintain the scholarship:

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to 8 semesters.
- The scholarship amount for the undergraduate are worth \$5,000 per

semester for students enrolled full-time, 12 hours.

- If you are enrolled in less than 12 hours, your scholarship will be prorated to the number of hours you are attending.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the program's duration.
- Deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is May 1st. Deadline for Spring submission for new applicants is October 1st. Participants is December 1st.

The Wyandotte Nation awards scholarships to selected Wyandotte Nation Tribal Citizens pursuing Masters degrees at a college or university. The awards will be in the amount of \$5,000 per semester. To apply for these funds, students must submit a completed set of application documents. If you currently a participant in the program, please send an unofficial transcript for the semester completed as promptly as possible to be considered for continuing semesters. Continuing students have first preference as long as all documentation is received in a timely manner and all eligibility requirements are fulfilled.

- Masters scholarships are limited to 4 semesters.
- The scholarship amount for the undergraduate are worth \$5,000 per semester.
- There is no set amount of hours you have to take to receive a scholarship.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to finish the term with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the program's duration.
- Deadline for fall submission for new scholarship applicants is June 1st. Deadline for Spring submission for new applicants is October 1st.

College graduates may also submit an application on the website for Wyandotte Nation Graduation Stoles. Stoles are available to college graduates that have participated in the Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program. The stoles are also avail-

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

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department provides Adult Vocational Training assistance for income-qualified students in attending technical schools where the participants will be job ready in two years. This program provides assistance for members who are wanting to learn a skill, knowledge, or craft in a specific employment or trade field.

To obtain a Concurrent, Undergraduate, Master, or Vocational Scholarship application, they are now available on our website, [www.wyandottenation.org](http://www.wyandottenation.org). Please submit 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.

### 477 Program

The 477 Program, also known as Workforce & Social Services Program, is a federally-funded program that combines a variety of services to better meet the needs of our tribal community. It is for those who reside within our 100-mile service area. To apply for the program, clients must complete the initial 477 Application for Services, provide proof of tribal membership, proof of residency, and their Selective Service Registration Card (males only from 18 - 25). Other documentation may be required to coincide with the type of service requested.

The 477 Program provides comprehensive support services, including childcare subsidies, education, scholarships, workforce and job training, LIHEAP, family violence assistance, child welfare, and crime victim advocacy. Our program remains dedicated to supporting families by tailoring services to their unique needs, fostering safe and stable family environments, and boosting the economy through job creation and

Continued on Page 11

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## (Education)

### Continued from Page 10

employment opportunities. We strive to increase access to high-quality childcare, ensuring continuity for parents and families as they pursue gainful employment, career advancement, or educational goals. The 477 Program also offers community members opportunities that promote self-sufficiency.

- **Childcare Assistance** - the Childcare Assistance or Childcare Subsidy, is designed to assist low income families in paying for daycare. Eligible families are those who have children ages 0 through 12 years old, meet income criteria, and have provided initial documentation. At this time, subsidy is providing services for approximately 130 children throughout various childcare providers in the service area. In August, our team hosted the Tribe's Annual Backpack Drive at Bearskin Fitness Center distributing approximately 600 backpacks with school supplies to area children and teens. Many families on our program and from the community were in attendance. Staff has been working through the month of September recertifying the majority of our clients receiving childcare assistance. Another recertification period for the remainder of childcare clients will take place in March. We are also excited to announce that as of October 1, 2024 copays have been eliminated for all clients!

- **Education, Employment, Training** - the Education portion of 477 offers scholarships, workforce & job training assistance, & vocational training to help fund tribal students residing within our service area to reach their educational & employment goals. Through these services, Wyandotte Nation hopes to reduce joblessness within the communities we serve. Currently there are approximately 18 students that have received educational services through the 477 program. Staff has worked diligently the last couple of months to ensure students receive their scholarships for the beginning of the fall semester as well as attended several scholarship fairs to promote the program.

**Child Development Center**  
The Wyandotte Nation Child

Development Center has had steady attendance this school year. We have enjoyed getting to know all of our new students and their families. Our KUMON math program is in full swing; it has been exciting to watch our students learn this program and see the progress they are making not only with KUMON but in all areas.

