



The Turtle Speaks

Gyah'-Wish Atak-ia

A Wyandotte Nation Publication

Volume 29, Issue 4

www.wyandotte-nation.org

November 2025



34th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow

Page 8

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:

- **FEATURE:** Willow House to provide a place of 'hope'
- *The 'Gathering' one of the most successful ever*
- Tribe honors WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino as 'Honored Person'
- *New Career Tech Building opens the door to opportunity*

Board of Directors

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

Content

- Children's Christmas Party Flyer 4
- FEATURE: Willow House..... 5-6
- Career Tech Center opening..... 6
- New Tribal Citizens..... 7
- Annual Meeting & Election 8
- Pow-Wow in Pictures..... 8
- Gathering in Pictures..... 9
- National Night Out 9
- Tribal Department Reports..... 10-17
- Cultural Division..... 18-20

Editor/Design: William Swaim



Grand Entry Saturday evening during the Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow.

PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM

Contact Us

Have News?

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

Email: wswaim@wyandotte-nation.org



www.facebook.com/WyandotteNation



www.x.com/WyandotteNation



Instagram Threads

www.instagram.com/wyandottenation

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



www.youtube.com/WyandotteNation



From the Chief

Billy Friend

2025 Annual Meeting Address

State of the Nation

Fellow Wyandottes,
 Let me begin with gratitude. Thank you for the honor of allowing me to serve as your Chief for another 4 years. There is no greater privilege than working for the Wyandotte people. And together, we will keep building this great Nation.

This past year has been a year of growth. Our businesses have expanded. Our programs and services have improved. We've made progress. But we are not finished. A great Nation never measures itself by what it has done, but by how well it serves its people. And together, we are proud of what we've accomplished.

The story of the Wyandottes is one of strength. Our journey never truly ends because every ending brings a new beginning. The successes we celebrate today were planted generations ago. Our ancestors carried the burden, and they carried the hope. Through hardship, we endured. Through loss, we rose. Time and again, when something was taken from us, we came back stronger, more determined, and more prosperous than before.

Our mission has always been clear: to improve the quality of life for every Wyandotte citizen. Health, Housing, Education, Cultural Identity, and Economic development. These pillars support

'The story of the Wyandottes is one of strength. Our journey never truly ends because every ending brings a new beginning.'

everything we do. Each one builds on the other, healthy people, safe homes, strong schools, thriving culture, and jobs. When one rises, all rise.

We have met many goals in these areas, but with every goal achieved, a new one begins. The work of the Wyandotte people is never finished. And our journey continues.

Our businesses are vital to that future. The revenues they bring are not just numbers on a page they are scholarships for our students, housing for our families, cultural preservation, health care for our people, and support for our elders. They are the lifeblood of our programs. And that is why we must keep pushing forward, finding new opportunities, building new enterprises, and creating new jobs for our people.

At our Annual Meeting and

Gathering, we celebrated just how far we've come. But we also reminded ourselves of the work still before us.

Each generation hopes to give the next a better life. Our children and grandchildren will face challenges we cannot yet see, but they will also have opportunities greater than ours. It is our responsibility to prepare them and to give them the tools, the education, the health, the work, and the pride to carry this Nation even further. If we do that, they will not only provide for themselves, but build a future brighter than we can imagine.

Our challenges are real. But so are our opportunities. And Wyandotte people have never backed down from either. We are strong. We are independent. And when we work together, we overcome.

So today, as we celebrate our accomplishments, let us also honor those who came before us. Our ancestors who carried us here. Without their vision, their determination, their sacrifice we would not stand here today as the strong Nation we are.

And so, I say with pride: The State of the Wyandotte Nation has never been stronger. Together, we will keep building. Together, we will keep moving forward.

God bless the Wyandotte people. And God bless the Wyandotte Nation.

From the Second Chief | Norman Hildebrand, Jr.

Work done on Willow House, other projects

Kweh Omateru
 Hello my friends, here it is October and it certainly doesn't feel like fall yet. The nights are getting cooler but the days are still very warm, hopefully the fall weather will get here and we won't have to mow grass anymore.

Here on the Wyandotte Nation Reservation there are still many construction projects just beginning or finishing up. One that is completed is the Willow House, our new domestic violence building south of the administration building. We have made the final walk through

and they will be able to move in early in November, it will be a great addition to the Wyandotte Nation. A lot



See **SECOND CHIEF**, Page 3

Government shutdown: Official statement from the Wyandotte Nation

NOTE: *As of this publishing, the federal government was still locked in a shutdown.*

The Wyandotte Nation is closely monitoring the current federal government shutdown and its potential impact on tribal programs and services. I want to reassure our citizens that, at this time, we do not

anticipate any disruptions in the services provided by the Wyandotte Nation. All essential programs and services remain fully operational, and our departments continue to function without interruption.

While we do not foresee immediate effects, we recognize that prolonged shutdowns can create

uncertainty. Please know that we are in active communication with our federal partners and will continue to monitor developments closely. If circumstances change in a way that could affect services to our citizens, we will provide timely updates through official Wyandotte Nation communication channels.

