



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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Gathering of Little Turtles

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- *Preschool Graduation*
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- ChiefBilly Friend
- Second ChiefNorman Hildebrand, Jr.
- Councilperson..... Keith Gray
- Councilperson..... Vivian Fink
- Councilperson..... Rob Nesvold
- Councilperson.....Eric Lofland

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:
The annual Gathering of Little Turtles was held in June.

PHOTO: JOSHUA GARCIA

Contact Us

Have News?

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

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From the Chief

Billy Friend

Growth continues to be great part of our Tribe

Kweh,
I hope this issue of our Turtle Talk finds all doing well and enjoying your summer. It is has been a very busy time here in Wyandotte with several projects just completed, some in progress and others in the planning stages.

I believe we would all agree that we live in very challenging times and our national government seems to be going through one crisis after another. Never before has our country been so divided. Throughout the history of time, states and governments of all kinds have come and gone. A few of those include the Roman Empire, the Ottoman Empire and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics just to name a few.

The element of decline that stands out most is that governments forget why they exist and who it is they serve. That may seem very basic, but it is amazing how consistently the people the government is in place to serve are shoved further to the back of the line. When governments begin to stray away from the mission of serving their citizens they will almost always fail.

At the Wyandotte Nation, we have grown tremendously over the past 20 years. Our Tribe has grown in so many different ways – in citizens, in programs and services, in employees, in business. Whatever standard you apply to the Wyandotte Nation, the outcome consistently says “growth”.

Growth is a great part of our Tribe. It means we are moving forward, creating more opportunities for Wyandottes and serving more people more effectively. Our growth has served us well because we have managed that growth conservatively. We have not “gotten ahead of ourselves.” We have worked hard to grow our tribal businesses in a deliberate and structured manner and, as a result, those businesses now contribute most of the resources we need to fulfill our responsibilities to Wyandotte people.

It would be easy to focus strictly on the economic side of our Tribe, but that would be a real mistake. Our focus is, and will always be, on the Wyandotte people our tribal government serves. That is our mission: “To improve the quality of life for all Wyandotte people.” It is a very simple and straightforward

mission statement – and one we live by each day. It is that mission that drives our commitment to our tribal citizens.

All of our tribal programs, from school supply vouchers, Benny card, college scholarships, senior energy assistance, housing programs and the wide array of other programs that are available, are all focused on making your life better. Chief Bearskin used to say, “the Tribe is here to give you a hand up and not a handout”.

The real measure of an effective and sound working government is serving people well. Once a government forgets that principle, the decline has begun. I am blessed as a leader to be surrounded by a great team of employees who are not only very capable at performing their duties, but also who are very passionate and caring for those whom they serve.

As always I would like to say “tizameh” (thank you) for allowing me to serve you as Chief of the Wyandotte Nation. I am looking forward to a great Cultural Gathering, Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting in September, and hopefully see many of you there.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

A look at the historic Wyandotte Mission Church

Kweh Omateru
Hello my friends and fellow Wyandotte Citizens. Well, we are in the dog days of summer right now everything is green and plush, but if we don't get rain soon it will be brown and ugly. Oh well such is the weather in Oklahoma one extreme to the other.

All of our projects here on the Wyandotte Nation Reservation are

progressing very nicely. We put in a walking track at Heritage Acres Park and it is finally done, it will be a nice addition to that area. The park at Turtle Hill is progressing slowly but it is progressing, and it will be a great addition to the families living there. The new classrooms at the preschool are really looking great and will certainly benefit our Turtle Tots

when completed. In case I haven't mentioned it before but we are doubling the size of the Sewage Treatment Plant in the city of Wyandotte to accommodate all the growth happening on the Wyandotte Nation Reservation.



See 2nd Chief, Page 3

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Annual Meeting

On September 14, 2024, the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium in Wyandotte, Oklahoma. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the Annual Meeting will start at 10:00 a.m. **Please note that citizens will be**

required to present their Wyandotte Nation membership/citizenship card and photo ID to register for the meeting.

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

the Wyandotte Nation for 2024. Therefore, it is not necessary to hold an election at the tribe's annual meeting on Saturday, September 14, 2024 per the Wyandotte Nation Constitution.

**Zach Shockey, Chairman
Election Committee**

2nd Chief

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At the beginning of June we took a lot of our Wyandotte Citizens to Upper Sandusky, Ohio to commemorate the 200th Anniversary of the Old Methodist Mission Church. There is a lot of history surrounding the church and Upper Sandusky. One of the best sources of this history is 'Moccasin Trails to the Cross' by Thelma Marsh. If you haven't read this book you certainly need to, here is an excerpt from her book about the Mission Church at its centennial celebration.

The restored Wyandott Mission church celebrated the centennial of John Stewart's arrival among the Indians to tell them of the great love of Jesus on Oct. 11 and 12, 1916. The first day brought large crowds to hear Bishops William F. Anderson, Edwin H. Hughes, and Herbert Welch.

On the afternoon of the second day a costumed historical pageant based upon the book The History of the Wyandott Mission by J. B. Finley was presented. A cast of more than sixty characters presented the five episodic pageant which was artistically prepared and staged by Mrs. Daniel Stecher.

It was decided that the name of the church which dates its beginning to the mission should be changed from the First Methodist Episcopal Church to The John Stewart Methodist Church. The large boulder which serves as a centennial marker was hauled in and placed near the Indians' and John Stewart's graves. Through the years, it has been necessary to make repairs to the church building and to reset some of the grave markers from time to time. Rev. Roy Coleman wrote of some of the work that was done while he was pastor:

"We served the John Stewart

"Few things are harder to put up with than the annoyance of a good example."

--Mark Twain

church from 1935-1942. I think it was early in my ministry that we were there the attention was called to the official board that the Old Mission was on the decline and needed our attention. I was authorized by the board to write to the Board of Home Missions at Philadelphia and inform them of this. This I did and an estimate was made of the cost, and we were instructed to have the repairs made. This required considerable time and expense, but it was done.

I discovered that Mrs. Solomon was buried not far from the N.E. corner of the building. A part of the job was to put railing around the Indian graves, and I suggested that we take up her remains and bury her beside her husband's body. I forget who helped me do this. All the remains we found were a part of the skull still retaining hair, and pieces of a decayed wooden box, and dust."

By 1959 the building was again needing to be repaired. The beautiful stained glass windows had been broken out and lay in shatters about the floor. These were removed by the Beidler Hardware and replaced with double strength clear glass. The overhang and other wood outside needed painting. The Steps going into church were uneven and had to be leveled. Some of the shutters were off lying on the ground and others were loose. These had to be put back on. New steps made of concrete blocks were put at the embankment north of the church. New rustic pews were made by the Osborne Sawmill in Hardin County and hauled to the mission with local church members using their trucks. Men

of the church then assembled the pews at the mission. This expense was met with donations from the Sunday School classes, the Woman's Society of Christian Service, and by individuals of the John Stewart United Methodist Church. Years before when the first Methodist Episcopal built of planks was erected uptown, the seating and other furnishings from the old stone church were used in the new church. Now, at long last, the Old Mission had good pews again.

