



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

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Winter Gathering a big success

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Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo: A hominy boil during the annual Winter Gathering held in January.

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

Planning and foresight were key for tribal success

With the dawn of the New Year, now is an excellent time to reflect on the past and set our sights on the future. At the Wyandotte Nation, we have achieved remarkable progress over the past 25 years, thanks to a shared commitment to setting realistic goals, paying attention to details, and adopting a proactive mindset.

Looking back to 1995, the Tribe operated several essential programs and services, but these were not adequately funded to fully meet the needs of all Wyandotte people. Like many other federally recognized tribes, the Wyandotte Nation relied heavily on federal funds, which were both inconsistent and insufficient. These financial limitations meant we were often unable to keep pace with the needs of our people. Recognizing this, we knew we had to do better.

It was clear that we needed to chart a new and ambitious path—one that required careful planning, goal-setting, and proactive effort. We identified tribal commerce as our most promising avenue for growth and prosperity. Through detailed planning and a proactive approach, we began building new tribal businesses.

The journey has been transformative. We believed that by

Together, as one tribe with a unified mission and shared purpose, we have upheld the Wyandotte Nation's heritage of unity, perseverance, and dedication

staying disciplined and committed to our plan, we could achieve success. Along the way, we encountered challenges, including the Great Recession of 2008-09 and the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. These obstacles tested our resolve, but they also highlighted one of our greatest strengths: the ability to adapt. By navigating these twists and turns, we refined our approach and emerged stronger.

Since 1995, we have built successful and profitable operations

across various commercial sectors. This success stems from the planning and foresight of the 1990s, our attention to detail, and our proactive adaptability. These qualities have brought us to where we are today.

This journey has been a collective effort. Together, as one tribe with a unified mission and shared purpose, we have upheld the Wyandotte Nation's heritage of unity, perseverance, and dedication. Our tribal businesses now generate millions of dollars in net income annually, providing significant benefits to Wyandotte people. This success is a testament to the hard work and ingenuity of many talented individuals committed to building a brighter future for all.

Today, Wyandotte families benefit from our commercial success in numerous ways. Our ongoing goal is to continue improving the quality of life for our people. With our foundational businesses thriving, we are actively exploring new opportunities to expand and enhance our tribal legacy.

Thank you for your contributions over the years. Together, we are honoring our cherished past while creating a prosperous future in the modern world.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Despite winter's arrival, Tribe's projects continue as planned

Kweh Omateru
Hello my friends and fellow tribal citizens, it seems winter has finally arrived and given us a taste of what was like in winters past. I am sure a lot of you that grew up in Northeast Oklahoma can remember many winters that gave

us cold temperatures and a lot of snow. I certainly do because I had to walk to school in it, as many of you did.

The preschool expansion is complete and it turned out great -- lots of room for those kids to learn in and enjoy. We broke ground on

the Domestic Violence building we had to build because of that department growing so fast. It's sad we have to do this but it is a sign of the times. We are in the early



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SECOND CHIEF

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stages of designing a new gymnasium that will be built on the South side of the present gymnasium at Bearskin Fitness Center. This is through an Indian Community Development Block Grant. We also are expanding the infra-structure on Turtle Hill to build more duplexes and will be starting Phase three at Wyandotte Ridge to have more building lots available for that project. So things are really busy here on the reservation -- progress is always welcome when it benefits Wyandotte citizens and the whole Wyandotte Community.

The history for this issue deals with the Huron Feast of the Dead.

The Huron Feast of the Dead was a mortuary custom of the Wyandot People of what is today central Ontario, Canada, which involved the disinterment of deceased relatives from their initial individual graves followed by their reburial in a final communal grave. A time for both mourning and celebration, the custom became spiritually and culturally significant.

Early in the custom's development, as whole villages moved to a new location, other Wyandot would travel to join them in arranging mass reburials of their dead, who were transported to the new location. The people would take the dead bodies out of their first graves and clean the remains in preparation for reburial in a new location. Customs evolved over the centuries as populations migrated and increased. They continued to follow traditional beliefs about the afterlife. The arrival of Europeans added new aspects to the process.

In the 12th and 13th centuries, Wyandot communities rapidly expanded in population and in the territory they occupied. Settlements were small compared to later standards and their ossuaries were small. Ceremonies were carried out independently as each village would separately rebury their dead when they moved. In contrast to later examples, no ossuary ever held more than thirty individuals. The

"Happiness makes up in height for what it lacks in length." --Robert Frost

survivors left modest grave offerings made of non-durable materials. Burials were communal, a characteristic that persisted as other aspects of Wyandot culture changed.

By the 1500s Wyandot population growth began to stabilize. With this demographic change, well before European arrival, the traditional mortuary customs started evolving into what are more recognizable as Feasts of the Dead. With the increase of population, it became the norm to wait for a period of several years between the first and the second burial. This change considerably increased the size of the ossuaries, as the extended period meant that graves held several hundred individuals.

Huron communities changed the location of their village every 10 to 15 years. They believed that they had to protect their dead when they moved, and they started to rebury them every time a large village migrated. The ceremonies occurred at the end of the winter months, before the Huron had to undertake tasks associated with agriculture and spring hunting. The symbolism of the end of winter and the start or spring fit into their beliefs that separated the living and the dead.

By the period when the Wyandot migrated to Wendake, these mortuary rituals came to represent the unity and friendship of Wyandot bands. Multiple villages would gather together for combined ceremonies and to exchange gifts. The exchange of gifts and the symbolism of a united burial ground became defining elements of the Feasts of the Dead.

Gabriel Sagard, a French missionary writing in the 1620s, described the purpose of the rituals:

"By means of these ceremonies and gatherings they contract new

unions and friendships amongst themselves, saying that, just as the bones of their deceased relatives and friends are gathered together and united in one place, so also they themselves ought during their lives to live all together in the same unity and harmony, like good kinsmen and friends."

Jean de Brebeuf, a Jesuit missionary, was invited in the spring of 1636 to a large Feast of the Dead outside the village of Ossossane, the capital of Wendake. His first-person account provided insight into contemporary Huron mortuary customs and has remained the most cited source on the topic. The Huron dispersal occurred in 1650, following epidemics, and conflict with the more powerful Iroquois Confederacy. Their cultural traditions changed after this upheaval. Brebeuf's account is a unique view of a notable feast that occurred at the height of Huron mortuary customs just before their rapid decline.

