



The Turtle Speaks

# Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 29, Issue 2

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

May 2025

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt A Hoppin' Good Time Page 5



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

The Wyandotte Nation  
8 Turtle Drive  
Wyandotte, OK 74370

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



### Inside:

- Education Center expands to meet growing needs
- Notice of Annual Meeting & Election
- Tribe named 'Large Business of the Year'

Board of Directors

Chief .....Billy Friend  
Second Chief ....Norman Hildebrand, Jr.  
Councilperson..... Keith Gray  
Councilperson..... Vivian Fink  
Councilperson..... Rob Nesvold  
Councilperson.....Eric Lofland

Content

May Movie Night.....4  
Education Expansion ..... 5  
Tribe named 'Business of the Year' ..... 5  
Easter Egg Hunt Pictures..... 5  
News & Notes..... 6  
Tribal Department Reports..... 7-16

Editor/Design: William Swaim



Cover Photo:  
Posing with the  
Easter Bunny  
during annual  
Easter Egg Hunt  
near River Bend  
Casino.

PHOTO: JOSHUA GARCIA

Contact Us

Have News?

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

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



[www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation)



[www.x.com/WyandotteNation](http://www.x.com/WyandotteNation)



Instagram

Threads

[www.instagram.com/wyandottenation](http://www.instagram.com/wyandottenation)  
[@wyandottenation@threads](https://www.threads.net/@wyandottenation)



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



From the Chief

Billy Friend

Summer Youth Internship, Town Halls have become vital programs

Kweh, I hope this quarter’s news-letter finds you well and enjoying the arrival of a new season.

I want to begin by expressing my sincere gratitude to all of our Tribal Citizens in the Southeastern United States who joined us for our recent Town Hall Meeting in Macon, Georgia. It was a true honor to meet so many of you and your families, many for the very first time.

For over a decade now—12 years, to be exact—we’ve made it a priority to take our annual meeting, traditionally held in Oklahoma, to communities across the country. With more than 7,000 enrolled Wyandotte citizens and only 400–500 typically able to attend in Oklahoma, these Town Hall Meetings have become a vital part of how we stay connected. They’re one of the most meaningful steps we’ve taken as a Nation—strengthening our bonds and ensuring every Wyandotte citizen feels seen, heard, and proud of their identity.

Another initiative I’m incredibly proud of is our Summer Youth Internship Program. Each summer, 20–25 Wyandotte youth between the ages of 16 and 22 join us to gain hands-on work experience and, just as importantly, learn more about their heritage and their

**'As we move forward, I challenge each of us to keep the values of honor, respect, and civility alive in our homes, families, and communities!'**

role within our Nation. In a world filled with digital noise—phones, computers, social media—this program offers space for reflection, growth, and connection.

Throughout their time with us, we focus on instilling three essential values that lie at the heart of our community: honor, respect, and civility.

- **Honor** is more than an outward appearance; it’s the quiet commitment to doing what’s right, even when no one is watching. It’s about preparation, thoughtfulness, and integrity.

- **Respect** goes deeper than simple politeness. It’s about listening with intention, helping others, and working together. As Dave Chief wisely said, “Respect means

owning our own negativity and not being a 'Blame Shifter.'” True respect opens the door to harmony and understanding.

- **Civility**—common courtesy—is something we don’t see enough of today. Yet it’s essential for meaningful communication and healthy relationships. When we engage with one another respectfully, even difficult conversations can lead to positive outcomes.

It’s inspiring to see our young people showing genuine respect for our elders. Our elders, grounded in a time of fewer distractions, carry stories and wisdom that can guide us all. We encourage our youth to pause, listen, and connect—because in doing so, they’ll uncover powerful lessons.

As we move forward, I challenge each of us to keep the values of honor, respect, and civility alive in our homes, families, and communities. These time-honored principles will serve you well—not only in your personal life, but in every interaction you have. In today’s fast-moving world, it’s easy to lose sight of what really matters. But staying grounded in these values—that, I believe, is the Wyandotte way.

**Tizameh,**  
**Chief Friend**



From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Town Hall in Georgia a success; Projects taking shape after weather delays

Kweh Omateru  
Hello my friends and fellow Wyandotte Citizens, I hope everyone is fine and experiencing some beautiful spring weather. We had a great town hall meeting in Macon, Ga. last month, we finally found a place in the east where we can get enough tribal citizens to make the

trip feasible.  
Here on the Wyandotte Reservation everything is finally moving along after some nasty weather delays. The domestic violence building that is going up is taking shape, it will be a nice addition to the Wyandotte Nation. We will be starting a couple of road projects

east and west of the Turtle Hill duplex addition. The Pow-Wow grounds renovation is moving along even though the completion date will not be until June.



# PUBLIC NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING & ELECTION

On September 13, 2025, the Wyandotte Nation shall hold their Annual Meeting and Election at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center near Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The Election will begin at 9:00 a.m.

The purpose of the election is to elect the following positions:

- Chief
- 3 Board of Director Members
- 3 Grievance Committee Members

The term of each position is four years. Current members shall hold their office until successors are duly elected and given their oath of office.

The opening date to file for candidacy is May 16, 2025 with the closing date June 15, 2025 at

4:30 p.m. All qualified members of the Wyandotte Nation who desire his or her name to be placed on the ballot as a candidate for Elective Office must file a "Declaration of Candidacy" in person with the Election Board Secretary or a designated representative at the Wyandotte Nation Administration Building located at 8 Turtle Drive, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. No person shall be a candidate for more than one office at any one time. All such filings of Declaration of Candidacy must be filed no sooner than May 16, 2025 and no later than June 15, 2025. No later than three days following the close of the filing period, the Election Board Secretary shall cause to be posted at the Tribal Complex a complete list

of all candidates along with their respective office of candidacy.

A filing fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) shall be assessed for each candidate filing for Chief and Board of Directors. Ten dollars (\$10.00) will be assessed for Grievance Committee candidates. Each candidate for Elective Office shall be assessed these fees payable to the Wyandotte Nation by Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Personal Check or Money Order. These fees shall be used for election purposes. The filing fee shall be paid on the same date the prospective candidate submits his or her Declaration of Candidacy. Said filing fee is non-refundable.