A great honor was bestowed upon this little stone church when it was declared a National Shrine by the Methodist General Conference in 1960. It was the first mission in America of the Methodist denomi-

nation, and the school was reportedly one of the first vocational schools and the first coeducational school. The honor was well-deserved and is treasured not only by local people but by the thousands who visit each year. Credit is due the memory of Harry Kinley who for many years gave much love, much time, and effort to the Old Wyandott Mission, and who, probably more than anyone else, worked to get it declared a National Shrine.

On a bright Sunday afternoon, September 26, 1960, a plaque was dedicated and placed upon the stone church, upon the very stones that were brought there by some of the Wyandott Indians, a monument to the humble dedicated man of God, a Black Man with a golden voice, John Stewart. There is a lot of history about our little church in Upper Sandusky.

Enrollment News

- **Application deadline is Aug. 15.**
- **Applications must be accompanied by an original state certified birth certificate.**
- **Birth certificates must be the long form, which shows the full names of parents.**
- **Completed applications received by the applicants first birthday will receive a blanket, \$100 Walmart gift card and a ribbon skirt/shirt.**
- **Applications include instructions and a checklist. Be sure to read the documents completely and verify all items from the checklist are included.**



Wyandotte Nation receives Chief's Award

Tribe's successful 477 program leads to highest honor

Owing to the success and implementation of the 477 Program, the Wyandotte Nation was recognized with the highest honor, the Chief's Award, at the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC) in May.

"Accepting this award on behalf of the Wyandotte Nation is a true honor," said Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, Jr. during the acceptance speech at the conference. He emphasized the significance of the 477 Program, stating it as the next step in the evolution of federal funding delivery to Tribal Nations. Hildebrand highlighted that the program allows the United States to fulfill its trust and treaty obligations while enabling Tribal Nations to exercise sovereignty in utilizing the funding.

The Wyandotte Nation has successfully provided self-sufficiency services to its people through the 477 Program in a culturally appropriate, streamlined, and efficient manner, addressing the community's most pressing needs.

Hildebrand noted that tribal citizens have benefited from the program, with many community members obtaining college degrees and other certifications through tuition assistance provided by the Tribe's 477 Program. He expressed pride in community members excelling in various fields such as law, medicine, biomedical engineering, business administration, communi-



COURTESY PHOTOS
(ABOVE) Second Chief Norman Hildebrand gives the acceptance speech after the Wyandotte Nation was awarded the Chief's Award. (RIGHT) Second Chief Hildebrand with tribal staff and department leaders after receiving the recognition at the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference.

cation, construction management, social work, and education.

The Second Chief also shared an inspiring success story of a single father who, with assistance from the Tribe's 477 Program, secured employment, housing, and regained custody of his children after being released from jail.

Hildebrand expressed gratitude to the Department of the Interior, specifically acknowledging Secretary Haaland and Assistant Secretary Newland for their leadership in supporting the 477 Program. He also recognized the federal partners for their openness and support in implementing the mandates of the 477 Program and



upholding Tribal sovereignty and decision-making.

To learn more about the Wyandotte Nation's 477 Program, visit the website: <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/477program/>

About the Program:

The Wyandotte Nation's 477 Program serves all counties within a 100-mile radius of Wyandotte, Okla. It provides services encompassing employment, education, training, youth services, childcare, child welfare, supportive services, and crime victim services. The program aims to foster safe and stable families, enhance educa-

tional achievements, create and improve employment opportunities, integrate employment and training services, and promote self-sufficiency.

About NINAETC:

The National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference (NINAETC), established in 1979, is the largest and most representative national association for Indian and Native American employment and training. NINAETC caters to the needs of a diverse membership, including Indian and Native American tribal governments, consortia, and organizations.



Hart, Grahams retire

We held retirement receptions in May honoring Don and Jan Graham (FAR LEFT) for their combined 31+ years of service to the Tribe, and Bridget Hart for her 30 years. They have seen a lot of change over the years and Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend thanked them for their hard work and service. Hart was part of our Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center team while Don worked in Housing and Jan in Accounting.

PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Cultural Division

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

Kweh!

If you follow us on social media (and you should!), you know the last few months have been very busy. We are constantly striving to provide more opportunities for Wyandotte Citizens to cultivate their Wyandotte identity. We realize that not everyone is on the same journey and life has a way of having many different seasons when you can participate. Our purpose within the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Division is to facilitate life-changing journeys for people to discover what it means to be Wyandotte. If you have a cultural area you'd like to develop personally, please let us know and we will try to find a fit for you.

In May, we hosted a social dance to honor women and to also honor graduates. We hosted classes for shawls, medicine pouches, monthly beading, monthly language, and our monthly history class, Reading the Wampum, with Lloyd Divine. We held our annual pow-wow golf scramble and honored Wyandotte Veteran Glen Weaver on Memorial Day.

In 1824, the Wyandot Mission Church was built for the Wyandot people in Upper Sandusky, Ohio. In this little building, our ancestors held church services. On the last day of May, a group of Wyandottes loaded up on a coach bus and headed to Upper Sandusky to celebrate 200 years of the church. On this trip, we also visited Fallen Timbers Battlefield, where our ancestors were defeated against the Americans in 1794. We had a presentation at Greenville to remember the signing of the Treaty of Greenville in 1795. We toured the Wyandot Indian Mill that was built in 1861 to replace the saw mill and grist mill that were built by the US Government for the Wyandot people. We honored Tarhe at his monument and of course took photos with all of his descendants that were present (if you're from the Zane family, you are a descendant also). The University of Findlay hosted all of us for dinner at the



PHOTOS: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION (ABOVE LEFT) Images from the Gathering of Little Turtles. (ABOVE) Chief Friend leads a service celebrating 200 years of the Wyandott Mission Church in Ohio.

President's house and then we visited an old Wyandot burial ground in Findlay. Of course, we held a church service Sunday morning at the Mission Church with well over 150 in attendance. After the service, we toured the church and cemetery, stopped to honor the ancestors at the Old Indian Cemetery, and then we had lunch at the John Stewart Mission Church. After lunch, we headed to Stepping Stones Park. In the gazebo, our Wa'dat singing group - Sahotędutu? sang songs and we danced. The feeling of dancing and singing the same songs in the same place our ancestors danced and sang was overwhelming with emotions. It was an amazing trip and we hope you're able to participate in future trips with us.