The Feast of the Dead took place over a period of ten days. During the first eight days, the participants gathered and prepared the bodies for the reburial. Relatives of the deceased took out their remains, and the corpses, in various degrees of putrefaction, were clothed with beaver robes. Flesh and skin were removed from the corpses and the bones were individually cleaned. They were wrapped again in another set of beaver furs. Generally, women carried out this task, and any sign of revulsion was traditionally discouraged. Wrapped in fur packages, the bones were returned to the homes of the relatives, where a feast was held in memory of the dead. Gifts and offerings were placed next to these packages, and visitors were welcomed and treated gener-

ously. This was a time to feast, and gather the food and offerings to be used for the main burial event.

The village leader announced when all families should transport the bodies. The journey to the new site was often long and was a time for public mourning, punctuated by sharp cries of the participants. When the chief decided and everyone present, all would gather around the burial pit for the main ceremony. Brebeuf described the scene: There was in the middle of it a great pit, about ten feet deep and five fathoms in diameter. Above rose many poles, trimmed and well arranged, with cross poles to attach the bundles of souls. They laid on the ground their parcels. They unfolded also their bundles of robes and all the presents they had brought, and placed them upon poles, in order to give foreigners time to view the wealth and magnificence of the country.

That evening, the bodies were lowered into the pit with three kettles, which were to help the souls reach the afterlife. If a bundle fell, it was time for everything else (bundles, gifts, corn, wooden stakes and sand) to be thrown in as well. As the pit was filled and covered over, the crowds screamed and sang. Brebeuf described the scene as emotional and chaotic, representing the Huron's perception of mortality and life in general. The following and final morning consisted of gift giving among the living; it was a time for celebration. Those who had made the journey were thanked, and ties were reaffirmed.

A high rate of mortality from infectious European diseases and warfare due to the fur trade increased the frequency and size of the Feasts of the Dead until the Wyandot dispersal in the middle of the seventeenth century. The last reported Feast of the Dead occurred in 1695. It was held jointly by the Wyandot and Ottawa Nations. If not for the Jesuit priests recording everything they saw and experienced, we would not know a lot of our early history.

SAVE THE DATE! The Wyandotte Nation will host a Town Hall Meeting in Macon, GA, on Saturday, March 29, at the Marriott Macon City Center. Citizens who reside in SE states will receive postcard invitations.

Winter Gathering



PHOTO: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION
(TOP) Rainbows highlighted the sky during the Winter Gathering. **(ABOVE LEFT)** Runners truly braved the cold for the Bear the Cold 5K. **(ABOVE RIGHT)** There were plenty of events for everyone who attended the Winter Gathering held Saturday and Sunday, January 18-19.

Events for all at cultural gathering

The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum's 2025 Winter Gathering was a success! They had a great turnout throughout the Winter Gathering. They were able to raise over \$2,000 for Teresa Wilson during the Bear the Cold 5K. In addition to the 5K, the Winter Gathering also had a hominy boil, quillwork,

a creative writing workshop, a traditional foods prep class, shawl/craft circle, learn to play moccasin/dice games, winter storytelling and social dances. There were plenty of things to do those for those who participated in the Winter Gathering. The Winter Gathering was held over two days, January 18-19.

Operation: Santa

Local families experiencing economic hardships can't always provide their children with their own celebration of Christmas. That is where the Operation: Santa, formerly known as the Wyandotte Nation Police Department's "Shop With a Cop" program, comes in. The program joins underprivileged children with Wyandotte Nation police officers, providing area children with Christmas presents and food baskets for their families and themselves. The program is made possible

through local donations. The change up in the program had officers and volunteers do the shopping in advance and then packed the gifts and food into the family's vehicle. The kiddos who came to the Artie Nesvold Elders Center were also treated to punch and cookies as well as a visit from Santa.

PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Officers haul gifts out to families who participated in this year's Operation: Santa program.



A legendary doc retires after 43 years



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Chief Billy Friend, Health Services Director Kelly Friend, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand and Chief of Staff Kim Harnar honored Dr. Cox in his retirement.

The Legend had retired! The Wyandotte Nation held a retirement reception for Dr. Cox on Thursday, December 19, at River Bend Casino & Hotel, celebrating his 43 years of service in the area.

Health Services Director Kelly Friend said, "He has not only had a profound impact on us who worked with him, but also our community. Your influence reached far beyond our clinic walls."

Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend, who presented Dr. Cox with a handcrafted knife made by tribal citizen Deryl Wright, said, "He has been a great addition here at the Tribe. He exemplifies everything the Wyandotte Nation is about. I always say we operate by a four-letter word. Chief Bearskin would tell everybody the four-letter word is CARE. We care about the

people we serve, we care about one another and we care about our community."

Dr. Cox was also presented with a blanket.

Dr. Cox talked about his earlier practice and delivering 617 babies in the Grove area. "Some of those parents are here today. It's been great watching those kids grow up," he said at the retirement party.

He also talked about coming to work for the Tribe.

"I came to the Wyandotte Tribe to help Dr. Hopper, when he asked me to come up when he started feeling bad. I told him I can only give him two weeks... and I stayed 6 years," he said.

The Tribe wishes Dr. Cox the best in his retirement. He will be missed by many.

Holidays in Pictures



WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
(FAR LEFT) The Wyandotte Nation preschool held its annual Christmas Program and Santa stopped by to visit the preschoolers and present them a gift December 19. (ABOVE and LEFT) On the same day, elders were treated to a Christmas dinner and Santa heard the Christmas wishes of Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, as well as other elders.



SUMMER 2025 TAR CREEK APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM (TCAP)

Program Recruitment

Seeking students who are interested in earning money in northeast Oklahoma while connecting with nature on a cultural level and gaining firsthand experience in natural resources restoration. Apprentices are being sought with preference for the following tribes: Cherokee, Eastern Shawnee, Miami, Ottawa, Peoria, Seneca-Cayuga, and Wyandotte.

Eligibility Criteria: must be at least a rising high school senior (class of 2026) and cannot be over the age of 21.