**POLLING PLACE:** The official polling place for all Tribal Elec-

tions shall be the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center Classroom, Wyandotte, Oklahoma. The polling shall be opened from 9:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Any voter in line at the polling place but unable to cast a ballot before 11:00 a.m. will be allowed to finish voting. The polling place shall be staffed by at least two (2) polling officials designated by the Election Board.

Each voter will be required to present a photo ID and Tribal Membership Card. If the Tribal Membership Card has a photo on it, this will satisfy both of these requirements.

*— Zach Shockey, Chairperson,  
Wyandotte Nation Election  
Board*

## SECOND CHIEF

Continued from Page 2

I just returned from a self-governance conference in Arizona, right now nobody knows what is going to happen with this administration. Some of our grants that we apply for yearly are being done away with, we don't know if it will be temporary or permanent. These are very uncertain times we are living in.

How about some history about the greatest tribal nation in the country, the Wyandotte Nation:

The Wyandottes are the one of the most traveled Native American tribes in the history of the North American continent. It is commonly believed and many written histories have stated that the Wyandotte are Huron. Many people also assume that the Huron was a single tribe of people. However, the Huron was actually a confederacy of five tribes. It received the name Huron from early French explorers because of a hairstyle called the "roach". Worn by many of the men, it resembled the thick bristly hair on the back of wild boars that roamed Europe. The Wyandotte are directly related to the Huron Confederacy through the Attignawantan, one of the five tribes of the Confederacy.

The Wyandotte are descendants of the Attignawantan, the Tionon-

**"Being powerful is like being a lady. If you have to tell people you are, you aren't."**

*—Margaret Hilda Thatcher*

tati (Petun, Tobacco people) and the Wenrorhonon or the neutrals as they were sometimes called. They were all different politically rather than culturally and lived in close proximity to each other in Canada. It was natural for them to unite as one people in 1649-1650 after the defeat of the Huron Confederacy by the Iroquois Confederacy during the Beaver Wars. After the dispersal from their homelands, the Tionontati, Attignawantan and the Wenro united and called themselves Wandat.

In 1701, Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac, a Frenchman, invited the Wyandot to settle near his new fort – Fort Detroit. Within a few years, we ventured south and settled around Upper Sandusky, Ohio where we grew as a tribe and reclaimed a position of honor among other tribes of the Ohio Valley. Pressure from white settlers ultimately forced the Treaty

of 1843 and our removal to lands west of the Mississippi River. Some Wyandot chose to stay in the Detroit area and did not move west with the rest of the tribe. They still live there today. Upper Sandusky was our last Recognized Reservation. About a dozen Wyandotte men went overland with the tribes livestock while the rest of the tribe boarded two paddlewheel boats at Cincinnati, Ohio and made the trek from there to the confluence of the Missouri and Kansas Rivers. According to the treaty there was supposed to be land in Kansas for us, when we arrived there was no land or planned provisions available. We were dropped off in a swampy area, disease quickly swept through the people. Arrangements were quickly made and land was purchased from the Delaware. Our new reservation was located on highly sought and fought over land, which led to the treaty of 1855 and the Wyandot being ter-

minated as a tribe. Our land was quickly allotted and ultimately sold to white interests. In 1857, some Wyandot who were unwilling to accept U.S. citizenship relocated to Indian Territory. They returned to Kansas during the Civil War due to difficulties inflicted upon them by rebel Indian forces. As soon as the war was over, they returned to Indian Territory and sought reinstatement as a tribe.

The treaty of 1867 with the United States reinstated the Wyandotte as a tribe in Indian Territory (Oklahoma). They created a register of the whole people, resident in Kansas and elsewhere. Those not registered by the deadline or accepted back into the tribe were called Absentee Wyandot. After the Civil War, approximately 200 Wyandot moved from Kansas to Oklahoma. Land was purchased from the Seneca tribe, upon which we reestablished our lives in a new land in spite of very difficult circumstances. Although we came to Oklahoma in order to remain Indian, the challenges we faced and the decisions we made did not support the growth of our traditional way of life.

This is a condensed version of our tribal history, but it tells mainly of how we came to Oklahoma. I hope everyone has a wonderful spring and a fun filled summer.

**FREE  
ENTRY**

**OPEN TO  
THE PUBLIC**

# MOVIE NIGHT

**MAY  
09**

**STARTS  
8PM**



**FEATURING:  
DISNEY'S  
THIRTEENTH  
YEAR**

**HERITAGE ACRES PARK**

**64980 E 145 RD WYANDOTTE OK 74370**

**THIS PROJECT WAS MADE POSSIBLE IN PART BY THE INSTITUTE  
OF MUSEUM AND LIBRARY SERVICES NAE2549450LS**



# Preschool expands to meet growing needs



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center expanded recently. With the additional rooms, the Center can accept more children into classes with more space to work with.

The Wyandotte Nation Preschool has seen tremendous growth over the years with a long waiting list for those wanting to get into the premier program.

With that growth came the need for expanded services and space, and the Tribe recently completed an expansion of the Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center. It will create more space and give the Center the chance to accept more kids into the program.

“The expansion and new building were extremely important in allowing us to expand our childcare services that we were already offering,” said Workforce Development Director Cristi Hudson, who oversees education for the Tribe. “It allowed us to open more infant and toddler classrooms, provide larger classrooms for our preschool classes, added an indoor playground area for days that the

weather does not allow for outdoor play, and a larger cafeteria for the increase in the number of children we now have.”

The expansion included adding an infant, one-year old, and toddler class. The Center now has two infant rooms, two one-year old rooms, and three toddler rooms -- all in the old space. The new space has four preschool classrooms, an indoor playground, two offices, storage areas, and a conference room.

“The children and staff are loving the new expansion,” Hudson said. “It has allowed us to spread the children out more throughout the day, giving us more space to run around in.”

In addition to the expansion, the Center hired additional infant and toddler staff as well as additional kitchen staff. In 2024, the Center was recognized and certified as a 5-Star Childcare Facility.