The well-being of our people is, and always will be, our highest priority. We remain committed to ensuring stability, continuity, and transparency throughout this period, and we will continue to keep you informed.

**Respectfully,
Chief Billy Friend**

SECOND CHIEF

Continued from Page 2

of dirt is being moved on Turtle Hill for the last phase of duplexes and some townhouses, we are also going to widen and asphalt the two roads that border Turtle hill so that will cut down on dust and enhance the overall look of that project. The last phase on Wyandotte Ridge is almost done as the road is cut in, the curbing is finished, and the asphalt should start anytime. The waste water treatment plant expansion is nearing completion. Construction of one duplex and six family homes have started in Heritage Acres, that will complete the housing plans there until we can expand our infrastructure north of Heritage Acres. We are also in the planning phase of a new Justice Center that will be built in the near future.

Construction of the new gymnasium will be starting the first of November and the recycling center addition will also be starting soon. The Vo-Ag and Technology Center at the school is completed and will be a great addition to the Wyandotte Schools. If you made it to the pow-wow this year, you have seen all the improvements we made. Improvements that were finished just days before the pow-wow started so it may have seemed a little rough in places but will definitely be an improvement for years to come.

The history in this article will probably be a two or three-part series to cover all aspects of the history of The Wyandot Floats and the Wyandott Allotments. Some of you have heard about this but many have not, so I hope you find it interesting. This information came from the Wyandotte County Historical Society & Museum (Bonner Springs, Kansas):

One of the less-understood aspects of early Wyandotte County history is the difference between the so-called Wyandot Floats and the Wyandott

Allotments, both of which originated in treaties between the U.S. Government and the Wyandot Nation. Among the things sometimes stated are the assertions that the floats originated with the treaty of 1855, that those Wyandot Indians who received floats under the treaty of 1855 did not receive allotments, that some of the floats were on land that had been part of the Wyandott Purchase, or that there was just one float, in the area that is now the Central Industrial District. None of these statements are true, the floats and allotments were completely separate from one another, and originated in different treaties.

The Wyandot Floats were land grants made to 35 prominent Wyandots under Article 14 of the Treaty of 1842, which provided for the removal of the Wyandots from Michigan and Ohio to Kansas. The 35 individuals listed in the treaty were George Armstrong, John M. Armstrong, Silas Armstrong, George I. Clarke, Peter D. Clarke, Jared S. Dawson, Charles B. Garrett, George Garrett, Joel Walker Garrett, Doctor Greyeyes, Francis A. Hicks, John Hicks, Henry Jacquis, Ethan A. Long, Irvin P. Long, Elliott McCulloch, Samuel McCulloch, Joseph Newell, Peacock, George Punch, James Rankin Jr., Ebenezer Z. Reed, Robert Robitaille, Ron-ton-dee, Squeendechtee, Tauromee, Joseph L. Tennery, William M. Tennery, Henry Clay Walker, Joel Walker, John R. Walker, Matthew R. Walker, William Walker Jr., and James Washington. Each grantee was to receive one section of land (640 acres) on any unclaimed (nonreservation) U.S. government lands west of the Mississippi River. As these were “floating” land grants, not tied to any specific location, they came to be called the Wyandot Floats.

The reason for the grants isn’t spelled out anywhere, but it was probably an attempt by the government to “sweeten” the removal agreement, as most of those who re-

ceived the grants were from among the more assimilated Wyandots who had strongly resisted the pressure for their removal. A number of the Wyandots who received the grants, including George Garrett, Joseph L. Tennery, and John R. Walker, never moved to Kansas but remained in Ohio. This meant that technically they were no longer members of the Wyandot Nation, but it did not cancel their claims to their grants. (Every time an Indian nation was moved, those who did not move ceased to be recognized as members of that nation. In this way the government was able to incrementally reduce each nation’s size, land area and influence – and the government’s legal and financial obligations to that nation.)

In the years after the Wyandot’s arrival in Kansas, there were occasional attempts to claim floats, but they never seemed to get anywhere. At one point, Charles B. Garrett attempted to claim Council Grove on the Santa Fe Trail as his float, and after the Kansas-Nebraska Act was passed in May 1854, there was apparently a proposal by a number of the grantees to locate their floats on a two-mile-wide strip up the length of the Big Blue River, north of the present Manhattan, Kansas. When the treaty of 1855 was being drafted, the Wyandot Tribal Council stated that the floats had never been located on available land due to the Wyandot’s inability to obtain advice from the government as to where “available” land might be located. Consequently, when the treaty of 1855 was signed and ratified, Article 9 of the new treaty reaffirmed the land grants of 1842, on any unclaimed government lands west of the states of Missouri and Iowa. Note that these were not new grants, and they had nothing to do with the Wyandott Allotments that were also called for in the in the new treaty.