Students have been enjoying weekly time in the Wyandotte Nation Historical Library and completing lots of STEAM activities with our Librarian, Madeline Harnar. We have incorporated a PE Program into our day lead by Amber Stark and Victoria Thompson. Students are really enjoying this time and learning different ways to keep their bodies healthy and moving. We have celebrated Grandparent's Day, sold raffle tickets to help the tribal powwow, had firefighters come to visit, and taken a few field trips. Our students were able to attend the Fire Prevention Program at the Coleman Theatre in Miami as well as visit the Creation Safari in Seneca, Missouri. We are looking forward to the next couple months and all of the fun activities that are planned.

We will celebrate Halloween with our Annual Preschool Carnival put on by the different departments within the Tribe, we will have a Thanksgiving feast with our friends and families, and receive a visit from Santa Claus!

We are anxiously awaiting the completion of the new addition to our facility and so excited to be able to fill this brand new space with all things preschool!

Our Infant/Toddler Program is currently full, but we are accepting enrollment for our Preschool Program for students ages 3-5 years old. Applications can be picked up in person at our facility or completed online at <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/education/turtlelots/>

### Library

Kweh! The Wyandotte Nation Historical Library is excited to invite the community to a special Movie Night at Bear Park (Event was rescheduled from Thursday, Oct. 17 with new date to be announced soon. Watch for it on the Tribe's Facebook page). The movie will begin at 7:30pm, and all are welcome! Bring your family, blankets, and chairs, and settle in

for an evening of fun under the stars. This event is open to the public, and we encourage everyone to join in for a memorable night of entertainment. Be sure to keep an eye out for our next Story Book Walk feature! We will be unveiling a new book soon, perfect for families to read and enjoy as they explore Bear Park. These projects are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum & Library Services, grant number NAE-254945-OLS.

Wyandotte Nation's library hours are Monday through Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and on Friday 8 am to 3:30pm. 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.overdrive.com](http://www.okvirtuallibrary.overdrive.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.

### 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 [kewis@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:kewis@wyandotte-nation.org)

## Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House,  
Elder Services Director*

It's hard to believe that the holidays are fast approaching already! Our Elders Thanksgiving Dinner is Thursday November 21. We will have turkey, dressing and all the trimmings.

We will be traveling to Branson, Missouri, Friday December 6, to see the Clay Cooper Christmas Show. The cost is \$35 for the tickets. The tribes will cover the cost of the coach and lunch at the Grand Country Buffet.

Our Elders Christmas Dinner is Thursday December 19. We will have brisket and all the sides. Santa will be handing out our Title VI homemade candy so make sure you get off of the naughty list now while there is still time!

### Caregiver

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

### 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, Kelli Snell and Kayla Ezell, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328.

Menu: Available on website.

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Planning & Natural Resources

*Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director*

### Environmental

July definitely brought the heat, with extreme temperatures and very little rain. We made sure our staff stayed well hydrated and adjusted their work schedules to get as much done as possible in the morning hours.

On July 8 our water technicians performed seasonal e-coli sampling on eight waterbody sites within the nations jurisdictional boundaries.

On July 9 John Gerhard and Kathleen Welch attended the TCAP (Tar Creek Apprenticeship Program) Capstone Project, which took place on Lost Creek at an Eastern Shawnee site. At this Capstone, the TCAP students identified potential environmental hazards and impacts to Lost Creek. They then met back at NEO College, broke up into four groups and formulated a design to deal with the impacts.

On July 23-24, Kathleen attended the ITEC Conference at the Hard Rock Casino Conference Center, located in Catoosa, OK. This conference had various tribal and state speakers and presentations, presenting on various environmental issues.

On August 1 our water technicians performed the fourth round of seasonal e-coli and nutrient sampling on all eight waterbody sites.

During the week of August 12th, John and Ryan Haggard attended the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, which was held in Eugene, Oregon.

On August 30, Kathleen, John Gerhard, Ryan and an Oklahoma State

Certified Contractor, assessed two private home owner septic systems. Thru the funding of an EPA Non-Point source Grant, the department performs these assessments throughout the year, in which we walk the lateral lines and survey around the septic tank looking for any pooling of water. If a failing system is determined, we are able to replace 1 – 2 systems per year.