## Annual Easter Egg Hunt a hoppin' good time



PHOTOS: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION

The Tribe held its 5th Annual Easter Egg Hunt near River Bend Casino & Hotel. The event is hosted annually by Family Services, Education, the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center, and the Cultural Division.



## Wyandotte Nation named 'Large Business of the Year'

The Miami Regional Chamber of Commerce (MRCC) recognized the Wyandotte Nation as the 'Large Business of the Year' at its recent 16th Annual MRCC Awards Gala. Also up for nomination were Family Dental Associates and Newell Coach.

The 2025 MRCC Awards Gala also recognized several individuals for their work as well as other businesses, including: New Business of the Year - Shawnee Skies Training Center & Shooting Complex; Small Business of the Year - Johnson Brothers Grain & Livestock; Medium Business of the Year - NEO Orthopedics & Rehabilitation.



# News & Notes



## Bryce wins scholarship, looks to help Wyandotte youth reconnect to outdoors

*(From National Interscholastic Cycling Association)*

To assist with the expenses of returning to the sport of mountain biking for his sophomore season as a "Trail Hawk," Caleb Bryce of the West Virginia Interscholastic Cycling League applied for and was awarded this diversity, community service and sport promotion based scholarship.

The Trek Pathfinder Scholarship was introduced in 2021 by Trek and the National Interscholastic Cycling Association (NICA) to bring greater diversity, equity, and inclusion to youth mountain biking by providing people of color with the bikes, gear, and resources they need to overcome historical barriers to the sport. Not only does Caleb enjoy the sport but also his teams commitment to caring for the outdoor spaces they utilize including the beautiful trails shared with nature enthusiasts of all types in his home state of West Virginia. Caleb's commitment to trail clearing and clean up as well his promise to promote the sport within his Tribe set Caleb apart from other applicants.

It is the desire of Caleb and his family (Mother, Rebecca Bryce, Long family descendant) to see more Wyandotte youth around the Country taking part in the sport that reconnects them to outdoor spaces while developing strong bodies and character.

## Obit: Clarice D'Adrian

Clarice D'Adrian, known lovingly as Dee, passed away at the age of 94, leaving behind a legacy of love, strength, and devotion to her family and friends. Born on October 13, 1930,

in Jay, Oklahoma, she was the proud daughter of Mike (Adrian Lon) and Minnie Hays. Dee was the second of six girls in the Hays family, spending her early years in Oklahoma with her sisters LaWanda, Treva, and June before moving to Washington State in that late 1930's. It was here that the family grew to include twins Joy and Jean, and they remained lifelong companions and best friends.



At the age of 17, Dee married the love of her life, James Taylor, on January 1, 1948. Their love was deep and enduring, lasting for 68 years until Jim's passing in 2016. Together, they raised four children: Michael, Jim, Jan, and Gary. Their life in the Navy took them across the United States and beyond, including California, Hawaii (twice), and Maryland, before settling on Whidbey Island, Washington in 1971, where they would spend the remainder of their years creating countless memories.

Throughout her life, Dee was a devoted wife and mother. She worked for Lockheed Martin in California, cared for her children during their first time in Hawaii, and later worked at the Navy Exchange in both Hawaii and Maryland. Upon settling in Whidbey Island, she was promoted to Supervisor at the Navy Exchange, where she worked in that role until her retirement. Dee was a treasured employee at the NEX and was a leader her counterparts looked up to. Dee's professional journey was marked by lifelong friendships and a career she was proud of.

Dee was a passionate traveler and cherished the many memories created with her family, often taking road trips across the country in their motor home. She loved hosting family holidays, gardening, and relishing the joys of watching her family grow, especially her many grandchildren and great-grandchildren who adored her. Her home was always open to others, offering unwavering support, guidance, love, and plenty of laughter. Dee's kindness, wisdom, and joyful spirit touched the lives of all who knew her. She was a true matriarch, beloved by her family, friends, and all who had the privilege of crossing her path.

Dee is survived by her children, Michael (Debbie) Taylor, Jim (Mimi) Taylor, Jan (Joe) Johnson, and Gary Taylor; her grandchildren, Peggy (Joe) Lupo, Angie (Al) Nall, Susie (Jaime) Johnson, Jaime (Yo) Fujikawa, Jennifer (Mike) Whitney, Jason (Melissa) Taylor, Tanya (Heather) Taylor; great-grandchildren, Airika, Airiana, JB, Ashlyn, Taylor, Addie, Maddie, Cameron, Ayla, Conner, Kyler, Lil Michael, Morgan, and Logan; and a great-great-grandchild, Georgia

Dee. She is also survived by her sisters, LaWanda Burgoyne, Joyce Heffron, and Jean Fritz, along with numerous extended family members and friends.

Dee was preceded in death by her loving husband, Jim, her parents, Mike (Adrian Lon) and Minnie Hays, her sisters June Austin and Treva Rogers, and her best friend, Beth Butler.

A life well-lived, Dee's legacy will endure in the hearts of all those who were blessed to know her. She will be deeply missed but forever remembered with love.



## Town Hall Meeting brought to the SE for the 1st time

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

The first Town Hall was held in Seattle and the Tribe made its first trip to the southeast recently with a visit to Macon, Georgia. Thanks to all who were able to join us. The Town Halls are held to help keep tribal citizens informed as well as provide them better connections to the Tribe and to other tribal citizens in their area.



**Beaty retires:** We honored Robyn Beaty in February on her retirement from Elder Services after 6+ years. Congratulations Robyn on your retirement and we wish you the best!

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Human Resources

*Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director*

They Wyandotte Nation Turtle Tots Program would like to welcome Jayden Baron as a new Afterschool Childcare Assistant. Jayden is currently a sophomore at Wyandotte



**BARON**

Schools where he is a member of the schools' band team. Some of his hobbies include collecting retro-tech, being with his friends and playing in the band. He enjoys spending as much time as possible with his friends from school. Fun fact about Jayden, he has watched every single episode and movie of the Dragon Ball franchise and he got to meet the voice actor for little Goku. We are excited to have Jayden join the Wyandotte Nation Family in the Education Department and wish him the best of luck!