A LOT happened in June! Once we returned from the Ohio trip, we immediately went to work. We started Native

33RD ANNUAL WYANDOTTE NATION POWWOW

SEPTEMBER 13-15

<p>HEAD SINGER JADE ROUBEDEAUX</p> <p>HEAD MAN RON RICE II</p> <p>HEAD GOURD DANCER DANIEL ROBERTS</p> <p>ARENA DIRECTOR DUDE BLALOCK</p> <p>HONOR GUARD WYANDOTTE NATION</p>	<p>MASTER OF CEREMONIES WADE BLEVINS</p> <p>HEAD LADY LEAH BENDER</p> <p>HOST NORTHERN DRUM YOUNG BUFFALO HORSE</p> <p>HEAD JUDGE JAY BLALOCK</p> <p>SR. PRINCESS CHLOE FRIEND</p> <p>JR. PRINCESS VEYDA MARLOW</p>
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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS



PHOTOS: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION
 (ABOVE) Images from our annual Lacrosse Camp held in June. We also hosted a tournament earlier in the month.

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Youth Nights every Thursday (in the summer) from 4:30 to 6:30 to feed our local Native youth and to teach a craft. Immediately following, our Waⁿdat singers practice songs and the dances for a few hours. June 8, we hosted our first 7v7 lacrosse tournament. We had 4 teams play and had a really great turnout of spectators. June 10-13, we hosted our

annual lacrosse camp. Our intentions are to develop a lacrosse league for local youth. June 14-17 we held a black ash basket making class with Mohawk artist, Tonia Galban. We started with a log and finished with pack baskets. It was a lot of work but very satisfying. We are working on how we can develop this class to teach on a larger scale. June 18-19 we had a

quillwork class with Michael Galban, the Historic Site Manager of the Seneca historic site, Ganondagan in Victor, NY. We learned several styles of quillwork and we are working towards developing future classes. June 21 – 23 was our annual Gathering of Little Turtles. This year we focused on our time in Ohio. We have history classes, crafts, language, and

a lot of FUN for all of our little Wyandottes. Our guest speakers were Shannon Hughes to educate us on Fallen Timbers Battlefield and Pastor Betsy Bowen to present on the Wyandot Mission Church. Caleb Garcia led a group of young people to cook a meal for all of us on Saturday afternoon and it was delicious! They cooked fry bread for Indian tacos, goulash, and beef and hominy. Caleb wanted to teach the youth that it is important to give back to your people and they all did an excellent job. The crafts included corn husk flowers, wampum belt beading, and the absolute favorite –pinch pots led by Wyandotte artist Nathan McAlister. To wrap up the month of June, Nathan McAlister taught a pottery class (firing of the pots will be at a later date).

July 3, we hosted our annual fireworks celebration along with a concert from a local band led by DJ Gragg at the Pow-Wow grounds. We continue to do our weekly Native Youth Nights and Waⁿdat songs, monthly beading, language, and history classes. At the end of the month, we will be taking the Wyandotte Interns to southern Ohio. This trip will be focusing on the mounds that were built there thousands of years ago.

The Gathering is fast approaching! We will have registration up very soon for the events. Please visit our social media or linktr.ee/wncm for all our classes and events.

Directory of Wyandotte Names

Being gifted a traditional name in our Wandat language connects us with our ancestors and highlights our commitment to stand up for Wyandotte Nation. Waⁿdat 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: application 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 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!) Tižameh!

Please send name questions & inquiries to bwright@wyandotte-nation.org.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Future events:

August 8

Wyandotte Book Club

August 10

Basic Moccasin Class

August 24

Deadline to Submit Artwork into the Wyandotte Artisan Showcase

Deadline to apply for the Wyandotte Fashion Show

September 9

Kayak Trip

September 10-13

Gathering (we will be starting in the morning on the 10th)

September 10

Wyandotte Fashion Show

September 11

Wyandotte Artisan Showcase

September 12

Social Dance

September 13-15

Wyandotte Pow-Wow

September 14

Wyandotte Nation Annual Meeting

September 30

Orange Shirt Day

October 12

Basic Moccasin Class

October 14

Indigenous Peoples' Day

November

Native American Heritage Month

Please visit linktr.ee/wncm for all of our classes and events. We'd love to see you participating!



urahkúta?
u_rah_kú_ta?
the sun shines



uhtsi?re?
uh_tsi?_re?
it is cloudy



u?tarihá?tih
u?_ta_ri_há?_tih
it is hot



eḡdut
e_ḡ_dut
it will rain



hí?nḡ? hahkwaríhšas
hí?_nḡ? hah_kwa_ríh_šas
it is thundering



yá?nḡweḡs
yá?_nḡweḡs
it snows



ižukwas
i_ž_u_kwas
it is windy



hatu?yeh tekyuharhte?s
ha_tu?_yeh
te_kyu_harh_te?s
Aurora/Northern Lights -
"at the cold, there are lights"



yawrataseh
ya_wra_ta_seh
tornado/twister
the wind's been twisted

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.

2024 Book Selections:

- Feb 29, 2024 – Night of the Living Rez by Morgan Talty (short stories)
- May 8, 2024 – As Long As Grass Grows by Dina Gilio-Whitaker
- Aug 6, 2024 – Warrior Girl Unearthed by Angeline Boulley
- Nov 6, 2024 – My Heart is a Chainsaw by Stephen Graham Jones

Note: Session dates & times may change; be sure to register to receive any future updates.

To register for Book Club (if you never have before) and receive the zoom link, please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBookClub>.

If you'd like to suggest future titles, they 1) must be written by a native author, 2) must be available in paperback, and 3) must be available as an audiobook. If you are interested in leading a future session, please let us know at bwright@wyandotte-nation.org.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Elder Services Department is very happy to welcome tribal citizen Kayla Ezell as a Food Service Team Member/Delivery Driver. Kayla has worked in kitchens since she was 16 years old and went to a technical school to be certified in Hotel/Restaurant Management. She worked in the café of a middle/high school. Kayla enjoys cooking, watching Korean dramas and cuddling with animals. She is a new mom and so she loves spending time with her daughter and her significant other. Kayla loves working on renovating her house and her new food truck. In her free time, she enjoys helping animals and people. We are very fortunate to have Kayla and wish her success in her new position.



EZELL

The Housing Department is very happy to welcome tribal citizen Jocelyn Metcalf. Jocelyn will serve as our new Housing Specialist. Jocelyn graduated from Baxter Springs high School in Baxter Springs, KS. She has worked in tribal child support for almost five years. Jocelyn enjoys riding motorcycles with her husband and friends as well as hiking, kayaking, and camping. Her and her husband have 4 kids and love spending time with each of them. Jocelyn loves watching her son play basketball and keeping up with her daughter's Jr. Princess duties. We are very fortunate to have Jocelyn on our team and wish her much success in her new position.



METCALF

The Planning and Natural Resources Department would like to welcome David Groves as the new Grant Writer. David has spent the



Employee Appreciation & Service Awards

(ABOVE) Our HR staff along with Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand delivered goodies to employees during our Employee Appreciation week. Employees were also treated to coffee, sno cones, and live circus entertainment. (LEFT) During the event, we also recognized employees for their milestones: Sheryl Garrett, Nick Manning, and Chris Smith (5 years); Kortney King (10 years); Seth Higgenbotham and Valari Richards (15 years); Jeff Hitchcock, Lisa Teal and Amanda Turner (20 years); and Pat Wilson (25 years).