On September 6, our department had an environmental education booth at the Eastern Shawnee Lost Creek Water Festival. There were a total of 554 students in attendance for the event. At our booth we talked to the students about macro-invertebrates and the importance of healthy streams.

On September 11-12, Christen Lee, Kathleen and John attended the Tri-State Mining District Meeting, which was held at the Joplin, MO Public Library. On the 12, Kathleen was co-presenter of the TCAP Program.

On September 16-17, Kathleen attended a Class “C” Drinking Water Training in Tulsa, OK.

On September 17-18, John and Ryan attended an EPA ATAINS Training in Catoosa, OK.

### Recycling

During the summer months, the Lost Creek Recycle Center sees an increase in the amount of recyclable products collected. Total amounts collected for this 4th quarter were:

- Cardboard – 18,723 lbs.
- Plastic – 1,354 lbs.
- Aluminum – 520 lbs.
- Tin – 483 lbs.
- Total – 20,630 lbs.

### Other Environmental Duties:

Each month, department staff performs monitoring and sampling on eight sites within the Wyandotte Nation Reservation’s 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 private 11 well drinking water



samples during this time frame,  
 ---Submitted by Kathleen Welch,  
*Environmental Department Manager*

### Services Provided

- Private Well Drinking Water Sampling
- Private Home Owners Septic Assessments
- Lost Creek Recycle Center

### Environmental Department Contacts:

- Kathleen Welch (Env. Department Manager) 918-678-6335
- Ryan Haggard (Env. Technician I) 918-678-6345
- John Gerhard (Env. Technician II) 918-678-6396
- Jon Quick (Recycling) 918-678-6352

**Notice: For private well sampling appointments, contact Kathleen Welch, John Gerhard or Ryan Haggard.**

### Planning

Submitted by Debbie Dry-Grant  
*Writer/BIA Self-Governance Coordinator*

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.

There are currently grants submitted, awaiting approval.

- The Tribal Opioid Response award from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, will support programs designed for the prevention and risk reduction of substance use.

- SORNA / Adam Walsh Act Grant from the U.S. Department of Justice –will support providing equipment and salary of law enforcement to ensure public notifications and compliance with the Offender Registration Act.

- Tribal Historical Preservation Officer Grant from the Department of the Interior –supports salary for the Wyandotte Nation Preservation Officer.

- Office of Violence Against Women- This is a two (2) year grant, that will provide for salaries, fringe, training, supplies and direct services to clients.

- Native American Library Services Basic Grant will be used to purchase books, journals, supplies, software, etc.

### Projects:

There are several projects at this time.

- A contractor has been chosen for the ICDBG-21 Pow-Wow Grounds Project. Work is underway, and expected to be complete in the Spring.

- The selection process for an

**Continued on Page 13**



Grants Awarded from July thru September 2024	
Tribal Opioid Response-Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Admin.	\$1,250,000
SMART Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program U.S. DOJ	\$296,789
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, Department of Interior, National Park Service	\$89,934
Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program.	\$724,053
Native American Library Services Basic Grant-Institute of Museum and Library Services.	\$10,000

Grants Submitted from July thru September 2024	
Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)	\$2,000,000

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## (Planning)

Continued from Page 12

Architect/Engineer for the ICDBG-23 has begun. This is the Multi-Purpose facility, which will include an additional gymnasium next to the current gymnasium.

- The park at Turtle Hill Estates is almost complete. When completed, there will be a walking track, playground, and pickleball courts.
- The Education Department still has construction going on, but is nearing completion.

### Planning Department Contacts:

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

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

David Groves (Grant Writer) 918-678-6309

## Healthcare & Wellness

### Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

Beginning October 15, 2024, Bearskin Healthcare's drive-thru clinic (COVID building) will no longer offer testing for COVID-19, Flu, RSV, and Strep due to the unavailability of necessary supplies. Unfortunately, these supplies cannot be replenished following the conclusion of the Public Health Emergency for COVID-19.

Moving forward, testing for these illnesses will only be available during a clinic office visit, and only at the discretion of the treating healthcare provider.

Please be advised that patients may be responsible for the cost of testing, depending on their insurance coverage. For specific details on coverage, we encourage patients to contact their insurance providers directly.