The Wyandotte Nation Turtle Tots Program would like to welcome Addison Stovall as a new After School Childcare Assistant. She currently attends Wyandotte High School. Some of her hobbies include fishing and showing pigs. Addison enjoys spending time with her family and friends in her spare time. We are thrilled to have Addison join our team in the education department and wish her all the best!



**STOVALL**

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department would like to welcome Arthur Scribner as a new Police Officer. He received his education from MSSU in Joplin and has worked in Law Enforcement for the last 3 years. Some of Arthur's hobbies include hunting, fishing,



**SCRIBNER**

and video games. In his spare time, Arthur enjoys spending time with his girlfriend and her two boys relaxing and just enjoying life. We are grateful to have Arthur join the Wyandotte Nation Family and we wish him much success in his career!

The Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department would like to welcome Curtis Brodrick as the new Environmental Recycling Technician. In his spare time Curtis enjoys spending time with his family. We are excited for Curtis to join our team and wish him great success with the Wyandotte Nation!



**BRODRICK**

The Wyandotte Nation Bearskin Clinic would like to welcome Hailey Streeter to the family as a Pharmacy Tech Sub. Hailey is a member of the Wyandotte Nation. She received her Pharmacy Technician training at WTI in Joplin. Some of her hobbies include painting, drawing, sculpting with clay and other art activities. In Hailey's spare time, she enjoys spending time with her grandma, playing video games and watching movies with her fiancé. We are grateful to have Hailey join the Wyandotte Nation family and wish her much success in the Pharmacy!



**STREETER**

## Family Services

*Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director*

The first quarter of 2025 has been busy with many activities and events such as the Easter Egg Hunt, Winter Gathering, Town Hall and many classes hosted by the Cultural Center and Museum.

The first-ever Town Hall Meeting to be hosted in the Southeast part of the country took place on Saturday, March 29 in Macon, GA, with more than 60 people in attendance. When we began planning for this event, we weren't sure what to expect as our citizens are spread out across several states, but we were extremely pleased with the attendance. Many participants traveled five hours or more to be able to attend their first Tribal event. We look forward to adding this location to our Town Hall cycle.

On April 12 the Tribe hosted the 5th Annual Easter Egg hunt for the community and had another wonderful turnout. Children 12 and under were able to gather up shares of the over 10,000 eggs. Many of the eggs included prizes and cash! This has turned into such a fun event for our families and we look forward to being back at the new and improved Pow-Wow grounds next year.

Everyone should have received the 2025 Services Brochure in the mail. This Brochure includes all tribal programs and is a great reference tool when looking for services. Programs and services can also be found on our website along with applications. If you did not receive a Brochure please let us know and we can get one in the mail to you. Along this same line, if you need to update your address, you can also do this through the website under the Services/Family Services tab.

### Enrollment:

As a reminder, Enrollment applications must either be hand delivered or postmarked by August 15 to be considered for citizenship at the 2025 Annual Meeting. Applications must be submitted with an original state certified birth certificate (long form that includes the parents' full name). Many states now offer short-form certificates that don't list all of the information necessary to trace lineage, so be sure to submit applications early in case the birth certificate you have doesn't meet this criteria or if birth certificate has errors. Also, enrollment applications are updated each year, to be sure that you're using the current application, please contact the Enrollment Officer to verify. This application is not available on our website, but one can be mailed or

emailed to you when requested.

### Tags:

The Tag office is open Monday – Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm. However, there may be times when the office will need to close. We do our best to give advance notice of these times, but if you are traveling a distance to visit the office, it's best to call in advance. We also ask that if you're registering a vehicle for the first time that you arrive 20 to 30 minutes before the close of business as these do take additional time to process. The Tribe encourages all Tribal citizens who have their vehicles registered with the Tribe and travel on Oklahoma toll roads, to either obtain a PikePass or utilize the PlatePay system to pay their tolls. Currently, the Oklahoma Turnpike authority does not have access to addresses for our citizens, but we are in the process of negotiating an agreement with them.

### Indian Child Welfare (ICW):

The Indian Child Welfare Act of 1978 is a United States federal law that governs jurisdiction over the removal of American Indian children from their families in custody, foster care, and adoption cases. The Wyandotte Nation ICW staff work with families across the country seeking outcomes that are in the best interest of the Wyandotte child. If you are currently involved in a state case, and are not working with the Tribe's ICW workers please, reach out to them. We are also in need of foster homes! Especially if you live within 100 miles of tribal headquarters. If you are interested in fostering and/or adopting you can contact Tara Gragg and she can help walk you through the process of becoming certified.

### Victim Services:

Victim Services staff offer a broad range of services for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, dating violence, stalking, human trafficking, child abuse, elder abuse and other violent crimes. Services are determined on a case-by-case basis to meet the individual needs of each client. The service area for this program is 100 miles from the tribal complex.

**Continued on Page 8**



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,  
Workforce Development Director*

### Wyandotte Nation Library:

Kweh! As we welcome the warmer days of spring, the Wyandotte Nation Historical Library is excited to share what's blooming in our corner of the community!

Mark your calendars: Library Movie Night is back in Bear Park on Thursday, May 9 at 8 pm! We'll be showing a fun, action-packed favorite chosen by our very own students

from the Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center's after-school program. We loved seeing their excitement during the vote and can't wait to watch this family-friendly classic together under the stars!

While you're visiting Bear Park, don't forget to check out our Story Book Walk! We're currently in the process of updating our display, and soon it will feature the story, "Up In The Garden, Down In The Dirt" by Kate Messner-a beautiful story that celebrates the wonders of nature and the busy world beneath our feet.

Both Library Movie Night and the Story Book Walk are made possible by the generous support of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, grant number NAE-254945-OLS.

We are also gearing up for some exciting new programs launching this summer! While we're not ready to spill all the details just yet, we promise there are some creative and engaging opportunities on the horizon for readers, learners, and explorers of all ages. Stay tuned, we can't wait to share more soon!

As always, we invite you to stop by

the library and explore our growing collection of books, DVDs, and resources. Don't forget that we also offer access to the Oklahoma Virtual Library, where you can enjoy eBooks, audiobooks, and more.