A final list of the Wyandot Floats was issued by John Calhoun,

Surveyor General for Kansas and Nebraska Territories, on October 21, 1857. Once the location of each land grant was approved by the commissioner of Indian Affairs, Patents of title were issued to the 35 original grantees, or to their heirs in the case of those who (like George Garrett, Doctor Greyeyes, or John M. Armstrong) had died the intervening years. A number of the grantees did quite well, as they were able to locate their floats on lands that became the sites of a number of eastern Kansas towns. In one such instance, Isaiah Walker sold his float on the south side of the Kansas River to the Topeka Associations town company for \$1,200.00, or almost \$2.00 an acre.

As most of the present Wyandotte County was part of the Wyandotte Purchase, the Delaware Reserve, or the Shawnee Reserve, only one float was located here. Silas Armstrong successfully claimed the area in the west bottoms between the Missouri state line and the Kansas River, where the Wyandots had first camped on their arrival in July 1843, as this was U.S. government land originally set aside for the proposed building of a fort, and had never been part of an Indian reserve. It is Armstrong’s float that is sometimes mistakenly referred to as “the” Wyandot Float, but it was just one of 35 the Wyandot Floats, the Wyandott Allotments have been the subject of a substantial amount of misinformation, some of it quite recent. It has been said that this was an arrangement forced on the Wyandots by the government, that the government sold or gave the allotments to white settlers, or if some Wyandots did receive allotments, it was only the small minority that became U.S. citizens. Again, none of this is true. I will end part 1 here, it’s pretty interesting how all of this happened.

It has always been an honor and a privilege to serve the Wyandotte Nation Citizens as their Second Chief.

Wyandotte Nation Children's Christmas Party

December 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM
at Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center

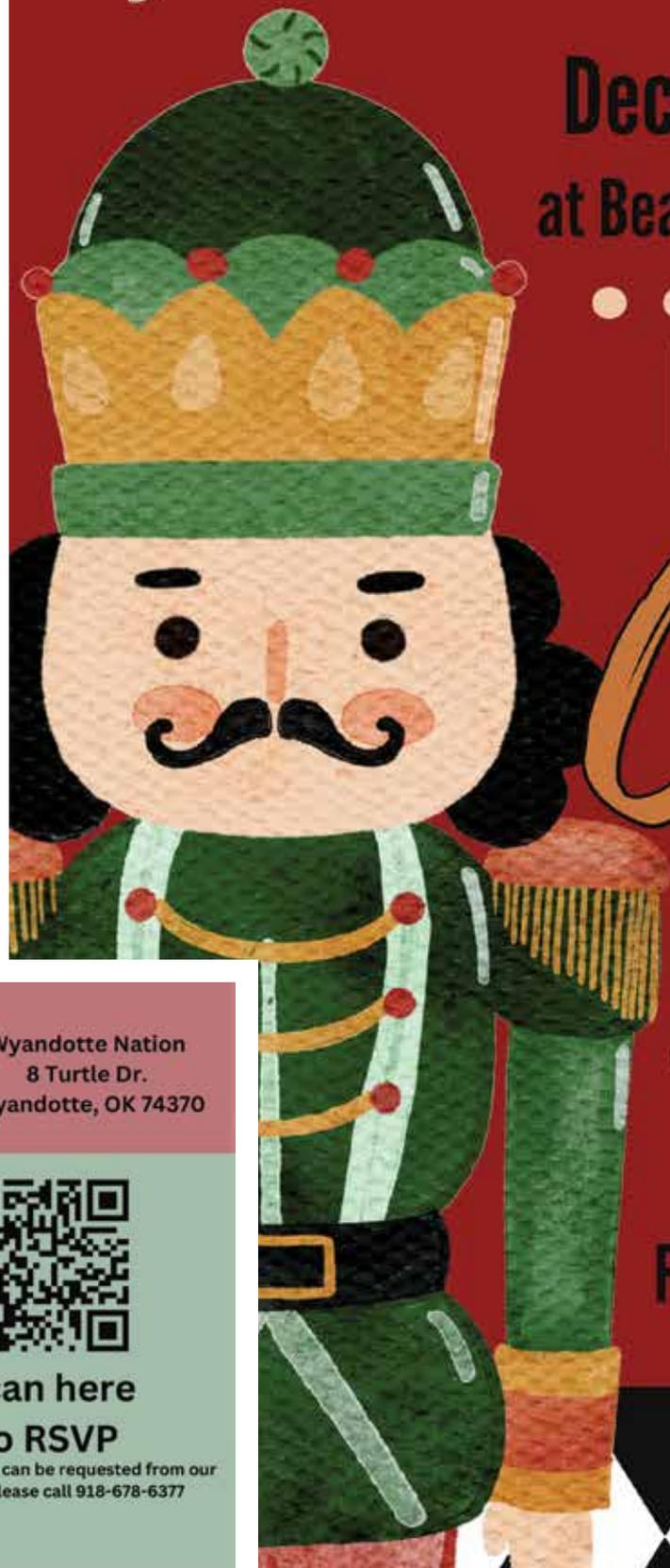
Let's get this party

Crackin'!