6-week Program
starting **Monday,**
June 2, 2025

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

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

Deadline:
March 1, 2025

Application:



TCAP Video Overview:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y8fXXAu9qQc>

TRIBAL SPONSORS:

Cherokee, Eastern Shawnee,
Miami, Ottawa, Peoria,
Seneca-Cayuga, &
Wyandotte

For more information,
contact:

Tami Lowery: (918) 541-8305
Anna Collins:
tcap.annac@gmail.com

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center would like to welcome Dakota "Kota" Patton to the team as the Purchase Referred Care Specialist. She is a member of the Lakota Sioux Tribe. After graduating from Ponca City High School, she attended Cowley College in Arkansas City, KS, where she expanded her knowledge through a diverse range



PATTON

of courses. In 2017, Kota began her career in the medical field, initially working as a Medical Assistant. Her dedication and expertise led her to transition into a Scribe role. Her career continued to evolve when she joined the Department of Human Services as a Family Service Specialist, where she helped support families in need. Outside of her professional life, Kota is a dedicated mother who cherishes spending time with her daughter and celebrating every milestone. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and listening to audiobooks. Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation Family Kota and we wish you great success!

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department would like to welcome Nathen "Nate" Jones to the team. Nate comes to us with 8 years of



JONES

law enforcement experience. He has worked all those years with the Cherokee County Kansas Sheriff's Office where, most recently, he served as the Chief Deputy. Nate enjoys spending time with his wife and kids and in his spare time he enjoys hunting and teaching his children about the outdoors. We are excited to have Nate join our team and we wish him much success in his career!

The Wyandotte Nation Facilities

Department would like to welcome Clyde "Booter" Cooper to the team as the new Facilities Technician at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness



COOPER

Center. Booter is a member of the Cherokee Nation. He comes to us with 28 years of construction/maintenance experience in residential, commercial, and the industrial fields. Booter resides in Wyandotte with his wife Lindsay Cooper. He has 3 sons, Ryan, Brendan, and Bohdi and one daughter, Nevaeh, who he enjoys spending time with. In his spare time, he loves watching his children and nephews play sports. We are very fortunate to have Booter join our team and wish him great success with the Wyandotte Nation.

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

The Family Services staff are looking forward to a new year and all of the exciting programs and opportunities available to Wyandotte Nation citizens. We enjoy collaborating with other departments to host events and work on projects. In 2025, some of the events we will be assisting with include the 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt, Honoring Women/Mother's Day dance, The Gathering of Little Turtles, The Gathering and the Annual Christmas Party. Please be sure to follow us on Facebook and our website to see flyers and details for each of these events throughout the year.

Christmas Party

In December, the Tribe hosted the Annual Children's Christmas party and had a record attendance of 234 children ages birth to 15. Attendees enjoyed cookies, rice crispy treats, punch, crafts, time with Santa and even some Wyandotte language. The party was all things gingerbread and

each child received a themed t-shirt. This was the first year we asked attendees to RSVP and we had such an amazing response with over 200 replies received. Each child was able to tell us what they wanted and received a personalized gift from Santa. This also cut down on the wait time for participants. We want to convey a special "Thank You" to Haylee Botts who did the entire gift ordering and party organizing.

Easter Egg Hunt

The 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt will be held on Saturday, April 12th near the River Bend Hotel at 10 am. The event is hosted in conjunction with WNCCM, the Education Department and Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center. The event is for children 12 and under and is open to anyone in the community.

Town Hall

The next Town Hall Meeting will be held in Macon, Georgia on Saturday, March, 29th at the Marriott City Center Hotel. Tribal citizens who reside in the southeast states will receive postcard invitations. However, any tribal citizen who would like to travel to the meeting is welcome to attend. RSVP information will be posted soon on our Facebook page.

Services Brochure

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

Payment Processing

As we, the Tribe, continue to grow and program services expand, we ask that you please allow up to 30 days from the time we receive your completed application for payment. If you

have direct deposit set up and have a change in your account, you must notify us two weeks prior to a payment being processed. If for some reason a direct deposit is returned, a check will automatically be issued. Unfortunately, if a payment is made to an account you no longer have access to, but is an active account, we will not be able to pull those funds back.

Tribal Enrollment

The deadline for applications to be considered for enrollment at the 2025 Annual Meeting is August 15th. Applications must be submitted along with an original state certified birth certificate (the long form birth certificate that includes the tribal parent's full name). Applications must be received in the office or postmarked by this date. Applications received prior to a child's first birthday will receive a \$100 Walmart gift card, a blanket embroidered with the Tribal Turtle and, thanks to the Cultural Division, either a ribbon skirt or ribbon shirt.

LIHEAP

The LIHEAP program is now being processed through the 477 program and the service area has increased to be available to all Wyandotte Nation citizen who reside in the 100-mile service area as well as the entire State of Oklahoma. The winter/heating program dates are December 1 – February 29, with crisis applications being accepted year round. Applications can be obtained from either the 477 intake clerk at the Education building or the at the Family Services office. This is an income-based program and you can only receive LIHEAP funding from one source. For example, if you receive it through the state in which you reside, you are not eligible to receive it through the Tribe as well.

Victim Services

The Wyandotte Nation PL 102-477 Victim Services Program provides support to victims of crime within a 100-mile radius of the tribal headquarters. A victim is not required to be Wyandotte or Native to receive services from this program. Services offered include advocacy, court accompaniment, assistance with obtaining protective orders, relocation expenses

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TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,
Workforce Development Director*

Wyandotte Nation 477 Program:

The 477 Program or 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.

Applications and forms can be found on the Wyandotte Nation website under the "Services" tab and clicking "477 Program". Inquiries for 477 services can also be made by calling (918) 678-3268, or by emailing the team at wn477@wyandotte-nation.org.

The 477 Program provides comprehensive support services, including education, employment/workforce and job training, youth services, childcare subsidy, child welfare, victim services, family violence assistance, and LIHEAP. 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 day-care. 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. The program can also provide training to area childcare providers to ensure they are meeting state standards and requirements. The program partners with other tribes in the area to serve providers in meeting their training needs and also provide family engagement activities within the community. Program staff are currently meeting with the area tribes to set up this year's training and event schedules.

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(FAMILY SERVICES)

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as well as other basic needs. This program is continually growing and expanding the services provided as well as the outreach and awareness efforts.

Tribal Tags

Wyandotte Nation citizens who reside in the State of Oklahoma, and their vehicles are "principally garaged" in Oklahoma Indian Country, are eligible to title and register their motor vehicles through the Tribe. The Tribe has recently added Veteran's plates, for Wyandotte Citizens who meet the eligibility criteria, which include passenger, handicap and motorcycle plates. Please keep in mind that if you are driving on pay/toll roads within the State of Oklahoma, you are responsible to pay those fees. Currently, the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority (OTA) does not have mailing address for tribal plates so it is the owners responsibility to visit PlatePay.com for those charges. The Wyandotte Nation is currently working on a plan to share information with OTA and will make an announcement on social media once an agreement has been determined.