Library Hours are Monday - Thursday 8 am to 4:30 pm and Friday 8 am to 3:30 pm.

To register as a library patron or to learn more about virtual access, visit us in person or check out our website

**Continued on Page 9**

## (FAMILY SERVICES)

### Continued from Page 7

The staff also provide several outreach and awareness events throughout the year to help bring attention to not only the services they provide, but also the prevalence of these issues within the community. Some of the upcoming events they will be participating with include; the Miami Senior Center open house on May 2, Honoring women social dance also on May 2, an MMIP awareness walk on May 9 at the Rotary Park in Miami, an MMIP event in conjunction with the Seneca Indian School Alumni Annual meeting on June 6 and a Family Fun Night hosted by the WNCCM on June 13.

As always, we encourage tribal citizens to attend as many tribal events and functions as possible. They are a great opportunity to learn about your history, culture and language, as well as meet and build relationships with tribal citizens. Some of these events include: The Gathering of Little Turtles, June 20-22, The Gathering, September 8-12 and the Pow-Wow, September 12-14. The Cultural Department and Cultural Advisory Board spend a great deal of time and effort into making each of these events memorable, entertaining and informative. Also, the Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, September 13. Tribal citizens who attend the meeting will be required to show their tribal ID to receive the meeting stipend. If the tribal ID does not include a photo, a photo ID will need to be provided as well. CDIB's

will not be accepted as proof of citizenship. Additional meeting details will be announced in the August newsletter.

As always, it is an honor and a privilege to serve the Wyandotte people. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about any of our programs.

### **FAMILY SERVICES STAFF:**

Contact email for Family Services: [wfnfs@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:wfnfs@wyandotte-nation.org)  
**Director**, Dana Butterfield 918-678-6319

**ICW/APS 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

**Family Services Front Desk**, Kailey Bearskin, 918-678-6321

**Contact email for Victim Services:** [477vs@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:477vs@wyandotte-nation.org)  
**Toll Free number for FVPP:** 877-276-0669

**Program Manager**, Chelsea King, 918-678-3257

**Lead Advocate**, Gabby Ezell, 918-678-6402

**Crime Victims' Advocates:** Kristi Johnston, Becky Maples, Hannah Rhodes, Alexia King and Lacy Butler  
**Supervised Visitation Specialist**, Shaela Neal, 918-678-6324

## May is MMIP Awareness Month

Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) Awareness Month is May. It's a month dedicated to raising awareness about the disproportionately high rates of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, Two-Spirit individuals, and people. Red Dress Day, a specific day within this month, is on May 5th and is a national day of awareness for MMIP.

For decades, American Indian and Alaska Native (AIAN) Communities have struggled with high rates of assault, abduction, and murder of tribal members. A 2016 Study by the National Institute of Justice found that more than four in five or 84.3% of Native American women have experienced violence in their lifetime, including 56.1% who have experienced sexual violence as well as rates of murder, rape and violent crimes are all higher than the national averages. When looking at missing and murdered cases, data shows that AIAN women make up a significant portion of missing and murdered individuals. Statistics also show that



approximately 1,500 AIAN missing persons have been entered into the National Crime Information Center throughout the US and approximately 2,700 cases of Murder and Non-Negligent Homicide Offenses have been reported to the Federal Government's Uniform Crime Reporting program. In total, the BIA estimates there are approximately 4,200 missing and murdered cases that have gone unsolved.

Please join Wyandotte Nation staff as we raise awareness during the month of May for MMIP.



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## (EDUCATION)

### Continued from Page 8

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

For questions, contact our librarian, Madeline Harnar, at [mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto:mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org) or call 918-678-6332.

### 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 provide 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](mailto: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 daycare. Eligible families are those who have children ages 0 through 12 years old, meet income criteria, and have provided initial documentation. At this



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

(ABOVE) Head Man Joshua Garcia, Head Lady and Wyandotte Nation Princess Chloe Friend, and Education staff lead the preschoolers during Grand Entry of the annual Chief Leaford Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow held at the Wyandotte High School Gym Thursday, April 17. (BELOW) During a series of songs, family and friends joined their preschoolers during the Bearskin Memorial Pow-Wow.

time, subsidy is providing services for approximately 130 children at various childcare providers throughout 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 have been busy recertifying current childcare subsidy recipients and are now working on this year's Week of the Young Child events as well as planning enrichment activities and training opportunities for families and childcare providers in the area.

• **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 21 participants 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 spring semester as well as attended several scholarship fairs to promote the program.

### Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center:

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is working hard to wrap up another school year. This year has been filled with lots of learning and lots of exciting events from class parties and field trips to special visitors. January brought us a visit from Mrs. Chaille Bates, a local Veterinarian. We welcomed her and a few furry friends into our facility so she could talk to us about caring for animals. In February we celebrated Valentine's Day with class parties and our 100th Day of School with Field Trips to Ocean Adventure and SOAR. March brought us lots of excitement with dress up days for Read Across America Week in conjunction with Dr. Seuss' birthday as well as Spring Break. We also had a visit from the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department to teach us about the importance of taking care of the Earth and recycling. We held our Easter class parties and egg hunts on April 16. We also worked very hard with the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Department to get ready for our Annual Leaford Bearskin Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow on Thursday, April 17 (See pictures in this issue). This event was held at the Wyandotte Public School Gymnasium.

Our End of Year Program and Graduation Ceremony is quickly approaching on Monday, May 12 at the Bearskin Healthcare & Wellness Center Gymnasium beginning at 7:00pm. Our last day of school will

Continued on Page 10

# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Housing

**Submitted by Kathy DeWeese, Housing Director**

The Heritage Acres Community Center is available to rent for weekend events. It includes a room with tables and chairs (seating for approximately 70), a kitchen area, and a game room with pool tables, ping pong, shuffleboard, air hockey, and a basketball game. The dates do fill up quickly, so please contact the office as soon as possible to check on dates if you are interested. There is a \$25 deposit required to reserve the date, which is returned after rental if the facility is left clean and free of damage. The rental cost is \$50 for tribal members and employees, and \$75.00 for non-tribal members.