PHOTOS: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION



GROVES

past 25 years in law enforcement with the past 15 as the Sheriff of Cherokee County. He obtained his associate's degree in Criminal Justice from Labette Community College in Parsons, KS and his bachelor's degree in Criminal Justice from Central Christian College of Kansas in McPherson. David most recently graduated from the Center from Homeland Defense and Security Executive Leader's Program from the Naval Post Graduate School in Monterey, Calif. David enjoys fishing, traveling, attending live concerts. He loves spending time with his son and watching him learn and grow.

Welcome to Wyandotte Nation

David and we wish you the best!



BIGHEART



ELSLOO

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center would like to welcome Juanita Bigheart as the new Clinical Psychologist and Nakiya Elsloo as the new HIM Technician.

Juanita is a member of the Osage Nation as well as Cherokee Nation. Juanita earned her doctorate in Clinical Psychology with emphasis in marriage and Family Therapy from Pepperdine University in 2013. She has

13 years of therapy experience with stress, anxiety, depression, trauma and substance abuse. She's completed training at Valley Women's Center in Canoga Park, Calif., as well as different centers throughout Oklahoma. Juanita understands the great need for Mental Health services in tribal communities and is excited to share her knowledge. Juanita enjoys finding and refinishing old furniture in her spare time and spending time with and caring for her sisters, nieces and nephews.

One of Nakiya's hobbies is reading and in her spare time she enjoys spending time with her husband and family.

We are very fortunate to have Juanita and Nakiya, and we want to welcome them to the Wyandotte Nation Family!

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield,
Family Services Director*

August is always a flurry of activity for many staff members at the Tribe as we gear up for the annual events in September. The Cultural Division is hard at work planning all of the details for The Gathering and the Pow-Wow. Tribal leadership is preparing for the Annual Meeting and the Enrollment office has been processing applications to prepare for all of the new citizens who will be added during the meeting. Everyone looks forward to this time of fellowship with tribal citizens from across the country and we hope that each of you have the opportunity to attend as many of these events as possible. Be sure to follow the Cultural Center's and the Tribe's social media so you will be up-to-date on all of the events as well as any last minute details that may be announced.

As a reminder, to receive the handouts at the Annual Meeting you will need to present your Wyandotte Nation Citizenship or Membership card as well as a photo ID. If your Card includes a photo, that will be all you need.

The deadline for tribal enrollment applications is Aug. 15. Please be

sure to have applications either hand delivered or postmarked by this date to be considered for enrollment during this year's Annual Meeting. Each application must be accompanied by an original state certified birth certificate (long form that includes the parents' full names). It's important for the Tribe and tribal citizens to be enrolled as soon as possible. As an incentive to applicants who submit the required documentation prior to a child's first birthday, they will receive a commemorative blanket and a \$100 Walmart gift card. The Cultural Division will also provide each applicant who meets this deadline a ribbon skirt or shirt. For questions about enrollment please contact Haylee Botts at 918-678-6377.

Some of the programs currently offered through the Family Services Department are: School Supplies; Extracurricular/Extra School Expense; Jr/Sr Expense Program; Sr Energy; Elder Assistance; Utility assistance through the LIHEAP/477 Program; Indian Child Welfare; and Victim Services. Please keep in mind, for all Family Services social service programs, that it may take up to 30 days for you to receive your reimbursement or for your payment to show if being made to an account. We do our best to process applications

as quickly as possible, but there are times where it may take a bit longer. If you have a bank account on file with the Tribe for your payments to be direct deposited, please make sure you notify us if there are any changes. It's also critical for you to maintain a current mailing address with the Enrollment office. If you need to update your address you may do so on our website at www.wyandotte-nation.org/Services/FamilyServices/programs. Applications for the programs mentioned above can also be found on our website here.

The School Supply Program opened July 1 and is available to all students nationwide pre-k (must be at least 3 and enrolled in a qualified learning program) through grade 12. Each student is eligible for up to \$200 for school supplies, clothing, backpacks, lunch boxes, etc. Walmart gift cards are available or you can be reimbursed for expenses. Please note that all applications and receipts must be original so they need to be mailed or hand delivered. Applications for both the gift card and the reimbursement program are available on the website. Each child must be on a separate application with separate receipts. Applications MUST be postmarked or hand delivered no later than Sept. 30. If you

have questions, please call Leeanna at 918-678-6329.

The Low Income Heat Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) opened July 1 and is now part of the P.L. 102-477 Program. By incorporating this program, we can extend this service to all Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside within a 100-mile radius of the Tribal Headquarters, as well as, citizens who reside throughout the State of Oklahoma. This is an income-based program. Eligible families have the choice to apply for LIHEAP through the state they reside in (Oklahoma, Kansas, Arkansas, Missouri) or with the tribe. Eligible households may only use LIHEAP from one entity per fiscal year, but can receive heating, cooling and emergency assistance. For questions, please call Tara Gragg at 918-678-6355.

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

DEPARTMENT CONTACTS:
Wyandotte Nation Family Services,
wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org
477 Victim Services, wn477@wyandotte-nation.org
Family Services Front Desk: 918-678-6321

Children's Christmas Party

10am Saturday, Dec. 14
Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Gym
Enrolled Children 15 & Under

NEW FOR THE 2024 PARTY: Family Services staff will be mailing party RSVP forms in mid- to late-October to each family who attended the party last year. The forms will include information for children to provide specific details about gift they would like to receive. Tribal staff will purchase the items and the child will receive the gift from Santa at the party. Forms will also be available via email by contacting the Family Services staff. As always, children must attend the party to be eligible to participate. Additional party information and the gift process will be announced in the November newsletter as well as on our website and social media.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

Greetings all!

We will be traveling to Branson Aug. 16 to see Hot Rods and High Heels.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone at the Gathering, Pow-Wow and Annual Meeting. We will have a Hog Fry for the lunch following the Annual Meeting in our new Artie Nesvold Elders Center located at 14430 Porcupine Road, Wyandotte, Okla.

The Northeast Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition will host our 14th Annual Elders Picnic Sept. 20 from 10 am - 2 pm. Charlies Chicken will cater the lunch. The amazing Duke Mason will provide the music and entertainment. The theme will be 80s. Hope to see you all there.

The Northeast Tribal Health will host their Annual Health Fair Oct. 4 from 9 am – 1 pm in their new facility located next to the clinic. Lunch and lots of incentives provided.

The Bearskin Health Fair is scheduled for Oct. 25 from 9 am - 1 pm in the gym. Duke Mason will provide the music and entertainment. The theme will be Halloween with a costume contest. Many prizes! Lunch and a light breakfast provided. Come out and play with us!