Enrolled Children ages 15 and under

RSVP by November 15th

For questions please call 918-678-6377



Wyandotte Nation
8 Turtle Dr.
Wyandotte, OK 74370



Scan here
to RSVP

Paper forms can be requested from our
office. Please call 918-678-6377

Wyandotte Nation's Victim Services expands to new home

Willow House to provide place of hope for victims

WYANDOTTE, OK -- The Wyandotte Nation Victim Services staff will have a new home in November as construction wrapped up in October.

'Home' is just the sort of message staff is trying to convey as it helps victims through some of their darkest moments in life, and why the Tribe's newest building is called the 'Willow House.'

"We felt that this was the perfect way to represent the journey our clients go through," said tribal citizen and Victim Services Manager Chelsea King, on the naming of the new building. "They often come to our program at the lowest moment in their lives, and our advocates work fiercely to show them that there is hope for the future."

King said the name of the new building, located at 15 Council Fire Road in Wyandotte, Ok, was inspired by tribal ancestors' belief that the willow tree represents the perpetual renewal of life after a winter of famine. She credited Family Services' staff Leeanna Radabaugh with helping them come up with the name by pointing them to the Willow Branches on the Turtle symbol representing the Wyandotte Nation.

"We wanted the name to be something welcoming, friendly, but still had the cultural tie," she said.

The Grand Opening of the Willow House was Oct. 30 with a ribbon cutting ceremony. The Victim Services Program's new home will help expand the services they can provide.



The Willow House is the new home of the Wyandotte Nation's 477 Victim Services Program. The grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony were held Oct. 30.

Features of the Willow House include: 10 staff offices. Currently they have 8 staff, so this leaves room for growth. They were doubled up in offices at Family Services, and the new building will give each advocate their own office). 2 supervised visitation rooms with a secure outdoor play area. They had only one indoor room that was shared with Indian Child Welfare. Onsite counselor for our clients. Onsite forensic interviewer. Two soft intake rooms. And a family room.

King said the goal was to have one place for victims to receive the services they need rather than having several services scattered

in different areas.

The program, part of the Wyandotte Nation's 477 Program, was also recently awarded a grant to help staff expand the legal services they can provide.

"Having an attorney funded through our program will eliminate the burden our clients face of paying for legal expenses, as our program is only able to pay for a certain amount of fees," King said.

The Victim Services Program also provides a 24/7 hotline number. The number is (877) 276-0669.

"We are very proud to provide a 24/7 hotline number, as we are the only tribal victim services program in our area that can provide crisis intervention at any time of day," King said. "Our advocates are always prepared to respond any kind of situation, whether that be answering the phone at 3 am, responding on scene with the police for a domestic violence call, or simply answering questions other services providers have about our program."

Services are available for Native and non-native women, men, and children who reside within a 100-

mile radius of tribal headquarters. Some of the crimes they serve are: domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, teen dating violence, elder abuse, trafficking, MMIP, and survivors of homicide.

There are nine tribes in Ottawa County in Oklahoma where tribal headquarters is located. Eight of those tribes have domestic violence programs. Kings said while they all do similar things, they are all dealing with full caseloads. She said for the Wyandotte Nation to be a part of the 477 program has allowed them to expand the area they can cover compared to other tribes, who might only be able to serve a smaller area.

"The more staff we have, the more people we are able to help," she said. "So we just keep expanding because there is always someone else who is going to need help."

Advocates are with victims every step of the way, which King said can be especially helpful when they have to navigate the court system and be a support system for them there.

WYANDOTTE NATION

477 PROGRAM

VICTIM SERVICES CRISIS LINE 877-276-0669

Investing in the Future

New Career Tech Building opens the door to opportunity

WYANDOTTE, OK -- Preparing area students for career opportunities and lifelong success has been a shared vision between Wyandotte Public Schools and the Wyandotte Nation, and the opening of the Wyandotte Schools Career Technology and Vocational Agriculture Building is a direct result of a strong community partnership.

On Tuesday, representatives from the Tribe and schools cut the ribbon on the new facility.

“Our Tribe believes strongly in the power of partnership,” said Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend. “When we come together, Tribe, school, and community, we can provide opportunities that prepare our students not only for good jobs, but for meaningful lives of leadership and service.”

Wyandotte Public Schools Superintendent Brad Wade said the Career Tech Building is the result of a community bond planning committee that toured the campus in the fall of 2022. The group identified the most pressing need for elementary classrooms and safety concerns. However, during the tour, he said Chief Friend and school administration discussed the growing need to provide hands-on career training opportunities that prepare students not only for graduation but also for lifelong success in the workforce.

He said the facility will allow them to expand into high-demand areas of vocational education and construction programs, including a heavy equipment program incorporating heavy equipment simulators. It also includes opening the door for adult education programs, such as those in electrical, HVAC,



PHOTO: COURTESY OF WYANDOTTE PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Members of the Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors, including Vivian Fink, Eric Gray, Rob Nesvold, Eric Lofland, Second Chief Norman Hildebrand, and Chief Billy Friend cut the ribbon on the new Career Tech Center at Wyandotte Public Schools with representatives of the school.

and plumbing.