The Housing Department provides rental units and homeownership units for tribal families. The Heritage Acres Housing Addition has family units consisting of 2-bedroom duplexes and 3-bedroom homes. Senior Housing is also provided

for tribal families who are 55 and older. Senior housing consists of 2-bedroom duplexes with a garage and all appliances. Routine home maintenance and yard work is taken care of by the housing maintenance staff. The family housing units and senior units are in close proximity to the park and splash pad, Title VI (Elder food program), and Bearskin Health & Wellness Center. Wyandotte Nation was able to purchase property to the north of the existing housing addition that will create additional space for the housing addition to expand. Plans have been made to construct (8) additional family units in the existing housing addition area, while infrastructure and (16) additional senior units will be constructed on the property expansion. Infrastructure is planned to begin this spring, while construction on the housing units is expected to begin this fall. Federal income guidelines do apply for the housing programs. If you are interested in any of these, applications can be found online at the Wyandotte Nation website, or they can be picked up at our office location at 14325

Porcupine Road, Wyandotte, OK 74370.

Additional covered picnic areas are currently being added to Bear Park for smaller group sizes. The large pavilion and smaller picnic areas are available to the public on a first-come, first-serve basis. Plans are in the works to expand the splash pad later in the year to add some new features and a larger area for kids to play in. The park includes a basketball court, playground equipment, swings, a small zip line, and also a walking trail that circles the entire playground area.

### DEPARTMENT STAFF:

**Kathy DeWeese**, Housing Director

**Valari Richards**, Assistant Housing Director

**Jocelyn Metcalf**, Housing Specialist

**Levi Griffin/Paul Parker**, 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

**Continued on Page 11**

## (EDUCATION)

### Continued from Page 9

be Tuesday, May 13. Upcoming closures for our facility include May 16 for Employee Appreciation Day, and May 26 for Memorial Day. The first day of our Summer Program will be Wednesday, May 14 for students enrolled with us.

We are currently accepting enrollment for our 3-4 Year Old Preschool classrooms as well as our 4-5 Year Old Pre-K classrooms for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year which begins on August 12, 2025. To be eligible for these classrooms students must be 3 years old on or before September 1, 2025 and be fully potty trained. We are accepting applications for our waiting lists for our Infant/Toddler Classrooms for the upcoming school year as well. 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/turtle-tots/>

### 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. We are currently serving more than 250 mem-

bers in their schooling and training. The Education Specialist is currently working through new applications for the upcoming 2025-2026 school year in the Wyandotte Nation Undergrad Program. With the May 1st deadline approaching, do not forget to apply if you are a new participant in our scholarship programs. 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.

The WN Education Department now has applications available for graduation stoles for college students' receiving their Associates, Bachelors, and Masters Degrees. This process can take a few weeks to mail out so submit all applications accordingly. This application and list of required documents is located on the tribal website under the Education Section.

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



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## (HEALTH)



### Continued from Page 10

Identification on file.

- 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 of 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, recementing 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

P1 - CORE - ESSENTIAL	P2 INTERMEDIATE - NECESSARY
<b>A. PREVENT- REHAB</b>	<b>A. PREVENTIVE /REHAB</b>
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
	ACUTE INFUSION SERVICES - BLOOD PRODUCTS, IRON, ANTIBIOTICS
DEXA SCAN	MEDICAL NUTRITION THERAPY
AAA SCR US- SMOKER	TOBACCO CESSATION COUNSELING
LUNG CANCER CT SMOKER	DME - SUPPLIES (post op wound care, splints, casts)
WOUND MANAGEMENT	HEARING AIDS ADULTS ONLY
ORTHOTIC AND DIABETIC FOOTWEAR	COCHLEAR IMPLANTS - ADULTS ONLY
LIMB PROSTHETICS	
BREAST MRI	
<b>B. MEDICAL/ DENTAL VISION /SURGICAL</b>	<b>B. MEDICAL/ DENTAL VISION /SURGICAL</b>
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
	M/SX SPECIALITY CONSULTS- CHRONIC -JOINT REPLACEMENT AFTER ALTERNATIVE TREATMENTS INCLUDING PT & INJECTIONS
RETINAL SX/ RETINAL SPECIALITY CARE	DX IMAGING NON-ACUTE
HIV MANAGEMENT	EEG
DIAGNOSTIC COLONOSCOPY	EMG
CARDIAC CLEARANCE FOR PROCEDURE	
NEPHROLOGY - LOW GFR	
ELEVATED PSA - EVALUATION	
HYGIENE VISITS - 2 PER YEAR	
FILLINGS	
SEALANTS	
DIAGNOSTIC MAMMO	
<b>C. REPROD/ MATERNAL / CHILD HEALTH</b>	<b>C. REPROD/ MATERNAL / CHILD HEALTH</b>
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	
<b>D. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</b>	<b>D. BEHAVIORAL HEALTH</b>
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

### ENVIRONMENT

#### January

With the New Year upon us, our department continues to stay busy with our day to day work activities. Our two Water Technicians John Gerhard and Ryan Haggard, continue to sample 8 local water sites throughout the month, and perform private well sampling.

Staff also participates in several in-person and online meetings with other tribal, state and federal entities, to keep informed with environmental issues.

On January 31, Christen Lee and Kathy Welch had an information booth at the “We are Wyandotte” River Bend Employee event.



#### February

On February 10 we welcomed a new employee to our department, Curtis Brodrick. Curtis has taken over the duties as our Recycling Technician for the Lost Creek Recycle Center.

On February 27, Kathy along with Kristi Laughlin of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe, gave presentations for the Sperry-Galligar Audubon Society, at Pittsburg State University, Kansas. The presentations had information about both of the tribes, and the

environmental departments.

#### March

Well, finally the temperatures are starting to warm up a bit, but we still had a few winter like days to contend with.

On March 19, Kathy gave an education presentation on recycling to the Community Shelter Organization. The event took place at



the Quapaw Fire Station in Wyandotte.

On March 26, Ryan and John held an environmental education event at the Wyandotte Turtle Tots Preschool. Ryan and John talked to the kids about the weather changes and the effects it has on the environment.