The Northeast Caregiver Coalition will host our 2nd Annual Veterans Honor Lunch and Awards Nov. 1 from 10 am – 2 pm at the First Christian Church in Miami, Okla., across from Walmart. We are asking family members to get pictures of their veterans to any of the Coalition Members by the middle of September so that we may have them ready for display. The Coalition consists of the Wyandotte Nation, Ottawa Tribe, Peoria Tribe, Quapaw Nation, Delaware Tribe, Seneca/Cayuga Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe, Good Shepherd Hospice, Grandwood Assisted Living, Quaker Hill Skilled Living,

Senior Companions, Amedisys Home Health, AARP and Grand Gateway Area Agency on Aging.

CAREGIVER

Our Caregiver Support Group is the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 - 11:30 am in the conference/safe room. Lunch provided in the Title VI dining room following the meeting. This group is for all current and former caregivers. It is also for grandparents raising grandchildren.

We are continuing to provide respite care vouchers for Caregivers to have a much-needed break.

Housing

Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director

The Heritage Acres Housing Area provides rental units for elders and families. Family units consist of three bedroom homes and two bedroom duplexes. If you are interested in renting, the application is on the website or an application can be picked up at the office. Federal income guidelines apply and preference is given to Wyandotte Citizens.

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 out an application and return to the housing office. Federal

income guidelines apply.

A walking track has been added to the Heritage Acre Park. Exercise equipment will be placed around the track. There are two pavilions available for use. Additional picnic tables will be added in the near future. The Splash pad will remain open until Sept. 16.

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, 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 is found on the Wyandotte Nation website. Income guidelines do apply. The repairs to homes can only be made within a 50-mile radius of Wyandotte Nation. If you have questions regarding this process,

please call or email our office.

The Community Center is available to rent, however, the dates are filling in fast. If you are interested in renting, please contact the office as soon as possible. The cost to rent is \$50 for tribal members. There is a \$25 deposit to hold the date. This will be returned if the area is clean and no damages to property.

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Kathy DeWeese-Housing Director

Jocelyn Metcalf- Housing Specialist

Paul Parker- Project Coordinator

Levi Griffin- Project Coordinator

Randy Qualls- Residential Maintenance Technician

Drew Lankford-Residential Maintenance Technician

Education

Submitted by Cristi Hudson, Education Director

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center operates a Preschool program, an Infant/Toddler Program, a Before/After School Program, and a Summer Program. We operate year round in conjunction with the Wyandotte Public School. The Preschool program consists of two Preschool classrooms for students age 3-4 and two Pre-K classrooms for students age 4-5 that are preparing to transition to kindergarten. The Infant/Toddler Program is made up of two 2 Year Old Toddler classrooms, one 1 Year Old classroom, and one Infant classroom. The Before & After School Program runs concurrently with the Preschool program for students up to age 12 that

Elder Services Menu

www.wyandotte-nation.org/elderservices/elder-services-menu

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attend Wyandotte Public Schools. For the school year we enroll 113 students within our Infant/Toddler and Preschool programs. The Before & After School program provides an additional 40-45 places for students from the public school. Our Summer program is a large program that generally enrolls around 150-175 students from 6 weeks old to age 12.

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center goal is to provide the highest quality of childcare possible. We strive to create meaningful, lasting relationships with our students and their families so that we can best serve each individual. We take great pride in the care that our staff provides to our children. We support our staff members with training, resources, and the freedom to create a unique learning environment in which each child can thrive. We offer KUMON math as well as individualized instruction to meet each student where they are. Throughout the school year we offer a variety of different family functions including but not limited to Open House, Grandparent's Day, Family Night events, Halloween Carnival, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Family Style Thanksgiving, Holiday programs/parties, etc. We host numerous community workers and volunteers throughout the year to help children identify and become familiar with different members of our communities. We also work closely with the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Department to help integrate the teaching of our Wyandotte language and traditions. Students participate in weekly language/cultural lessons as well as dance instruction. This is showcased at our Annual Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Powwow each spring. The final big highlight of our school year is the Preschool Graduation Ceremony. All students are recognized at this ceremony with our graduates wearing caps & gowns as they move on to kindergarten. For our Summer Program, we are able to take our students on a variety of different fun & educational field trips including zoos, aquariums, parks, splash pads, etc. These field trips allow our students to enjoy their summer break while also maintaining a structured



Preschool Graduation

Photos by William Swaim



environment to help them thrive. The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center was just recently recognized and certified as a 5 Star Childcare Facility in June 2024. We are honored that our program continues to be recognized as one of

the premier childcare facilities in the area. We are anxiously awaiting the completion of our new addition to the building this fall so that our program can continue to expand and grow.

The 2024-2025 School year begins Aug. 14. The Infant/Toddler Pro-

gram is full, but we are currently accepting enrollment for our 2024-2025 Pre-K classrooms. Students should be age 4 on or before Sept. 1, 2024 to be eligible for these classrooms. You

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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can always submit an application for any age to be added to our waiting lists. Thank you again for your interest in our facility.

Scholarship Programs

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department has several scholarship programs for members to apply for to receive assistance for school or job training. These scholarships can be used to help with the costs of Concurrent, Bachelors, Masters, and Vocational opportunities.

The Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Programs are available for tribal members pursuing a Bachelors or Master's Degree. These two program have been increasing in participants every year. The Undergrad Scholarship Program assisted 150 Wyandotte Nation members this past fall semester, and currently had 50 more participants apply earlier this year. The Master Program assisted 19 Wyandotte Nation members with scholarships and we currently have 15 new applicants this year.

The Wyandotte Nation Vocational Program assist tribal members pursuing a more job related training or who are enrolled in an on the job training program. This past year we have assisted 20 members with Vocational Training and are working with 10 more to get them the training needed for their career paths.

The Wyandotte Nation Scholarship program has scholarships available for members in High School who are taking college courses. These scholarships helped eight tribal members cover some of the costs for enrolling into concurrent courses for this past school term. We currently have seven members accepted for this upcoming school term.

To submit for an Undergraduate, Masters or Concurrent Scholarship application, you can log onto the tribal website at <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/education/scholarships/>. For any questions that you may have please contact Evan at 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 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. Over the past several months, the dedicated 477 Program staff have collaborated to ensure a seamless integration of these combined services. 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 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. Families pay a monthly copay to their childcare provider that is based on their income. At this time, subsidy is providing services for approximately 130 children throughout various childcare providers in the service area. Additionally, in recent months childcare services have helped to sponsor community and tribal events such as the Dinosaur World show at the Coleman Theater, Week of the Young Child activities, Childcare Provider Appreciation Banquet, JFK (Just For Kids) Activities, and the upcoming annual Backpack Drive. For most of these area events and activities, the 477 Program works in coordination with 8 tribal CCDF

Programs, the Northeastern Tribal Health, and NEO A&M College to make these events possible.

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 17 students that have received educational services through the 477 program.