For a complete list of Family Services programs, applications and information, please visit our website at www.wyandotte-nation.org or

refer to the Services brochure.

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

FAMILY SERVICES STAFF CONTACTS:

wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org
Director, Dana Butterfield 918-678-6319
ICW Supervisor, Tara Gragg 918-678-6355
ICW Worker, Carmalita Ward, 918-678-6485
Tag Administrator, Tiffany Garner, 918-678-6353
Family Services Specialist, Leanna Radabaugh, 918-678-6329
Enrollment Officer, Haylee Botts, 918-678-6377

PL 102-477 Program Staff:
477vs@wyandotte-nation.org -
Hotline number 877-276-0669
Program Manager, Chelsea King, 918-678-3257
Lead Advocate, Gabby Ezell, 918-678-6402
Program Advocates: Lacy Butler, Kristi Johnston, Chelsea King, Hannah Rhodes, Alexia King and Becky Maples
Supervised Visitation Specialist, Emily Cox, 918-678-6324



Children's Christmas Party

PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
 Not all children enjoyed a visit from Santa (TOP) but most did enjoy their gifts (LEFT) and to tell Santa (ABOVE RIGHT) what they wanted for Christmas!

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(EDUCATION)

Continued from Page 8

• **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 19 students that have received educational services through the 477 program. Staff has worked diligently the past 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.



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Preschoolers entertain a packed gym of parents, siblings and other family and friends during their annual Christmas Program.

collection, and check out something new! Library hours are Monday through Thursday from 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. To check out items from the library, you must be a registered library patron. If you are not currently a patron, you can sign up by filling out the application on our website at www.wyandotte-nation.org or by visiting us in person at the library. Don't forget that Wyandotte Nation Historical Library also offers virtual library access through the Oklahoma Virtual Library. This service provides access to a wide range of eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, and videos. To access your virtual library account, visit www.okvirtuallibrary.overdrive.com or download the "Libby" app. For more information about the Wyandotte Nation Historical Library or virtual access, please contact our librarian, Madeline Harnar, at mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org or call 918-678-6332.

Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center:

There has been lots of excitement at the Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center the last few months. We celebrated Halloween with our annual Halloween Carnival in October. We had several different departments within the Tribe

Development, April 18 for Good Friday, and May 26 for Memorial Day.

Our program continues to grow and with the expansion of our building, we are able to add 3 new classrooms to our program. We are adding an Infant classroom, a 1 Year Old classroom, and a Toddler classroom opening up space for 23 new students. We also still have openings available in our 3 Year Old Preschool classroom as well as our 4-5 Year Old Pre-K classrooms. For information on enrolling your child or joining our waiting lists please reach out to Lindsay Cooper by phone at 918-678-3267 or email at lcooper@wyandotte-nation.org. You can also find information about our program online at <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/education/turtletots/>

Wyandotte Nation Scholarship Program:

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 Education Specialist is currently working through spring semester scholarships for the upcoming school term. We are currently serving more than 200 members in their schooling and training. If you are a participant in our scholarship program, please remember to register for the spring semester. The Education Department will not submit any further scholarships without the proper information submitted first. In order to do so, you need to submit a grades report for the completed term, and your class schedule for this current term. You may email it to our Education Specialist, mail in to the Education Building, or submit it through the tribal website.

If you have any questions regarding any of our scholarships programs, please reach out to our Education Specialist:

Evan Hotulke
(918) 678-6331

ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org
8 Turtle Drive
Wyandotte, OK 74370

Wyandotte Nation Library:

Kweh & Happy New Year from the Wyandotte Nation Historical Library! We hope your holiday season was filled with joy, and we are excited to share some updates as we head into 2025.

Our Christmas themed movie night, held at the Bearskin Fitness Center Gymnasium, was a great success! Thank you to Bearskin Fitness Center for allowing us to utilize their space & to all who came out to enjoy this event. We are thrilled to announce that the Library Movie Nights for our community will return to Bear Park once the weather warms up & spring has sprung! Keep an eye out for more details that will be announced in the May edition of Turtle Talk! Don't forget to visit our Story Book Walk, which is up at Bear Park. The current story featured is "In the Middle of Winter" by Kevin Henkes- a wonderful read for this time of year! A new story will be added to our Story Book Walk in the month of February, so be sure to stop by for a refreshing walk and engaging story experience. Both our Story Book Walk and Library Movie Nights are made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services grant, number NAE-254945-OLS.

With the start of the new year, we are also excited to announce that new books and DVDs have recently been added to the library shelves. We invite you to come in, explore our

come together to bring laughter, fun, and lots of candy to our preschool students and their families. We were able to move into our new preschool building and begin classes there in November! We are very thankful for our new facility and all the room it allows our students and staff to have, but our preschool age students weren't the only ones to get new classrooms. Our One Year Old and Toddler Programs were also able to move into bigger sized classrooms with the expansion of our building. Also in November, we celebrated Thanksgiving with our families at our Thanksgiving Lunch hosted by the staff at Twin Bridges Restaurant. We had close to 90 families come out to enjoy this special time with us. December brought us a special visit from Santa Claus as he visited our facility with gifts for the students following our Christmas Program.

Some upcoming events include our Valentine's Day program/parties on Thursday, February 13, our Easter Parties and Egg Hunt on Wednesday, April 16, our annual Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow on Thursday, April 17, and our End of Year Preschool Program and Graduation on May 12. Upcoming closures for our facility include February 17 for Staff Professional

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Housing

Submitted by Jocelyn Metcalf, Housing Specialist

The Housing Department has recently received two grants. The first one will construct eight family units in the Heritage Acres Area. The second will build 16 senior units on the property north of the current housing addition. The infrastructure for this area will begin this spring. The construction will hopefully begin in the late fall.

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 bedrooms 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.

Many residents as well as community members have enjoyed Bear Park. This is located in the Heritage Acres Housing Addition. There will be additional covered picnic areas added this spring, and the splash pad will also have renovations. The walking trail allows parents to walk and still keep an eye on the children.

The 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 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. 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.