#### 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 time-frame, staff also performed quarterly nutrient sampling on three lost creek sites, and e-coli sampling on all 8 sites.

Staff has attended several online and in person meetings and trainings such as RTOC, NATURE, TECO, TCTC, TCTCIT, TSMD and others.

#### April Events:

April 22: Our department hosted a Lunch and Learn at the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center.

April 21 – 27: We hosted a Spring Tire Collection event at the Lost Creek Recycle Center.

#### Services Provided

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

--Submitted by Kathleen Welch, Environmental Department Manager

#### 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
- Curtis Brodrick (Recycling Tech)** 918-678-6352
- Jalin Enyart (Jalin Enyart (Recycling Tech II)**

*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.

- The Indian Housing Block Grant will allow for the construction of 8 new duplexes, totaling 16 new housing units, available to seniors once completed.

- \$228,014 from the Office of Violence Against Women, to advance the Wyandotte Nation’s Probation Enhancement Project. Grant funds awarded will be used for monitoring devices, testing kits, software, as well as training.

- \$139,772 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services, for the Library Enhancement, will be used to create a seed library, Tiny Tots Preschool will create and maintain “Tots Garden”, and outdoor reading and STEAM play space, AWE after school Edge Station and Cricut exploration

Continued on Page 13

Grants Awarded from January thru March 2025	
Indian Housing Block Grant	\$3,454,914

Grants Submitted from January thru March 2025	
Justice for Families-Office of Violence Against Women	\$228,014
Native American Library Services Enhancement Grant-Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$139,772
Native American Library Services Basic Grant-Institute of Museum and Library Services	\$10,000
Legal Services-Office of Violence Against Women	\$367,190
Native American Career and Technical Education Program-Department of Education	\$1,562,144
Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation-Department of Justice	\$1,556,662



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## (PLANNING)

Continued from Page 12

opportunity.

- \$10,000 from the Institute of Museum and Library Services-Basic Library Grant, will provide books and journals, as well as two conferences.

- 367,190 for Legal Services through the Office of Violence Against Women, will provide salaries of Project Coordinator, a Staff Attorney, as well as a contracted Supervising Attorney. Office equipment/ supplies, and travel have also been budgeted.

- \$1,562,144 for Native American Career and Technical Education Program through the Department of Education. This program will provide funding for key staff as well as support 25 program participants per year in obtaining post-secondary and technical education at Northeast Tech. This is a 5-year project.

- \$1,556,662 from the Department of Justice for the Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation. There are two parts to the application. Purpose Area 1 will provide a salary for a Wildlife and Conservation Officer, overtime, equipment, vehicle, and training. This officer will enforce hunting, fishing, trapping and other related and general laws within Wyandotte Nation the Reservation. Purpose Area 3 will provide support for the only two full-time court staff members.

### Projects:

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

We are working with Create-4-All Architect/Engineer, on the Bearskin Gymnasium expansion. This is funded by HUD, and is an ICDBG-23.

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

### 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

## Elder Services

*Submitted by Brenda House,  
Elder Services Director*

Greetings all!

The Miami Senior Center will have an Open House Friday, May 2 at 10 am. There will be vendors providing healthcare resources, speakers, incentives and lunch provided. The center is located at 2104 Denver Harnar Drive, Miami, OK.

Mother's Day Dinner is Thursday, May 8 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Our menu will be pot roast and sides.

June 10 is the Ottawa County Senior Day at Buffalo Run Casino in Miami, OK from 9 am to 1 pm. There will be vendor booths, speakers, games and incentives. The amazing Duke Mason will provide the music. Lunch and light breakfast snacks provided.

Father's Day Dinner is Thursday, June 12 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. Our menu will be brisket and sides.

We are making plans to go to Branson, MO in June. The date has yet to be determined.

### CAREGIVER:

Our Caregiver Support Group is the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 am - 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.



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION

Our Artie Nesvold Elders Center hosted its annual Valentine's Day lunch and gave a few gifts! Our Oldest Valentine at 91 years young was John Peyton. Our Longest Married (65 years!) - Ronald and Mary Addison (Pictured Above). Our Newlyweds (2 years) were Larry and Janice Spoon. And the one Married the Most Times (and Willing to Admit It!) was Cheryl McKibben (7 times).

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.

**Food Service Team Members** (918) 678-6328: Seth Higginbotham, Amanda Turner, Kelli Snell, Kayla



Ezell and Susan Skaggs.

**Menu:** Available on the Wyandotte Nation website.

Important Numbers

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

**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  
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

Kweh awéti? ! (Greetings, all!)

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. Recent themes include “Useful Phrases” paired with vocab from the WNCCM’s cultural craft week in March that included making baskets, tanning hides, pulling off bark, beading and sewing, among others. Past or new monthly themes feature 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. Waʼdat Wednesdays are designed to be “stand-alone” classes so you can attend when it is convenient for you.

Craig Koprís & Darcy Allred Selected for National Breath of Life Apprenticeship Program

The Waʼdat Language Program has exciting news to share! Tribal linguist Dr. Craig Koprís and WNCCM language coordinator Yahšęŋhaqʼ / Darcy Allred have recently been selected for an amazing language revitalization opportunity. They are participating in the National Breath of Life’s Apprenticeship Program in partnership with the Myaamia Center. This program is highly selective, with 20 apprenticeship spots available across the entire nation. Our Waʼdat learning community was one out of the 20 chosen—an enormous honor, as well as reward in earning recognition for the tireless work our community has poured into reawakening Waʼdat over the last few years.

The apprenticeship program is an 18–24-month cycle where participants receive advanced archival training and support to create a language archive base tailored to each tribal community’s particular research and educational needs. For our Waʼdat learning community, Darcy is serving as the community archivist, and Craig serves as her mentor. Our main goals within the next 2 years are to develop:

- a living Waʼdat dictionary
- a Waʼdat language archive search engine created with a software suite called ILDA (“Indigenous Languages

Language Notes

Digital Archive”)

For more information check out the National Breath of Life blog at <https://nbolblog.org>. We will have updates as more details emerge. We are so grateful and eager to take our Waʼdat language reclamation efforts to the next level in this endeavor!