Library

Kweh! It has been an exciting summer so far here at Wyandotte Nation Historical Library with the new addition of summer clubs involving students from the Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center and the Wyandotte Nation Youth Program. Be sure to visit Bear Park and check out the new Story Book Walk featuring "Rainbow Fish" by Marcus Pfister. Also, keep an eye out for information on our upcoming summer Movie Night in Bear Park. Please join us for these new and exciting events that help bring our community together. These projects are made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and 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 3:30 pm. New books and DVDs have recently been added to the shelves. In order to check out items from the library, you must be a registered library patron. If you are not currently a patron at the library, you may sign up by filling out the application on the website at www.wyandotte-nation.org, 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. You may also download the "Libby" app to access the virtual library. For more information about the Wyandotte Nation Library or virtual

access, you may contact the librarian, Madeline Harnar via email or phone, mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org, 918-678-6332.

Department Contacts:

Cristi Hudson – Education Director
918-678-6334 or chudson@wyandotte-nation.org
Sami Butterfield – Caseworker/Childcare Specialist
918-678-6330 or sbutterfield@wyandotte-nation.org
Lindsay Cooper – Early Childhood Program Coordinator
918-678-3267 or lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org
Madeline Harnar – Librarian
918-678-6332 or mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org
Evan Hotulke— Caseworker/Education/Employment Specialist
918-678-6331 or ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org
Kasey Lewis – Intake Clerk
918-678-3268 or klewis@wyandotte-nation.org

Planning & Natural Resources

Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

April

The spring rains definitely did not disappoint, and the grass and foliage grew quickly with the warmer temps. This also allowed us to get out in the field/creeks on April 9 to perform our bio-assessments on Warrens Branch and Sycamore Creek (behind the Pow-Wow grounds).

We were able to get a good count on the macro invertebrates on Sycamore Creek.



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more Creek, and help establish the healthiness of the water. Warren's Branch was a bit of a challenge as it had a large amount of green algae, so getting samples here was impossible.



On April 10, our department talked to Holly Hilliard's after school kids about our program and the many diverse jobs we do throughout any given day.

On April 16 – 17, Kathy Welch attended the Tribal Caucus and Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meetings in Tulsa, and then attended the ITEC conference the following two days.

During the week of April 22 – 26, we held our spring tire collection event. We collected a total of 618 tires that will be recycled.



May

During the month of May, Kathy performed two Environmental Assessments for rehab of tribal houses for the Wyandotte Nation Housing Department.

May 10, we held our 14th annual Environmental Festival, the event was held at Twin Bridges State Park. There were vendor booths from nine local tribes, three from the State of Oklahoma, and two federal entities, that gave demonstrations to students from Wyandotte Public Schools. We had a total of 613 attendees at the event, which included students, teachers, booth workers, and Wyandotte Nation

Employees.

On May 20, Summer Youth Intern, Jalin Enyart, started working for our department. Jalin has been busy helping with water sampling, private well sampling and recycling duties.

On May 21, Kathy, John Gerhard and Ryan Haggard attended the TECO (Tribal Environmental Coalition of Oklahoma) meeting in Stroud, OK.

On May 22 Kathy, John, Ryan and Jalin attended an "Introduction to Fish Collection and Identification" training, which was hosted by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

May 29 was the beginning of the Tar Creek Apprenticeship Program (TCAP). This program was a six-week course that had 35 tribal students from the seven TCTCIT (Tar Creek Trustee Council Indian Tribes). The tribes involved included Cherokee, Eastern Shawnee, Miami, Ottawa, Peoria, Seneca Cayuga and Wyandotte. This program is designed to teach the students the aspects of Natural Resource Damages Assessment and Restoration. The students learned how the environment and culture are intertwined, and play a very crucial role in native lives. Each student that participated and completed the six-week course, received a stipend, and a Lifetime Oklahoma Hunting and Fishing combination license. There were six Wyandotte Nation tribal students



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Jon Quick explains the benefits of recycling to youth during the Environmental Festival.

that completed the course.

On May 30, our water quality staff performed Annual Nutrient, Metals and E-coli sampling on our local creeks and streams.

June

The heat arrived in June and has had us focusing on staying well hydrated when performing outside duties. On June

4 - 5, John, Ryan and Jalin attended a Water Quality Training, which was hosted by the Eastern Shawnee Tribe. USGS provided the two-day training and taught valuable sampling methods to the staff.

On June 11, the water staff performed e-coli sampling on eight sites located within the Wyandotte Nation jurisdiction. The samples were then transported to the Lab in Tulsa for analysis.

On June 21, our staff gave an Education Presentation to the Tribal Little Turtle kids. Staff talked to the kids about the importance of recycling, and then the students each got to plant a flower in a pot made from recycled water bottles.



Recycling

During the summer months, the Lost Creek Recycle Center has an increase in the amount of recyclable products collected. Total amount collected is not available at this time, as our Recycle Technician is on vacation.

Other Environmental Duties:

Each month, department staff perform monitoring and sampling on eight sites within the Wyandotte Nation Reservation area streams and water bodies. During this time-frame, staff also performed quarterly nutrient sampling on three lost creek

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Grants Awarded from April thru June 2024	
Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Special Appropriations for FY 24	\$143,734.70
Tribal Transportation Safety Funds FY 24 for Safety Plan Update	\$10,000

Grants Submitted from April thru June 2024	
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)	\$1,484,844
Office of Violence Against Women (OVW) Grants to Indian Tribal Governments Program.	\$724,053
SMART FY 24 Support for Adam Walsh Act Implementation Grant Program	\$499,784
Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)	\$2,000,000
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)	\$89,934

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sites, and e-coli sampling on all eight sites.

Staff also performed private 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

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

Planning

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.

Projects:

There are several projects at this time.

The park at Turtle Hill Estates is almost finished. When completed, there will be a walking track, playground, and pickleball courts.

Construction is nearing completion on the walking track at Heritage Acres playground.

The ICDBG-23 will be going to bid soon. This is the addition of a new gymnasium to be added next to the current. The gym will have a high school regulation basketball court, two (2) pickleball courts, and education classroom, and storage space.

The ICDBG-21 (Pow-Pow Grounds Project), bids have been accepted by contractors, and the selection process has begun. This project will add a bathroom, covered bleachers, spaces in vendor row, camping spots, lighting, paved parking, etc. Construction will begin after Pow-Wow in September.

The Education Department still has construction going on. An additional building will be added, the old Title VI building will be renovated, and parking on the East side has been added.

We would like to welcome David Groves to the Planning and Natural Resources Team. David is the new Grant Writer, and has an extensive background in law enforcement and grant writing.

Healthcare & Wellness

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

Understanding Purchased / Referred Care

Purchased Referred Care (PRC) is the Health Service referral care program that pays for health services that are not directly provided at Bearskin Healthcare (BHC). Your provider may place a referral to a local specialist when services are not available at BHC. The provider referral is not an authorization for payment, but a referral for medical services. Before a Referral Authorization Order is issued, PRC is required to screen all patients for the following: Residency, Alternate Resources, and Indian Health Services eligibility.