DEPARTMENT STAFF:

Kathy Deweese

Housing Director

Jocelyn Metcalf

Housing Specialist

Paul Parker & Levi Griffin

Project Coordinators

Randy Qualls & Drew Lankford

Residential Maintenance Technicians

Healthcare & Wellness

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Health Services Director

Are you a resident within the Bearskin Healthcare Service Delivery Area?

With recent changes in priorities for healthcare through Indian Health Services, there's a greater focus on preventive care. As of October 1, 2024, you might be eligible for additional services, including dental that may have been deferred or denied in the past. To ensure you are prepared, please note the following details:

Patients living within the Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Service Delivery area

- Wyandotte or Eastern Shawnee Tribal Citizens who reside in the following counties: Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee and Washington

- Patient must be an active patient, with a visit once every 3 years.

- Patient must complete an Alternate Resource Form (ARF).

- Patient must have current Oklahoma Driver's License or Oklahoma Identification on file.

Continued on Page 11

Elder Services

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

Greetings all! Our Valentine Party/Dinner will be Thursday, February 13, during the noon hour. Prizes will be given to the Oldest Valentine, Longest Married Couple, Newlyweds and the one married the most times and is willing to admit it.

CAREGIVER

Our Caregiver Conference is Friday, March 7, at the First Christian Church in Miami, OK from 9 am to 1 pm. We have some great speakers lined up

that you will not want to miss. Lunch and goodie bags will be provided.

Our Caregiver Pamper Day is Thursday, April 17, at the First Christian Church in Miami, OK from 9 am to 1 pm. The nursing students from Vo-Tech will be helping us out with blood pressures, hot hand waxing, fingernail painting, hot foot waxing, massages and we will have two RN's from the NTHS clinic doing foot care. Lunch and goodie bags will be provided.

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.

SENIOR TURTLES GIFT SHOP

The Senior Turtles Gift Shop is open. The hours are 10 am to 2 pm Monday-Friday.

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

The number for the gift shop is 918-678-6491.

It is always a pleasure serving the Wyandotte Nation Citizens. Please feel free to call us anytime.

Elder Services Team:

Brenda House, Elder Services Director, (918) 678-6327.

Stephanie Hamilton, Food Service Team Supervisor, (Office) 918 678-6390, (Kitchen) (918)-678-6328.

Seth Higginbotham, Robyn Beaty, Amanda Turner, Kelli Snell and Kayla Ezell, Food Service Team Members (918) 678-6328.

Menu: Available on website.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(HEALTH)



Continued from Page 10

- Patient must have Tribal Membership Card on file.
- Patient must have insurance or Soonercare denial on file, and Affordable Care Act proof of eligibility.
- Patient must sign a rules agreement (every 3 years).

- Must meet residency requirements – utility bill in patients 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), land tax statement, recent school records, mortgage statement

- o For individuals that do not have 2 of the above documents and reside with other individuals – notarized affidavit verifying residence will be accepted.

DENTAL

- Patient must meet the above requirements.
- Appointment must be authorized prior to visit (Please allow 2 weeks minimum).
- Must use provider within insurance network or contracted with Bearskin Healthcare

AUDIOLOGY

- Appointment must be authorized prior to visit (Please allow 2 weeks' minimum)

OPTOMETRY

- Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible
- Must be authorized prior to visit
- Must use provider within insurance network or contracted with Bearskin Healthcare
- \$250 for single vision – includes one exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts

- \$300 for multi-focal vision – includes one exam and one pair or glasses OR contacts

Patients living outside the Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Service Delivery area

ADULT DENTAL

- Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible
- Must be authorized prior to visit
- up to \$750 per year, excludes orthodontics and whitening
- As funding allows

ADULT EMERGENCY DENTAL

- Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible
- Must be authorized prior to visit
- Services must be provided by a provider within insurance network or by a Bearskin Contracted provider
- Up to \$1000 per year
- Services provided – limited x-ray, limited exam, extractions, re-cementing of crowns, partials and/or dentures, wisdom teeth removal
- As funding allows

OPTOMETRY

- Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible
- Must be authorized prior to visit
- Must use provider within insurance network or contracted with Bearskin Healthcare
- \$250 for single vision – includes one exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts
- \$300 for multi-focal vision – includes one exam and one pair of glasses OR contacts
- As funding allows