“It’s about equipping our students and community members with the skills and certifications that translate directly into good jobs and brighter futures,” Wade said. “This project is more than bricks and mortar—it’s an investment in people. For our students, it means access to career pathways that might otherwise have been out of reach. For our community, it strengthens the local workforce and creates opportunities for growth.”

“I believe the Career Tech Building will become a hub of innovation, training, and opportunity for years to come, and it will have a lasting impact on Wyandotte students, families, and businesses alike.”

The Wyandotte Nation’s partnership and financial support were

crucial to bringing the vision to fruition, and Chief Friend stated that the Tribe views the facility as an investment in future generations.

“The Wyandotte Nation is proud to invest in the future of our students and community,” he said. “We believe in creating opportunities, whether that’s higher education or hands-on skills that open doors for the next generation.”

Superintendent Wade said the commitment to education reflects the Tribe’s deep investment in the future of the community and the students. He said this facility stands as a testament to what can be achieved when schools and the Tribe work hand in hand.

“We aren’t just opening a building—we were opening doors of opportunity,” Wade said. “The Career Tech Building represents what can be accomplished through

collaboration with partners like the Wyandotte Nation, the City of Wyandotte, BWA Architects, and MacCo Builders. Together, we’ve created a facility that reflects our commitment to excellence and our belief in the potential of every student. This is just the beginning, and I look forward to seeing the many ways this facility will transform lives in our community.”

Wyandotte Public Schools Principal Matt Robertson was also grateful. At the ribbon cutting, he said:

“First off, I’m genuinely grateful to the Wyandotte Nation for their constant investment in our kids. I know sometimes if you’re in a neighboring district, there’s a little bit of a perception that they’re investing in our facilities, which on the surface is true, but what they’re investing in is our kids and this community that is increasingly filled with their own tribal members.

“...Our goal is to continually prepare students who will leave here and go to college or go to the workplace and make great employees who are confident in what they’ve been prepared to do. This facility represents a huge step in that direction.

“...We want to be a place that is thinking beyond what is normally offered at a high school and continue to grow those possibilities because if we have a partner like the Wyandotte Nation who shares a big vision, we shouldn’t settle for doing things like everyone else, we should push boundaries and offer opportunities to our kids and community because we believe this is a special place.”

WILLOW HOUSE

Continued from Page 5

She said often times what they see if a mom is leaving with several kids, they have just enough time to pack a quick bag and go. Staff can help get them into an emergency shelter, can help provide them with clothing, food, fuel, counseling, rental assistance if they’ve found a new place, relocation

assistance, and she said utility deposits, which now in Oklahoma they have changed that victims of domestic violence no longer have to pay a utility down payment. She said there is a form advocates can help fill out and the companies will waive the utility deposits.

King said cell phones are another need they see a lot because often times the offender either pays for

the victim’s phone and can just shut it off or they have installed spyware on the phones so they are tracking and monitoring the victim’s location. She said they can help with a new cell phone so victims know no one has messed with it and they can communicate with advocates safely. She said they also work with the Seneca Police Department because they have seen

a lot of trackers lately on vehicles and Seneca PD has a machine that inspect cars and find trackers.

King said the Wyandotte Nation’s Victim Services Program also has emergency shelter options for individuals and families.

“We do whatever we can to help them regain self-sufficiency,” she said.

NEWS & NOTES

144 NEW TRIBAL CITIZENS | 7,356 TOTAL TRIBAL ENROLLMENT

Join us in welcoming our newest tribal citizens!



PHOTOS: JOSHUA GARCIA | WYANDOTTE NATION
(ABOVE) Princess Chloe Friend, left, and new Princess Veyda Marlow. (BELOW) Marlow passes her Junior Princess crown to Neveah Cooper.



Veyda Marlow, Neveah Cooper new Wyandotte Nation Princess and Junior Princess

During Friday evening's 34th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow in September, we held the crowning of the princesses ceremony. Outgoing Princess Chloe Friend passed her crown to Junior Princess Veyda Marlow, crowning her as our new Wyandotte Nation Princess, and Veyda passed her crown to Neveah Cooper as our new Junior Princess.