In addition, the federal government is offering each household four free at-home COVID-19 tests, which can be requested online at <http://www.covidtests.gov>.

Attention Veterans! We're excited to announce that as of July 1, 2024, Bearskin Healthcare became eligible to receive reimbursement for healthcare and related services from the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). This

### Submitted by Jocelyn Metcalf, Housing Specialist

The Heritage Acres Housing Area provides rental units for our elders and tribal families. Family units consist of 3 bedroom homes and 2 bedroom duplexes. If you are interested in renting, the application is on the Wyandotte Nation website or can be picked up at our housing department located at 14325 Porcupine Rd. Federal income guidelines apply and preference is given to Wyandotte Nation citizens.

If you are 55 and older, our senior housing may be for you! The senior duplexes are all 2 bedroom and come fully equipped with appliances and a garage and all yard work is done for you. Title VI (Elder food program) and Bearskin Health & Wellness Center are also close by. If you are interested please fill out an application and return to the housing department. Federal income guidelines apply,

agreement aims to streamline access to Native healthcare facilities for Veterans.

Eligible American Indian (AI) and Alaska Native (AN) Veterans can now receive healthcare services at Bearskin Healthcare without the need for VA preauthorization, and there will be no VA copay for these services. The VA recognizes the importance of culturally sensitive care for AI/AN Veterans, and this program enhances resource sharing to improve access to care.

What does this mean for you? If you are a Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Citizen and a Veteran eligible for benefits, you no longer need to visit multiple facilities. Bearskin Clinic can handle your referrals and coordinate specialty care. While Bearskin Clinic remains a payer of last resort, we can now provide necessary services and bill the VA on your behalf, helping to expedite your care.

Thank you for your service, and we look forward to supporting your healthcare needs!

## Housing

Our new walking track is seeing more traffic as individuals and families are taking advantage of its outdoor convenience as well as the newly installed exercise equipment. The 2 pavilions are always a great option for birthday parties and get-togethers! They are on a first come first come basis. We will have more covered picnic tables in the near future.

Wyandotte Nation 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 or are in need of repairs to your home due to COVID, and do not have the funding to make those repairs, please fill out and return the application for assistance which can be found on the website. Income guidelines do apply. The repairs to homes can only be made within a 50-mile radius of the Wyandotte Nation. If you have questions regarding this process, please feel free to call our office.

As always our Community Center is available to rent, however, the

dates are filling up fast for the holiday season. Please contact the office to check on dates! The cost for tribal citizens to rent the community center is \$50 and also requires a \$25 deposit to hold the date. This will be returned if the facility is left clean and free from any damages.

Exciting News! This year Wyandotte Nation Housing was awarded a competitive grant that will fund the expansion of Heritage Acres to include 8 new family units. With some added 4 bedroom options. We are growing and looking forward to housing our tribal people.

### DEPARTMENT STAFF:

**Kathy Deweese**, Housing Director

**Jocelyn Metcalf**, Housing Specialist

**Paul Parker & Levi Griffin**, Project Coordinators

**Randy Qualls & Drew Lankford**, Residential Maintenance Technicians

## Cultural Division

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

Kweh!

We had another record breaking Gathering with over 300 in attendance! This year's events included 2 kayak trips, language classes, history classes, and special presentations about the Hopewell Mounds, Fallen Timbers, and the Wyandot Mission Church. We then had 11 different classes in the afternoons. Each evening we had a special event: Tuesday was the first Fashion Show with 20 different models, Wednesday we opened the Wyandotte Artisan Showcase and announced the winners with 73 entries and 18 participants in the Community Art

Project. Thursday evening, we hosted our first Community night at the Pow-Wow grounds – we shared a traditional meal and then danced social and stomp dances. We finished the Gathering with a Memorial Walk on Friday. Friday evening through Sunday we hosted our 33rd Annual Pow-Wow with over 250 dancers. The entire week was AMAZING! YAWAHSTIH!

November is Native American Heritage Month. We have a lot going on for the month so watch social media for all the updates and registrations. We'll also be posting Wa<sup>n</sup>dat words of the day and Facts of the Day.