**Upcoming events:**

- May 21, Waʼdat Wednesday, at 12 noon & 8 pm central via Zoom, Theme: Crafts (focus on beading)
- Waʼdat wayęteʼyeh (summer) sessions start in June (TBD) for those who have attended online language classes, while classes are on break until fall

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

**Interested in learning our language?**

We will begin another beginner class in October. If you would like to be notified when registration become available, please add your name to our mailing list and take a few minutes to tell us your learning preferences at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/LangInterest> – Tižamęh!

Be sure to send any comments or suggestions, especially those on your language & culture wishlist, to: [wandat-language@wyandotte-nation.org](mailto: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 Waʼdat language connects us with our ancestors and highlights our commitment to stand up for Wyandotte Nation. Waʼdat 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. The application process for 2025 is wrapping up!

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 31 deadline does not guarantee a name will be bestowed that same year. To begin the process for 2026, 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!) Tižamęh!

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



# TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

## Cultural Division

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

Kweh! We celebrated Native American Heritage Month in November. At Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center and Museum (WNCCM), we have 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<sup>n</sup>dat 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 Gather-

ing. 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. 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 Sahqtrędute? 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

Continued on Page 16

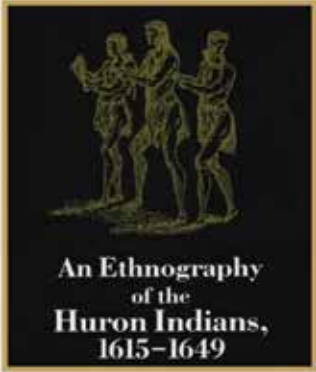



PHOTOS: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION  
The 2025 Winter Gathering was a success! We had a great turnout throughout Winter Gathering and were able to raise over \$2,000 for Teresa Wilson during our Bear the Cold 5K. We held a number of different classes, traditional storytelling, and a traditional dinner.




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:žatqhsřihšas | 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.



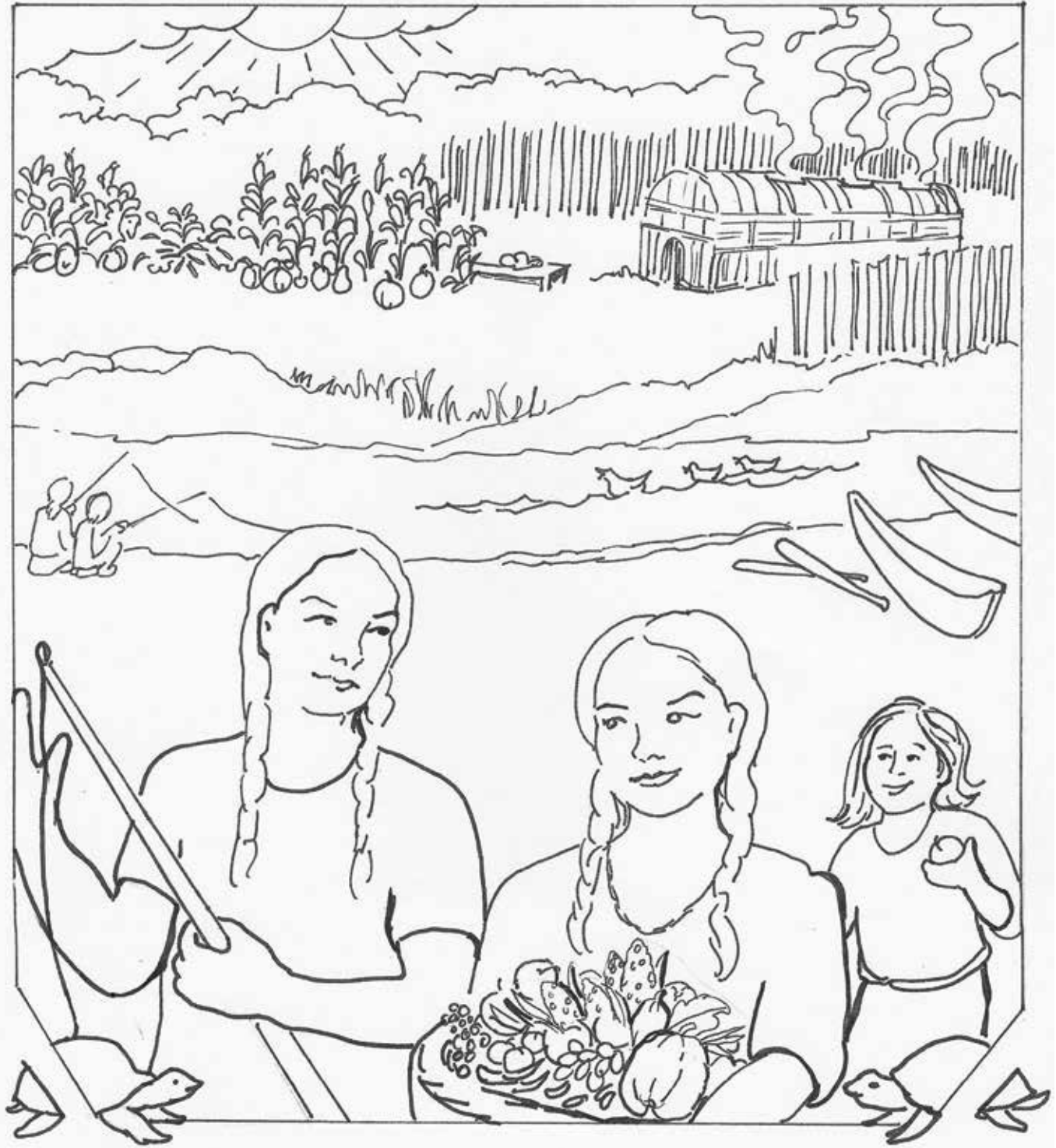
(CULTURAL)

Continued from Page 15

was single digit weather but we had over 100 people attend! We were also about 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.

We held 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.



yerahke"deh (spring) leading into wayęte?yeh (summer) Illustration by Emily "Ruthy" Logan

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:

- **May 28 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), please go to: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WyandotteBookClub>.

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