Continued on Page 12

P1 - CORE - ESSENTIAL	P2 INTERMEDIATE - NECESSARY
A. PREVENT- REHAB	A. PREVENTIVE /REHAB
SCREENING MAMMO	RESIDENTIAL SKILLED NURS. FAC SHORT TERM
HOSPITALIZATION, SUBACUTE M/S	HOME HEALTH
HOSPICE	OT THERAPY -ADULT
SCREENING COLONOSCOPY/SIGMOIDOSCOPY	CARDIAC REHAB
CORONARY CALCIUM SCORE	SPEECH, HEARING LANGUAGE DISORDERS SERVICES
DEXA SCAN	ACUTE INFUSION SERVICES - BLOOD PRODUCTS, IRON, ANTIBIOTICS
AAA SCR US- SMOKER	MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY
LUNG CANCER CT SMOKER	TOBACCO CESSATION COUNSELING
WOUND MANAGEMENT	DME - SUPPLIES (post op wound care, splints, casts)
ORTHOTIC AND DIABETIC FOOTWEAR	HEARING AIDS ADULTS ONLY
LIMB PROSTHETICS	COCHLEAR IMPLANTS - ADULTS ONLY
BREAST MRI	
B. MEDICAL/ DENTAL VISION /SURGICAL	B. MEDICAL/ DENTAL VISION /SURGICAL
EMERGENCY CARE	M/SX SPECIALITY CONSULTS- CHRONIC TREATMENT
EMERGENCY TRANSPORTATION- EMS	CATARACT SX
HOSPITAL, ACUTE MEDICAL/SURGICAL(M/S)	OXYGEN
SPECIALTY CONSULTATIONS ACUTE M/S	POLYSOMNOGRAPHY
CARDIAC DIAGNOSTICS	HOME SLEEP APNEA TEST/ PORTABLE MONITORING
CORONARY REPERFUSION	RESPIRATORY THERAPY EQUIP- CPAP/ BIPAP, SUPPLIES
CANCER DX / TX	INTERVENTIONAL RADIOLOGY
DX IMAGING	PROSTHODONTICS- DENTURES, CROWNS, BRIDGES
RENAL REPLACEMENT TX AND DIALYSIS ACCESS	PERIODONTAL SURGERY
RENAL TRANSPLANT	ENDODONTICS
DIABETIC EYE EXAM	EYE PROSTHESIS
GLAUCOMA MGT.	PAIN MANAGEMENT
RETINAL SX/ RETINAL SPECIALITY CARE	M/SX SPECIALITY CONSULTS- CHRONIC -JOINT REPLACEMENT AFTER ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS INCLUDING PT & INJECTIONS
HIV MANAGEMENT	DX IMAGING NON-ACUTE
DIAGNOSTIC COLONOSCOPY	EEG
CARDIAC CLEARANCE FOR PROCEDURE	EMG
NEPHROLOGY - LOW GFR	
ELEVATED PSA - EVALUATION	
HYGIENE VISITS - 2 PER YEAR	
FILLINGS	
SEALANTS	
DIAGNOSTIC MAMMO	
C. REPROD/ MATERNIAL / CHILD HEALTH	C. REPROD/ MATERNIAL / CHILD HEALTH
PRENATAL CARE	BREAST FEEDING EQUIPMENT (MANUAL PUMP)/ COUNSELING (HOSPITAL)
LABOR/ DELIVERY	OB/ GYN MEDICAL CONSULTATION CHRONIC
POSTPARTUM AND NEWBORN CARE - AGE	OB/GYN SURGICAL CONSULTATION CHRONIC
PERMITTED ABORTION SERVICES	REPRODUCTIVE / FAMILY PLANNING SERVICES
SEXUAL ASSAULT EVAL	LONG- ACTING REVERSIBLE CONTRACEPTIONS
OB/ GYN MED/ SURG/ CONSULTS	BILATERAL TUBAL LIGATION
COLPOSCOPY	VASECTOMY
EARLY & PERIODIC SCREENING	
DIAGNOSTIC TX SERVICES	COCHLEAR IMPLANTS, PEDS
PED SPECIALITY CONSULTS/ CARE	
PED DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES	
PED ORAL HEALTH SERVICES	
PED HEARING AIDS	
D. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH	D. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
PSYCHIATRIC EMERGENCY CARE	PSYCHIATRY, AMBULATORY, ADULT/ PED
PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALIZATION ACUTE	MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING (PSYCHOTHERAPY) ADULT
RESIDENTIAL PSYCHIATRIC CARE ADULT/ PED	ALCOHOL/ SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELING
CHILD PSYCHOTHERAPY	
ALCOHOL/ SUBSTANCE DETOXIFICATION	
INPT.ETOH/ SUBSTANCE REHAB.	

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Planning & Natural Resources

Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

ENVIRONMENTAL

(Submitted by Kathy Welch-Environmental Department Manager)

October: Normally with the fall season comes cooler weather and the changing of the colors of the leaves, but because we received little precipitation leading up to this time of year, the fall colors were not as vibrant as



one would have hoped for. Through it all, the environmental department continues to stay busy.

On October 4 our department had an information booth at the Northeastern Tribal Health Fair in Miami, OK. Staff members Kathleen Welch, John Gerhard and Ryan Haggard talked with elders about our department programs

such as private well sampling, septic assessments and recyclable materials that we collect at Lost Creek Recycle Center.

On October 8- 9, John and Ryan attended the Tar Creek Conference in Miami, OK. This conference focuses on the lead contamination in that area caused from lead mines in the Tar Creek Superfund site and the surrounding area.

During the week of October 14–18, the Lost Creek Recycle Center held its annual Fall Tire Collection Event. A total of 690 tires were collected, and a DEQ contracted company picked up the tires for recycling purposes.

On October 20, our staff provided an information booth at the Ottawa County Elders Health Fair. Kathleen and John shared information on various services that our depart-

ment provides, such as private well samples, septic assessments and recyclable materials received at the Lost Creek Recycle Center.

On October 23-24 our department hosted a Water Quality Dashboard Meeting in which seven Tar Creek Trustee Council

November: On November 12, Kathleen attended the TECO Meeting in Stroud, OK. Elections were held for TECO Officers and the Region 6 RTOC Committee. The Wyandotte Nation has been selected as Vice Chair for TECO, and elected to serve on the RTOC Committee. On November 19, the Wyandotte Nation was elected to serve as the Region 6 RTOC Vice-Chair. Christen Lee and Kathleen will act as representatives for both of these positions.

December: December was a month to reflect back on the past year and to celebrate the Christmas Holiday and look forward to a new year.

Recycling: During this time of year, we tend to see a decrease in received recyclable products as the temperatures decrease, but there wasn't much of a decrease this time. Total amounts collected for this 1st quarter were;

Cardboard – 17,978 lbs.
Plastic ----- 1,335 lbs.
Aluminum --- 311 lbs.

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(HEALTH)

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CHILDREN'S DENTAL

- Must be seen by provider at Bearskin Healthcare once every three years to be eligible
- Must be authorized prior to visit
- Services must be provided by a provider within insurance network or by a Bearskin Contracted provider
- Services excluded are orthodontics and whitening
- As funding allows

Are you a resident within the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center's Purchased/Referred Care (PRC) Service Delivery Area? With recent changes in priorities for healthcare through Indian Health Services, there's a greater focus

on preventive care. As of October 1, 2024, you might be eligible for additional services that may have been deferred in the past.

To ensure you are prepared for any healthcare needs, please note the following important details:

1. Active Patient Requirement: To remain an active patient, you must have a healthcare visit at least once every three years.
2. Eligibility Criteria: Services are available to individuals who are enrolled members of the Wyandotte Nation or Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and who reside in one of the following twelve counties: Ottawa, Craig, Mayes, Wagoner, Delaware, Rogers, Okmulgee, Nowata, Tulsa, Creek, Okfuskee, and Washington.

3. Priority Levels for PRC Services:
CORE (Priority 1): Essential Services

- Criteria:
 1. The service must either:
 - Be necessary to protect life, limb, or vision within the next 30 days, or
 - Be essential for a significant portion of patients in the Indian Health Service.
 2. The service must be a core component of the current standards of care for the condition (i.e., it is indispensable for appropriate care).

INTERMEDIATE (Priority 2): Necessary Services

- These services are required for diagnosing and managing chronic and non-emergent acute conditions according to standard care practices.

ELECTIVE (Priority 3): Justifiable Services

- These services are intended to enhance health and well-being and are clinically justifiable.
- 4. Excluded Services:
 - Cosmetic and experimental procedures are not authorized for PRC payment. Medical exclusions are determined based on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) National Coverage Determinations Manual.