- PRC is Not an Entitlement, or a guarantee of payment.
- PRC is not an Insurance program.
- PRC is the "Payer of Last Resort" per Federal Regulations (42CFR36.61).

Purchased Referred Care (PRC) each year is funded by US Congressional Appropriations that is handed down to Tribes by the Indian Health Services. Since funds are limited, not all referrals can be covered by Purchased Referred Care, there are mandatory federal guidelines that must be followed and enforced.

Call Us

The most important thing for you to know about Purchased Referred Care is that you should call us before you receive services. We can help you to determine if you are eligible for services and guide you through the referral process so that your medical care will be paid for by Purchased Referred Care. When you call, you can find out if you are eligible and if the services you need are covered. Don't wait until it's too late. All services REQUIRE prior authorization before obtaining services or a 72-hour notification following self-referred care (emergent care).

- (918) 678-3227 PRC Specialist
- (918) 678-3228 BHC Front Desk (PRC does not have after hours telephone coverage, please leave a voice mail message and we will return your call the next business day.)

Eligibility

Purchased Referred Care funds are provided to eligible beneficiaries that reside in the BHC Purchased Referred Care Delivery Area (PRC-DA). Eligibility

for services are limited to those individuals who are enrolled members of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma; reside within one of the twelve counties (Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, Washington) which comprise the PRC-DA.

Non-Native pregnant women with an eligible Wyandotte or Eastern Shawnee child with a signed Affidavit of Paternity will be covered through post-partum (6 weeks).

Students who are temporarily absent from his/her CHSDA during full-time attendance of boarding school, college, vocational, technical, and other academic education. The coverage ceases 180 days after completing the study.

A person who is temporarily absent from his/her CHSDA due to travel, employment, etc. eligibility ceases after 180 days.

Children placed in foster care outside of the CHSDA by court order.

Documents required to be presented for service include:

- Signed Rules Agreement (Every 3 Years)
- Alternate Resource Form (Every calendar year)
- Valid Oklahoma Driver's License or Oklahoma State issued Identification Card
- Tribal Membership Card
- Residency Requirements - (Two forms required and updated every 3 years):
 - o Utility Bill in patient's name with physical address – lease agreement, gas, electric, internet, cable.
 - o If only one utility bill, the following documents will be acceptable as the second document - Previous years taxes (front page verifying state filed) Land Tax statement, Recent School Records, Mortgage payment
- For individuals that do not have 2 of the above documents in their name and reside with other individuals:
 - Notarized affidavit verifying residence

Alternate Resources

What are "Alternate Resources"?

An alternate resource is a payment source other than BHC Purchased Referred Care that helps pay for your health care.

Common examples include:

- Medicaid – Soonercare
- Medicare
- Veterans Administration
- Workers Compensation

Department Contacts:	
Christen Lee (Planning & Natural Resources Director)	918-678-6341
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
Debbie Dry (Grant Writer/BIA /Self-Governance Coordinator)	918-678-6315
David Groves (Grant Writer)	918-678-6309

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

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- Motor Vehicle Insurance
- State or other local health care programs

- Private health insurance

Bring in your current insurance card, dental card, optometry card, soonercare card or Medicare card.

Funding reimbursed from these programs supplements Indian Health Services funds. These funds help us better meet your health care needs in the greater Wyandotte and Eastern Shawnee communities.

Will BHC Purchased Referred Care funds always pay for services received or requested?

No. PRC funds will not automatically pay for your care received at a non-BHC or Indian Health Service (HIS) facility. Federal regulations make PRC a “Payer of Last Resort”. Therefore, you must apply for alternate resources – such as Medicaid, Soonercare or healthcare exchange for which you may be eligible. If you refuse or fail to make a “good faith” effort to apply for alternate resources, PRC is required to deny your request for payment.

Do I have to apply for Alternate Resources?

Yes. Federal regulations require that you apply for alternate resources for which you may be eligible. By applying for alternate resources you are also helping to make sure there are federal funds available to meet the needs of all BHC beneficiaries. BHC Purchased Referred Care will “deny” payment until you have applied for alternate resources and your application is either accepted or denied.

Emergency Care

Emergency care is defined in the Purchased Referred Care Funds and Emergency Room Care Policy as “medical conditions for which immediate medical attention is necessary to prevent death or serious impairment of the health of an individual.

If Claremore Indian Hospital is available to provide the needed care, BHC Purchased Referred Care will not pay for services rendered at other facilities unless it meets a true emergency, as defined above. Remember that Bearskin Healthcare is open 5 days a week till 4:30 pm. If BHC staff determine that you need specialized or hospital care, they will immediately refer you to Claremore Indian Hospital or the provider that meets your needs medically.

Non-emergency services include, but are not limited to:

- Prescription drug refills

Dr. Robert Wayne Hopper

November 8, 1949 - July 14, 2024

Longtime Grove physician, Robert Wayne (“Doc”) Hopper, M.D., F.A.A.P., died July 14, 2024, in Fayetteville, Arkansas, following a prolonged illness. Hopper, 74 was an Oklahoma City native and graduate of the University of Oklahoma, but his heart belonged to Delaware County, where he lived and practice for nearly 40 years.

A proud Cherokee citizen, Hopper completed his medical training through the prestigious Indian into Medicine (INMED) program at the University of North Dakota in 1983 and received his M.D degree from Michigan State University in 1985. He was a commissioned officer with the U.S. Indian Health Service, separating in 1991 at the rank of Lt. Commander. Hopper served at the Sam Hider Indian Clinic in Jay, the Claremore Indian Hospital, and the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center in Wyandotte. (February 2004 – August 2021). He practiced locally at Integris Grove General Hospital, and operated a private family practice, Hopper Medical Clinic, from 1995-2010. Hopper enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1969, assigned to the 503rd Airborne Infantry, 173rd Airborne Brigade.

He is survived by his wife, Jan (Morris) Hopper, children Tina Hopper, Breah Hopper, Sadie Newman, and U.S. Army Master Sergeant Robert “Harvey” Hopper; stepchildren Ginger Glover-Rainbolt, Dr. Scott Glover, and Matt Glover; brother Woodrow W. Hopper, son-in-law Dusty Wilcoxson, and numerous grandchildren.



- Upper respiratory infections
- Minor cuts and bruises
- Dental encounters –not deemed emergent by the on-call dentist
- Urinary Tract Infections
- Vomiting
- Colds
- Ear infections
- Minor rashes
- Sinus infections
- Medical Clearance
- Seen during Clinic hours

Referrals

Will Purchased Referred Care pay for referrals made by non-BHC providers?

No. BHC Purchased Referred Care will not pay for services if a referral for service is not made by a BHC provider prior to you receiving care.