November 6	Wyandotte Book Club
November 11	Veterans Day Dance
November 12	Wyandotte Beading
November 15	Leather Belt Class

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## Important Numbers

### Family Services / Enrollment

wfs@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

### 477 Victim Services

wn477@wyandotte-nation.org  
Hotline: 877-276-0669  
Chelsea King, (918) 678-3257

### Indian Child Welfare

Tara Gragg (918) 678-6355  
tgragg@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

Nakia Elsloo (918) 678-3228  
nelsloo@wyandotte-nation.org

### Dental / Vision

Ashley Snider, (918) 678-3222  
asnider@wyandotte-nation.org

### Pharmacy (call-in only)

(918) 678-3244

### Fitness Center

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

### Contract Health

Janet Webb (918) 678-3227  
jwebb@wyandotte-nation.org

### Diabetes Clinic

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

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Language Notes

Kweh qmatęru? ! (Hello, friends!)  
November is Native American Heritage Month and to celebrate, we are sharing a Wa<sup>n</sup>dat word or phrase every day using Facebook. This year's theme is "Useful Phrases." Be sure to follow along all month! The audio will be available on [www.wandatat.org/NAHM](http://www.wandatat.org/NAHM) - Just click on the Audio 2024 button! You can explore past years' offerings, too.

Join us every third Wednesday of the month at **Wandatat Wednesdays** (online using ZOOM) to practice together. Our topics range from body parts to seasonal

activities to learners' requests. We will be practicing and adding to the "Useful Phrases" we will be sharing on Facebook in November! It's a great (yawahstih) way to build up vocabulary without having to worry about grammar. Wa<sup>n</sup>dat Wednesdays are designed to be "stand-alone" classes so you can attend when it is convenient for you.

**Eskwayę?** (I will see you all again!)

### Interested in learning our language?

We began our newest beginner class in October. 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> – Tizameh!

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

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



# NEA Big Read

## "Where We Live"

### Creative Writing Workshop

**Date** January 18, 2025

**Time** 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Location** Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center  
5 Council Fire Road  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

### With Guest Speaker(s)

Lenzy Langford & the  
Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center

### Writing focus:

Tribal Heritage &  
Life in Ottawa County



"NEA Big Read is a program of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with Arts Midwest."

"El proyecto NEA Big Read es una iniciativa del National Endowment for the Arts (el Fondo Nacional para las Artes de Estados Unidos) en cooperación con Arts Midwest."



Interested in attending? Sign up to be notified of updates at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WWL-CWW>  
or use the QR code



*Note: you do not need to be an Ottawa County resident to participate!*

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## (Cultural)

### Continued from Page 13

November 16 Quillwork Class and Social Dance

November 20 Wa<sup>n</sup>dat Wednesday

November 26 Wyandotte History: Reading the Wampum

Please make plans to attend our Winter Gathering – January 18 and 19.

Our traditional stories can only be told in the winter time so we will be telling our traditional stories as well as a social dance on the 18th. We're planning lots of fun events so check back with us about what's coming up.

We hope you have a great holiday season!

## Directory of Wyandotte Names

Being gifted a traditional name in our Wawat language connects us with our ancestors and highlights our commitment to stand up for Wyandotte Nation. Wa<sup>n</sup>dat names are the property of the Nation and in contemporary times are bestowed by our Chief after a tribal citizen successfully completes the application process, which has 3 parts: information form, references (3+), & attendance at a Wyandotte Basics class (offered on ZOOM, 2x a year). Following tradition, the recipient hears their name for the first time during the ceremony at the Pow Wow Grounds in September.

While you can start/submit an application at any time of the year, new applications are reviewed October – May. Summer is reserved for working on finding names for those who have completed the entire application process by May 31.

**NOTE:** As this is an intense time-consuming process, meeting the May 31st deadline does not guarantee a name will be bestowed that same year. To begin the process, you can start online at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WNameApp>

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!)

Tizaməh!

Please send name questions & inquiries to:  
[bwright@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:bwright@wyandotte-nation.org).

## Wyandotte Artisan Showcase

Below are the winners from the Showcase. We'd love to see your work next year!