Chief, Board, Grievance Committee sworn in after election

The Wyandotte Nation Board of Directors and the Grievance Committee members were recently sworn in after the election at the Tribe's Annual Meeting in September. The Board of Directors re-elected who ran unopposed included Board Members Eric Lofland,

Adams IV, Frederick E.	Faith, Freya Eris	Packard, Raylan John
Adams V, Frederick E.	Farmer, Callahan Bokey	Parker, Weston Jacob
Adams, Annaleigh Candise	Ferguson, Walker Steven	Parks, Axel Hunt
Addison, Eloise Mannie	Fleming, Maelyana Marie	Payne, Sylvie Lynne
Addison, Oliver Cade	Foreman, Knox Collins	Phillips, Wesley Allen
Allen, Wylie Michael	Franco, Wilder Kelly	Pickard, Katelynn Grace
Anderson, Hallie Mae	Franklin, Jenna Faith	Poole, Roman Ray
Angel, Kailey Alexis	Franklin, Oliver Michael	Porter, Camden Michael
Arrasmith, Adrien Allen	Frye, Haven Patsy	Pratt, Tyriek Zion
Artripe, Wesley Ann	Gamez, Maya Mae	Pruett, Kehlani Amara
August-Adams, Alma Ann	Genzler, Jaxon Taylor	Pruitt, Maryann Lucille
Blythe, Asher Charles	Godfrey, Brileigh Dawn	Qualls, Houston De Jesus
Bond, Syler Heath	Godfrey, Grayson Joe	Quinn, Skylar Leigh
Breaux, Ezekiel Neel	Goins, Shyanne Michelle	Reyes, Daniel Craig
Breaux, Isaiah Paul	Gorby, Larissa Leann	Rice, Kymari Brielle
Breen, Brighton Timothy-Allen	Graham, Hayes Wyatt	Rice, Kymeir Derrick
Breen, Cody Norman	Griggs, Briley Dannelle	Robitaille, Xander Davin
Breen, Keaton James	Griggs, Jacob Michael	Rogers, Kamdyn Layne
Brickley, Jennifer Merrill	Griggs, Keldan Grant	Rozinski, Ethan Thomas
Brower, Liam Alan	Hall, Mason Landry	Salazar, Luca Adriel
Brown, Leon Ryker	Harrje, Jasper Kai	Schrack, Noah Michael
Burrough, Zion Leonidas Chaska	Hennessy, Giulia Silvey Teresa	Scoggins, Rhett Pearson
Butler, Beau Cameron	Holland, Holly Lynn	Scovel, Jeffrey Thomas
Caballero, Julianna Melinda	Howard-Rolon, Zeylin Genesis	Self, Novalee Marie Michelle
Campbell, Beckett James	Hutson, Ensley Renee	Shelton, Maximiliano
Campbell, Faith Americas Louella	Hutson, Macy Jo	Silvas, Oliver Francisco
Canceco, Matteo Angel	Jepson, Elowen Rae	Smith, Willow Octavia Lee
Carnes, Waylon Reed	Johnson, Chayton Lee Lesai	Steele, Ronan Layne
Cavender, Adam Bradley	Kelley, Daxton Douglas	Stephens, Casey Jolea
Clark, Jeffery Lee	Keyes, Roisin Sinead	Stephens, Henry Boyd
Cookson, Kelso Ray	Kilpatrick-Foster, Sloan Persephone	Strong, Mackenzie Grace
Coppock, Eliana Dawn	King, Chloe Isabelle	Taylor, Logan Adrian
Corbin, Dahlia Mae	Kinsch, Nathan Lee	Trejo, Knox Miguel Donaciano
Covert, James Anthony	Kirkendall, Holden James	Urdiales, Carter Lane
Curnutt, Vivian Sage	Kline, Delilah Rose	Wagner, Iris Cynthia Schwan
Davidson, Archie Bennett	Long, Colton Levi	Ward, Isaiah Andrew
Davidson, Orchre Wrynn	Lopez, Joaquin Anselmo	Whitehead, Bradley Miller
Dehart, Khloe Marie	Manghum, Noah Cruz	Whitehead, Brooks Richard
Dehart, Makayla Salina	McCleary, Callum Rowen	Whitehead, Connor James
Demarsh, Logan James	McPeak, Camryn Leigh	Whitehead, Joshua Cassidy
Divine-Warriner, Hunter Lee	Middlebos, Kaydan James	Whitehead, Tucker Edwin
Dodge, Emry Kay	Misenhimer, Abilene Wendy	Whitehead, Zachary Houston Edward
Dodge, Isabel Ann	Mizell, Truett Ray	Williams, Christian Alexander
Doster, Angel Faith	Morgan, Mckenzie Rose	Williams, Christina Marie
Edwards, Beau Matthew	Muslin, Harlen Faye	Wood, Winter Faye
Edwards, Charlotte Cole	Nading, Kinslee Rae	Woods, Gavin Zayn
Elliott-Daza, Maya Anne	Navarro, Danyal Marchal Fancisco	
Esposito, Rhett Anathony	Noe, Cash Erick	



Rob Nesvold, and Eric Gray as well as Chief Billy Friend. The three Grievance Committee members elected and sworn in included Catherine Hitchcock, Derald Clemons, and Darlene Trimble. All held the positions previously.

Tribal citizen running for Congress in South Dakota

Wyandotte tribal citizen Billy Mawhiney is running for US Congress in South Dakota. Mawhiney announced his bid in August. He states, "I'm not a career politician, I'm just a hard worker and I'm running for Congress because I believe South Dakotans deserve someone who understands their daily lives—and who will always put people ahead of politics.