Does Purchased Referred (PRC) Care pay for ambulance service?

Yes. BHC Purchased Referred Care will pay for state-certified ambulance services that are medically necessary. The Purchased Referred Care Review Committee will review each case for medical appropriateness.

Why did my bill go to Collections?

Did you receive a Medical Bill from the Hospital or Clinic that you went to? PRC does not always know that you received a bill. You must call or bring your bill into PRC.

Why do I have to apply for Medicaid?

Federal Regulations require that all our

patients are screened for benefits. If you qualify for other resources you will be asked to apply.

What if I don't apply for Alternate Resources like Medicaid?

If you don't apply for resources you will need to pay for your healthcare bills outside of Bearskin Healthcare.

Why did my insurance pay before BHC did?

Purchased Referred Care is a “Payer of Last Resort” after all other insurances and health coverage such as (Medicaid/DKC, Medicare and private insurances). This is a Federal Regulation.

Why am I getting so many bills and statements?

Open and respond to any requests for information! If you don't respond to your insurance request for additional information right away, your insurance will deny for timely filing and you will be responsible for those charges.

Medical Bills

I received a Medical Bill, what do I do?

Anytime you receive Medical Bills, it is always important that you bring your Medical Bills into PRC. If you are not able to bring your bills into PRC, please call PRC or you may fax your bills to PRC. The PRC staff can help you understand why you received a bill.

Who do I Contact at PRC?

Please call the PRC Team at the following extensions:

- (918) 678-3227
- (918) 678-3226

Denials & Appeals

Can I appeal a denial of payment?

Yes. When BHC Purchased Referred Care denies your request for payment, you will be notified in writing of the reason for the denial. You will also be notified of your right to appeal. The denial letter will clearly state the process you should follow if you wish to appeal. Denial of payment or an appeal will in no way affect the medical care provided by BHC Health Services to you and your family members.

What is the appeal process?

If a person is denied PRC, or when a medical provider may reasonably think that PRC is a party to payment, the patient must be notified in writing of the denial with a statement containing all the reasons for the denial. A person denied PRC may request a reconsideration of the denial. Below is an excerpt regarding appeals from 42 CFR; this excerpt will provide information on the appeals process.

From the Federal Register, Thursday, October 28, 1999. Part VIII, Department of Health and Human Services. 42 CFR Parts 136 - Indian Health, Subpart C - Contract Health Services:

§ 136.25 Reconsideration and appeals.

a. Any person to whom Purchased/ Referred Care services are denied shall be notified of the denial in writing together with a statement of the reason for the denial. The notice shall advise the applicant for Purchased/Referred Care services that within 30 days from the receipt of the notice the applicant:

1. May obtain a reconsideration by the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Director of the original denial if the applicant submits additional supporting information not previously submitted; or

b. If the original decision is affirmed on reconsideration, the applicant shall be so notified in writing and advised that an appeal may be taken to the Purchased/ Referred Care Appeals Committee within 30 days of receipt of the notice of the reconsidered decision. The appeal shall be in writing and shall set forth the grounds supporting the appeal.

c. If the original or reconsidered decision is affirmed on appeal by the director, the applicant shall be so notified in writing and advised that a further appeal may be taken to the Purchased/Referred Care Appellate Administrator, within 30 days of receipt of the notice. The appeal shall be in writing and shall set the grounds supporting the appeal. The decision of the Appellate Administrator, shall constitute final administrative action.

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

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
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

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

Diabetes Clinic

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

2024 Gathering Schedule

All events will be at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium unless otherwise noted

Monday, September 9, 2024

9:00 AM Kayak Trip Gazebo/Lost Creek
11:30 AM Potluck Lunch (Chicken provided by WNCCM) Admin Bldg Patio
Games Admin Bldg Patio

Tuesday, September 10, 2024

7:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel River Bend Hotel
8:30 AM Registration/Check-In
9:00 AM Welcome and Announcements
9:30 AM History with Lloyd Divine
10:30 AM Language with Beci Wright
11:30 AM Lunch Title 6
1:00 PM Special Presentation
2:30 PM Crafts - Choose only 1 per day
5:30 PM Dinner River Bend Hotel
6:30 PM Lacrosse WNCCM Yard

Wednesday, September 11, 2024

7:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel River Bend Hotel
8:30 AM Registration/Check-In
9:00 AM Welcome and Announcements
9:30 AM History with Lloyd Divine
10:30 AM Language with Beci Wright
11:30 AM Lunch Title 6
1:00 PM Special Presentation
2:30 PM Crafts - Choose only 1 per day
5:00 PM Dinner River Bend Hotel
6:30 PM Wyandotte Artisan Showcase River Bend Event Center

Thursday, September 12, 2024

7:30 AM Breakfast at Hotel River Bend Hotel
8:30 AM Registration/Check-In
9:00 AM Welcome and Announcements
9:30 AM History with Lloyd Divine
10:30 AM Language with Beci Wright
11:30 AM Lunch with Family Services - Pizza River Bend Hotel
(Chicken Strips at Title 6)
1:00 PM Special Presentation
2:30 PM Crafts - Choose only 1 per day
5:00 PM Dinner River Bend Hotel
6:30 PM Social Dance Pow-Wow Grounds

Friday, September 13, 2024

7:00 AM Name Ceremony and Pow-Wow Grounds Blessing Pow-Wow Grounds
8:00 AM Breakfast River Bend Hotel
9:00 AM Check-In and Group Photo
9:30 AM Memorial Walk Wyandotte Nation Cemetery
1:30 AM Lunch Title 6
1:00 PM Talking Circle Title 6
Dance Etiquette Title 6

Language Notes

We often joke about talking about the weather when we aren't sure how to start a conversation. Weather terms in Wandat could come in handy! Using many of the terms from the graphic, you can share your preferences about weather:

ayq?mehskwaⁿdih

a_yq?_meh_skwaⁿdih

I like

ate?wayq?mehskwaⁿdih

a_te?_wa_yq?_meh_skwaⁿdih

I dislike

+ **neh** + (usually abbreviates to just n before a vowel)

+ (word from the graphic, See Page 7)

Here are some examples:

- ayq?mehskwaⁿdih na?qodut (I like when it rains)
- ate?wayq?mehskwaⁿdih neh ya?ngwehs (I don't like when it snows)
- ayq?mehskwaⁿdih neh hahkwarihshas "de hi?nq? (I like when it thunders)
- ate?wayq?mehskwaⁿdih neh izukwas (I don't like when its windy)

Join us every third Wednesday of the month at Wandat Wednesdays (online using ZOOM) to practice together. Our topics range from body parts to seasonal activities to learners' requests. In May and June, we explored how to talk about the weather and seasons.

Pronunciation Hints: ? 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. The small v-shape above an s (š) signals the "sh" sound; above a z (ž) it signals the "jh" sound. And the little accent tells you where to put the stress.

Interested in learning our language?

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

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

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

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