Make sure to stay informed and proactive about your healthcare needs to take full advantage of the available services.

Example of priorities. Not an all-inclusive list (See Graphs)

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(PLANNING)

Continued from Page 12

Tin ----- 466 lbs.
Shred Paper – 2,219
Total – 22,309 lbs.

During the first quarter time frame, the Environmental Department Staff attended NATURE, TECO and RTOC meetings. Along with online and in person trainings, such as an Attains training at the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

Other Environmental Duties:

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

Staff also performed 15 private well drinking water samples during this time frame, and an additional 3 retake samples.

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

For Recycle Center please contact Kathleen Welch

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.

\$2,000,000 from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Grant funds awarded will be used to develop infrastructure such as roads, sewer and electric, to Wyandotte Nation property adjacent to the Heritage Acres Housing Complex.

\$3,454,914.00 also from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Funds awarded with this grant will be utilized to construct new living units on property adjacent to Heritage Acres, after the infrastructure project is complete.

Current grant applications nearing submission:

We are working with the Wyandotte Nation Tribal Court on a grant to help fund training, equipment and software for the probation service. This will enhance the probation capabilities, offender accountability and community safety.

We are also working with the Wyandotte Nation's 477 Victim Services Program on a grant to enhance legal services available to victims of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking.

Projects: There are several projects at this time.

The ICDBG-21 Pow-Wow Grounds Project. Work is underway, and expected to be complete in the Spring.

An Architect/Engineer for the ICDBG-23 has been chosen. 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.

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

Cultural Division

Submitted by Kim Garcia (Tętsi?tara?t), Cultural Preservation Officer (Inyomarihú?te? Ahehtasta?), Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum

We celebrated Native American Heritage Month in November. At Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum (WNCCM), we had educational activities planned all month. Staff spent a week in Monroe, Michigan at River Raisin National Battlefield Park teaching local students about Wyandotte culture and lifeways. Staff also spent several days teaching the students in Wyandotte, OK. For the entire month, we posted on

social media different Wyandotte facts as well as Wa^odat words with pronunciation. We also hosted various classes and learning opportunities for the community. In December, Chris held a rattle demonstration class.

January is our time for Winter Gathering. This year we made it a multi-day event. We started with a beading class on Friday night led by Ceci Walker. Saturday morning began with a hominy boil with Chris Houk, a creative writing class led by Lenzy Langford-Herdocia, and quillwork class led by Angie Morgan, Malinda Walker, and Caleb Garcia. Soups for lunch were prepared by Brynlee Wilson. Traditional storytelling was in the afternoon with lots of fun stories.

Continued on Page 15

Are you interested in exploring research written about us and our sister tribes? Wish you had reading partners to help keep you on track?

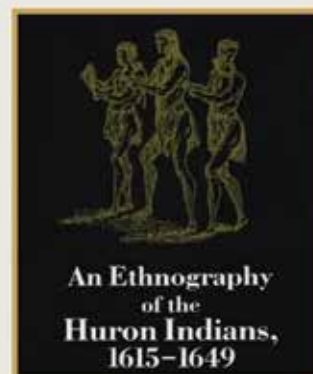
e:žatq̄hšrihšas | Reading Research Group

2nd Thursday of Month

In-Person: 1 PM at Artie Nesvold Elder Center

Zoom: 7 PM

Only open to citizens of Wyandotte Nation



Interested?



Scan the QR for more information or to register.

Grants Awarded from October thru December 2024	
Indian Community Development Block Grant	\$2,000,000
Indian Housing Block Grant	\$3,454,914

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

cllee@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



(ABOVE LEFT) Wa^{nat} Wednesday holiday theme, illustration by Kari:žeras (Emily “Ruthy”) Logan 2024. (ABOVE RIGHT) Wa^{nat} Wednesday holiday theme, illustration by Kari:žeras (Emily “Ruthy”) Logan 2024.



Kweh awéti? ! (Greetings, all!)

To celebrate Native American Heritage Month in November, we shared a Wa^{nat} word or phrase every day on Facebook. This year’s theme was “Useful Phrases.” The audio and calendar view of each phrase is now available on www.wandat.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 Wandat Wednesdays (online using ZOOM) to practice together. Our topics range from body parts to seasonal activities to learners’ requests. The past few months we have included “Useful Phrases” along with holiday phrases for December’s theme featuring illustrations by Kari:žeras (Emily “Ruthy”) Logan (see this issue). These sessions are a yawahstih (great) way to build up vocabulary without having to worry about grammar. Wa^{nat} Wednesdays are designed to be “stand-alone” classes so you can attend when it is convenient for you.

ri:warōka? (I hear the news)

Wa^{nat} Language Program News

The Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum recently appointed Yahšeṇḥaḡ? (Darcy) Allred as the Wa^{nat} Language Program Coordinator. She will be taking on new and ongoing duties to help grow our language reclamation efforts in the short to long term. With this new position, we are eager to meet our goals to provide more opportunities for Wyandotte citizens and families to learn our heritage language.

Upcoming events:

- March 6-9: Cultural Researcher, Beci Wright, tribal linguist, Dr. Craig Koprís, and language program coordinator, Darcy Allred, will be presenting their paper, Language Revival in the Wyandot(te) Diaspora, at the 9th International Conference on Language Documentation & Conservation in

Honolulu, Hawai‘i.

- February 19: Wa^{nat} Wednesday, at 12 noon & 8 pm central via Zoom, Theme: TBA

Eskwaye? (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: wandat-language@wyandotte-nation.org

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

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. Wa^{nat} 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!)

Please send name questions & inquiries to:

bwright@wyandotte-nation.org.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(CULTURAL)

Continued from Page 13

It's amazing how many of our younger Wyandottes have taken the lead on some of these stories! Our traditional Native dinner on Saturday was prepared by local legend Mariah Tyner. We enjoyed pork and corn, beef and hominy, fry bread, wild rice, and grape dumplings. It was all delicious! After dinner, we had a social dance led by Sahōtṛdūtē? and we danced for several hours. It's encouraging to see the growth in numbers and experience by everyone at these traditional social events. On Sunday, we hosted our first Bear the Cold 5K. It was single digit weather but we had over 100 people attend! We were also able to raise over \$2,000 for Teresa Wilson, who is battling cancer right now. After the 5K, we had a traditional foods class, games class, and a craft/shawl class. Our lunch consisted of the foods prepared that day, including the traditional raccoon boiled in maple sap.