He credited his Wyandotte roots as well. "Being Wyandotte grounds me, it's why I believe so deeply in showing up, in listening, and in building something better for the next seven generations."

Find out more on his website, billyforsd.com.

34th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow



A few images from the 34th Annual Wyandotte Nation Pow-Wow, which took place on the renovated pow-wow grounds. Aerial image (right) taken from a drone thanks to Faron Lee and the Wyandotte Nation Police Department. All other images came from Saturday and Sunday's sessions (photos by William Swaim), including the above featured image of tribal citizen Caleb Garcia. For more images from all three days and more aerial photos, visit the [Wyandotte Nation Facebook](#) page!



Tribe recognizes WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino as 'Honored Person'

We hosted our Annual Meeting Saturday, which included an election. We honored WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino as our Honored Person. Staff also handed out 3 lbs of ground beef from our Wyandotte Nation Cattle Company to tribal citizens.

For 25 years, Kelly Carpino has been the driving force behind the Tribe's economic growth, serving as the Chief Executive Officer of the Tribe's economic development arm, WTOK. Her leadership has transformed operations across multiple industries and expanded

opportunities for Wyandotte Nation citizens nationwide.

Her mission has always been clear: To grow the Wyandotte Nation's economic base in ways that generate lasting resources, strengthening programs and services for all tribal citizens.

She makes life better for everyone around her. Her leadership has strengthened the Wyandotte Nation, her example has inspired countless people, and her heart has touched family, friends, and colleagues alike.



Wyandotte Nation Chief Billy Friend and Second Chief Norman Hildebrand recognize WTOK CEO Kelly Carpino as the Tribe's 2025 Honored Person at the Annual Meeting.

PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION



The Gathering

This year's Gathering was packed full of events. The week began with history, language and genealogy sessions. It ramped up with demonstrations on moccasin-making, ribbonwork and social dance lessons, which led right into a variety of craft workshops. The week also featured the annual Wyandotte Artisan Showcase and the second annual Fashion Show (see left picture).

The week closed with a naming and blessing of the Pow-Wow Grounds Friday morning followed by the annual Memorial Walk to the cemetery (pictured above right), and a talking circle. Photos by Joshua Garcia. For more images from the Gathering, visit the [Cultural Center & Museum's Facebook page](#).



Wyandotte Nation Police's National Night Out another success



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
Serving up good eats and great treats at this year's National Night Out event at Bear Park Oct. 7 in Wyandotte, OK.

The Wyandotte Nation Police Department hosted its 13th Annual National Night Out with a Community Block Party on Tuesday, Oct. 7, at Heritage Acres Park (Bear Park in Wyandotte, OK, to a good crowd, and a new earlier time. The event started at 5:30 this year, and there was no shortage of community members out to back the blue.

There were complimentary food and beverages, exhibitors, emergency vehicles, law enforcement personnel, music, goodies, giveaways, and prizes!

National Night Out is a yearlong

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

National Night Out is celebrated each year. The introduction of National Night Out, "America's Night Out Against Crime," began in 1984 as an effort to promote involvement in crime prevention activities, police-community partnerships, and neighborhood camaraderie.



PHOTO: WILLIAM SWAIM | WYANDOTTE NATION
In addition to serving up food, there were vendors, prizes and games at this year's National Night Out.

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Human Resources

Submitted by Deana Howard, HR Director

The Wyandotte Nation Family Services Department would like to welcome Tracy Coach as the new ICW/APS Supervisor. Tracy comes to us with 27 years' experience in the Child welfare field, seven of those years in ICW. In her spare time, she enjoys fishing, gardening, and watching combat sports. Tracy also enjoys spending time with her family, friends, and her church family. We are excited to have Tracy join our team! Welcome to the Wyandotte Nation Family!



COACH

The Wyandotte Nation Title VI Department would like to welcome Deborah Kleidon as a new Food Service Team Member/Delivery Driver. Deborah previously worked as a secretary at Wilson Elementary School in Miami for 15 years. Her most recent job was the Turtle Stop store in Wyandotte for 5 1/2 years. Deborah enjoys making T-Shirt quilts for her family and spending as much time as she can with her grandkids and great grandkids. We are excited for Deborah to join our team and wish her the best!



KLEIDON

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department would like to welcome Gary Graham to the team as the new Infant/Toddler Program Manager, Nita Chitwood to the team as a new Early Childhood Teacher's Assistant, and tribal citizen Aubrey Morgan to the team as a new After-school Childcare Assistant. Gary attended



GRAHAM

Gary attended



CHITWOOD



MORGAN

Ozark Christian College in Joplin, MO. He earned his Master's Degree in Counseling from University of Arkansas and an Educational Specialist degree from the University of Nebraska. Gary loves being active and weight lifting and enjoys competitive sports. In his spare time, he enjoys spending time with his six children and three grandchildren. We are grateful to have Gary join our team and wish him the best of luck in his career!