Name	Category	Title	Place
Joshua Garcia	Basketry	Hickory Bark Basket	3rd Place
Angela Morgan	Basketry	Black Ash Community Pack Basket	2nd Place
Arturo Garcia	Basketry	Sundance Basket	1st Place
Nathan McAlister	Beadwork	Wildflower Medallion	3rd Place
Angela Morgan	Beadwork	Bountiful Harvest	2nd Place
Caleb Garcia	Beadwork	A Good Day	1st Place
Deryl Wright	Diverse Art Forms	Fixed Blade Knife and Leather Sheath	3rd Place
Keith Gray	Diverse Art Forms	Wa <sup>n</sup> dat "gyawiš a <sup>2</sup> dúhšra ustamé?šra?	2nd Place
Arturo Garcia	Diverse Art Forms	Horn Rattle	1st Place
Gabriel Garcia	Jewelry and Accessories	Wampum Necklace	3rd Place
Keith Gray	Jewelry and Accessories	uskwe?tra?	2nd Place
Caleb Garcia	Jewelry and Accessories	Beaded beads	1st Place
Jason Butcher	Leatherwork	Blue Spiral Belt	1st Place
Don Macy	Painting, Drawing, and Print-Making	Many Feathers	3rd Place
Arianna Tussinger	Painting, Drawing, and Print-Making	Sitting Bull	2nd Place
Lilah Craig	Painting, Drawing, and Print-Making	Saturday	1st Place
Nathan McAlister	Photography and Digital Art	"Storm over Arapaho Oklahoma"	3rd Place
Joshua Garcia	Photography and Digital Art	Death Valley Goes to Sleep	2nd Place
Arturo Garcia	Photography and Digital Art	On Fire	1st Place
Nathan McAlister	Pottery	Wyandot Serving Pot	2nd Place
Jamie Zane Smith	Pottery	Earth Song	1st Place
Angela Morgan	Quillwork	Large Cuff Porcupine Quilled	2nd Place
Caleb Garcia	Quillwork	Old Ways	1st Place
Julia Morgan	Textiles	My Sister's	3rd Place
Judith Manthe	Textiles	Tattled Dolly	2nd Place
Cathy Wright	Textiles	Glorious Maple	1st Place
John Tracy Wright	Woodworking	The Provider	3rd Place
Keith Gray	Woodworking	The Floating Flower that's Snow	2nd Place
Nathan McAlister	Woodworking	Sahqtredute?	1st Place
Jonathon Mumford	Youth - Beadwork	Rope of Beads	3rd Place
Belle Mumford	Youth - Beadwork	Beaded Belt Buckle	2nd Place
Wesley Mumford	Youth - Beadwork	Wyandotte Beaded Pendant	1st Place
Jonathon Mumford	Youth - Diverse Art Forms	Lego Wyandotte Turtle	1st Place
Reagan Garufi	Youth - Leatherwork	Blue's Clues Purse	1st Place
Wesley Mumford	Youth - Textiles	The Redemption of Jesus	2nd Place
Belle Mumford	Youth - Textiles	The Colors of Spring	1st Place
Wesley Mumford	Youth - Woodworking	Wooden Spoon	2nd Place
J.T. Wright	Youth - Woodworking	Jimmy	1st Place
Caleb Garcia	Best of Show	A Good Day	

## Wyandotte Book Club!

The Cultural Center hosts an online book club using ZOOM every quarter. We read new and classic works by indigenous authors.

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 will be available in paperback and audiobook and you are invited to choose which format works best for you.

We are getting ready to vote on next year's selections so look for that email if you're registered! To register for Book Club (if you never have before) and receive the zoom link, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBookClub>.

[surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBookClub](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).

# TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

Full Name
Acencio, Cristiano Javier
Allred-Callendar, Sonya Lynn
Anderson, Francis Michael
Anderson, Rose Arwen
Anderson, Woodrow Boyd
Arehart, Braylen Jack
Ashmore, Maisyn Roo
Bagnell, Kaidyn Lee
Bagnell, Zedekiah Rayne Earl
Barnes, Georgia Dee
Bishop, Asher Wayne Paul
Boney, Jovie Rae Lynn
Bostater, Tatum Ray
Botts, Cohen Gene Stroud
Breckenkamp, Isabella Ann
Brewer, Taylor Opal Lane
Brown, Jack Anthony
Burfield, Graham Oliver
Butler, Ruby Sue
Byrnes, Porter Thomas
Cantu, Noah Manuel
Carter, Hazel Eloise
Christmas, Heather Jane
Coker, Hadley Faye
Cookinham, Geneva Rose
Craig, Kelson Lane
Crouch, Campbell Mae
Crouch, Kovelyn Jade
Curtis, Ryland Jamie Keeler
Dailey Jr., Sean Dale
Daniel, Thorin Michael
Dixon, Deker Aaron
Doneen, Emerson Kay
Douthitt, Lennox Oscar
Douthitt, Nixon Michael