Our upcoming events include a tanning/basket-making workshop in March. In May we will host a social dance to honor women and graduates. In June we will have a community event to honor the men. Also in June, we will host lacrosse camp, a lacrosse tournament, and Gathering of Little Turtles. During the summer months, we will host a weekly Native Youth Night for all youth within the community. Towards the end of summer, we will take the interns on the annual trip. September is our Gathering starting on September 8 with a kayak trip. Pow-Wow will be September 12-14.

All of our events are posted on social media and on the website. If you'd like to be involved as a volunteer for any of the events or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at WNCCM.

Wa'dat Word of the Day
for Native American Heritage Month!
Audio Files at: www.wandat.org/NAHM





Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 kweh <i>hello/hf</i> tizameh <i>thank you</i> <i>ti_za_meh</i> yawahstih <i>it is good</i> <i>ya_wah_stih</i> <i>or great</i> uneh <i>un_eh</i> <i>so long</i>	2 šahskeno?nye? <i>šah_ske_nq?_nye?</i> <i>are you well?</i> <i>(how are you?)</i>
3 yahskeno?nye? <i>yah_ske_nq?_nye?</i> <i>I am well</i> te?yahskeno?nye? <i>te?_yah_ske_nq?_nye?</i> <i>I am not well</i>	4 hē: <i>yes</i> hā?q hā?_q <i>no</i>	5 ayatotara? <i>a_ya_tq_ta_ra?</i> <i>I am happy</i> te?wayatotara? <i>te?_wa_ya_tq_ta_ra?</i> <i>I am sad/not happy</i>	6 ayatotara? "de sa?yqye? <i>a_ya_tq_ta_ra? "de</i> <i>sa?_yq_ye?</i> <i>I am happy to see</i> <i>you (sg) again</i>	7 onyateru? <i>q_nya_te_ru?</i> <i>friend(s), "wa 2 are friends"</i> qmateru? <i>q_ma_te_ru?</i> <i>friends, "we all are</i> <i>friends" (3+)</i>	8 eskoye? e_skq_ye? <i>I will see you (sg) again</i> eskiye? e_ski_ye? <i>I will see you 2 again</i> eskwaye? e_skwa_ye? <i>I will see you all</i> <i>(3+) again</i>	9 hē? ehsta?uraha? <i>hē?_eh_sta?_u_ra_ha?</i> <i>you (sg) can do it!</i> <i>("you will be able")</i>
10 nqh šahkah <i>nqh_šah_kah</i> <i>don't give up/don't quit</i> <i>(spoken to one person)</i>	11 a?tekwatō?mesqnyo? "de tiske?rayēhta? <i>a?_tek_wa_tō?_me_sq_nyo?</i> <i>"de ti_ske?_ra_yēh_ta?</i> <i>we give thanks for our</i> <i>warriors</i>	12 takye?tu? <i>tak_ye?_tu?</i> <i>right now</i>	13 hatisaa?tamedih <i>ha_ti_sa_a?_ta_me_dih</i> <i>what happened to you?</i>	14 eyateráhka? <i>e_ya_te_ráh_ka?</i> <i>I will try</i>	15 hatehšákjetah <i>ha_teh_šák_ye_tah</i> <i>what are you doing?</i>	16 hatenqdá?uh <i>ha_te_nq_dá?_uh</i> <i>what is it?</i>
17 a?yete? <i>a?_ye_ta_te?</i> <i>I'm sorry</i>	18 ētawahstanqh kyate?diyōružah <i>e_ta_wah_sta_nqh</i> <i>kya_te?"di_yo_ru_žah</i> <i>it's a nice day, let's play!</i>	19 wehstá?tu? <i>weh_stá?_tu?</i> <i>don't do that</i>	20 hata?úh a:yakjera?t <i>ha_ta?_úh</i> <i>a:_yak_ye_ra?_t</i> <i>what should I wear?</i>	21 yekwara? yawahstih <i>yek_wa_ra?</i> <i>ya_wah_stih</i> <i>good clothes</i>	22 hú?wahēh <i>hú?_wa_hēh</i> <i>come here</i>	23 hē:kweh <i>hē:_kweh</i> <i>let's go</i>
24 ayatómēht <i>a_ya_tq_mēht</i> <i>I am tired/worn out/</i> <i>fatigued</i>	25 šatōrehšahsta? <i>ša_tō_reh_šah_sta?</i> <i>are you hungry?</i> yatōrehšahsta? <i>ya_tq_reh_šah_sta?</i> <i>I am hungry</i>	26 hata?úh ihšehe? a:hše"gyaha? <i>ha_ta?_úh ih_še_he?</i> <i>a:h_še_"gya_ha?</i> <i>what do you want to eat?</i>	27 tsi"gyahah <i>tsi_"gya_hah</i> <i>eat, y'all!</i>	28 tizameh hōmahšuta?ayehē? <i>ti_za_mēh</i> <i>hō_mah_š_u_ta?_a_ye_hē?</i> <i>thank you, our ancestors</i>	29 šarōka? Wa'dat <i>ša_rō_ka? Wa_"dat</i> <i>do you speak/understand</i> <i>Wa'dat?</i>	30 hē: yarōka? Wa'dat <i>hē: ya_rō_ka? Wa_"dat</i> <i>yes, I speak/understand</i> <i>Wa'dat!</i>

Wyandotte Book Club!

The Cultural Center hosts an online book club using ZOOM every quarter. We read new and classic works by indigenous authors then discuss how they inform our lives as Wyandottes. We encourage anyone who is interested to sign up and attend our sessions – whether you finished the book or not! Every selection will be available in paperback and audiobook and you are invited to choose which format works best for you.

2025 Selections:
 • February 18th, 2025, NOON & 7:30 PM CT: Moon of the Crusted Snow by Waubgeshig Rice
 • May 14th, 2025: Custer Died for Your Sins: An Indian Manifesto by Vine Deloria, Jr (any edition)
 • August 2025: Wandering Stars by Tommy Orange
 • November 2025: The Sentence, a Novel by Louise Erdrich
 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.

WYANDOTTE NATION

5TH ANNUAL

Easter Egg Hunt



AGE GROUPS:

0-2 YRS

3-4 YRS

5-6 YRS

7-9 YRS

10-12 YRS

APRIL
2025

12

START AT 10:00 AM

100 JACKPOT
PL., WYANDOTTE,
OK 74370