Full Name
Dow, Rylin Jeremiah
Easley, Walter James
Estrada, Tate Joseph
Faith, Adelaide Era
Farmer, Gunner Ridge
Fennelly, Miley Grace
Franklin, Boone Jaxson
Franklin, Cooper Lee
Galyon, Carter Ray
Galyon, Finley Harrison
Garibay, Eliana Irene
Garwood, Charlotte Logan
Goins, Shayne Riley
Graham, Sydney Anne
Griggs, Levi Paul
Griggs, Timothy Mark
Guerrero, Julian Abel
Hamilton, Alexander Wayne
Hassan, Salem Faye
Hatfield, Lily Jordyn
Hendrix, Jax Vincent
Hickey, Cooper Alan
Hoeme, Charlie Rose
Honi, Haven Elizabeth
Howard, Eliza Lynne
Huston, Wrenley Grace
Hutson, Emmalyn Traci
Jackson, Everitt Sonny
Jackson, Hunter Theodore
Jackson-Williams, Gwendillon Grace
Johnson, Isabella Toni
Keehn, Colt Dwaine
Keller-Truman, Winter Sky Leann
Kelley, Louis Valentine
Killough, Shylee Jo
Kirichenko, Eve Clare
Laforest, Adelynn Josie
Lankston, Beck Vergil
Laxdal, Sharon Olivia Lynn
Leadingfox, Colby John
Lee, Aunalese Kourtney
Lenover, Hazel Leigh

Full Name
Lewis, Cooper Jiggs
Lewis, Joe Lloyd
Lindsey, Tyson Reid
Long, Henry Elliot
Long, Zakai George
Manning, Ensley Francine
Manning, Isla Elizabeth
Manning, Savannah Anne
McCleary, Swayde John Douglas
McKnight, Laynee Faye
McWilliams, Macie Gail
Miller, Colton Kevin
Miner, Kipp Rayne
Montgomery, Asher Crow
Moore, Wrenley Rayne
Mustafa, Journey Marye Lynn
Nance, Norah Grace
Nation, Miles Thomas Tate
Olson, Imrie Grayse
O'Neal, Radley Cloud
Page, Makani Aria
Parnell, Oliver Samuel
Pathkiller, Braylon Wayne
Perry, Noah Steven
Phelps, Legacy Jo
Phelps, Legend Dru
Pollard, Selah Ray
Rasor, Sage Elliot
Ray, Socrates Lyric
Reid, Owen Chase
Reyes, Anthony Michael
Rider, Walter Dean
Robb, Brooks Crawford
Sample, Asante James
Sams, Avery Elizabeth
Sebelius, Leonardo Dean
Shackelton, Lincoln Robert
Shuck, Elliott Parker
Slack, Jane Elizabeth
Sloan, Justalina Denise
Sloan, Noah Scott
Smith, Halee Ann

Full Name
Smith, Nafeeya Raine
Sowter, Felicity Geneva
Stephens, Laiklynn Dawn
Summitt, Liam Scott
Swarthout, Jennifer Michelle
Swarthout-Pathkiller, Ashley Nichole
Sypherd, Bowen Rhodes
Taylor, Jayden Timothy
Taylor, Paisley Renee
Taylor, Presley Shyanne
Torres-Drake, Analishia Renae
Tune, Summer Raye
Vaughn, Emery Mae
Waldman, Decker Chase
Walker, Henry Lewis
Walsh, Alexander Zane
Walsh, Lindsey Elizabeth
Ward, Peter Silas
White-Ramirez, Amina
Wright-West, Aziel Siris

**New Tribal  
Citizens**

**139**

**Total Tribal  
Enrollment**

**7,254**