Nita comes to us with many years' experience working with children in preschools and daycare centers. Some of Nita's hobbies include riding horses, doing obstacle competitions and mostly trail riding. She enjoys spending time with her family and spending time with her husband around the fire pit. Nita is also very involved in her church as it is one of her favorite places to be.

Aubrey is currently a senior at Wyandotte Public Schools and is taking her second class of Child Development. Her first experience working was for Simple Simon's Pizza and then she worked as a summer intern here in Title VI. Some of Aubrey's hobbies include cooking, baking and shopping. She also enjoys spending time with her boyfriend watching movies.

We are thrilled to have Gary, Nita and Aubrey join our team and we wish them the very best!

The Bearskin Fitness Center would like to welcome Jace Fent to the team as a new Front Desk/Childcare Provider and Cloe Thomasson as a sub for the Fitness Front Desk/Childcare Provider position.

Jace is a recent graduate of Wyandotte High School class of 2025 where he played basketball and baseball. Jace will be attending college at NEO this fall to major in pre-engineering. Some of his hobbies



FENT



THOMASSON

include fishing, basketball, baseball, and weight lifting. In his spare time, he enjoys raising show pigs to show at the county, state and national levels.

Cloe recently graduated from Wyandotte High School where she played softball and basketball. In her spare time, she enjoys spending time with her family on the lake and playing pickle ball with her friends. She will be attending the University of Arkansas this fall and will be majoring in Exercise Science.

We are excited to welcome Jace and Cloe to the team and wish them the best in their careers and education!

The Wyandotte Nation Accounting Department would like to welcome Jennifer Epperson as a new Accounting Clerk II. Jennifer has an associate's degree in Clinical Medical Assisting and has worked at River Bend Casino in 2008-2015 and 2016-2025. Some of her hobbies include crocheting, video games, drawing,

painting, and coloring. In her spare time, Jennifer enjoys spending time at home with her son playing video games and board games together. We are glad to have Jennifer join us in the Accounting Department and wish her the best success in her new career.

The Wyandotte Nation Facilities Department would like to welcome Paige Williams to the team as a new Facilities Technician and Mike Martin, Jr. as the new Grounds Maintenance Manager.

Paige received her HVAC License from WTI in Joplin and brings



WILLIAMS



MARTIN, JR.

several years of experience with her. Some of her hobbies include music, gaming, and working out. In her spare time, she enjoys time with her family and going to thrift and antique stores. She also enjoys watching WWE.

Mike is a member of the Cherokee and Osage Nations. Mike has a Bachelor's degree in Leadership Business Administration with a minor in Human

Resource Management. He has taken various leadership courses as well. Some of Mike's hobbies include hunting, fishing, working out and hiking. In his spare time he enjoys spending time with his family, attending, and serving in his church.

We are thrilled to welcome Paige and Mike, welcome to our Wyandotte Nation Family!

Family Services

Submitted by Dana Butterfield, Family Services Director

It's truly amazing to see how much the Wyandotte Nation has grown over the past few decades, in every aspect: structures, programs, citizen enrollment, and cultural events. This growth was especially evident in the strong attendance at both The Gathering and the Annual Meeting this year.

The Annual Meeting saw 508 adult tribal citizens register, a remarkable number when you consider that in the late 1990s, Chief Bearskin would ask the registration table to let him know when attendance reached 50, which is the minimum required to declare a quorum. It's inspiring to see so many new faces at these events, along with the familiar ones who return year af-

Continued on Page 11

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(FAMILY SERVICES)

Continued from Page 10

ter year. If you've never attended the September events, we encourage you to consider joining us and to reach out to tribal staff if you have questions.

The Family Services staff are preparing for the holiday season and the annual Children's Christmas Party, which will be held Saturday, December 13, at the Bearskin Healthcare and Wellness Center gym from 10 am to 12 pm. Please note that there will be construction near the gym, so be sure to watch social media for last-minute parking or entrance updates. Parents and guardians will once again be asked to register children in advance so Santa and his helpers can ensure each child receives a special gift. Postcards have been mailed to all children who attended last year's party and include a QR code to RSVP. Forms are also available from the Family Services office, and the QR code/invite can be found in this newsletter. This year's theme is Nutcracker, and staff have planned plenty of fun activities for families. Each family attending will receive a \$50 Walmart gift card to help with transportation or other holiday expenses. We look forward to celebrating together!

Most Family Services programs follow the Nation's fiscal year (October 1–September 30). Exceptions include the Supplemental Health Program (Benny card) and LIHEAP, which operate under federal guidelines.

Applications for fiscal year programs can be submitted at any time during the year. However, many applications arrive at the end of September and are often delayed or denied due to incomplete, ineligible or illegible receipts. To avoid issues, please submit complete and timely applications.

Eligible items for the **Youth Program** include school supplies, clothing, and extracurricular expenses. Enrolled children ages 3 (by October 1) through 18 (still in high school) are eligible for up to \$700 per fiscal year. There is a \$100 minimum per payment, per child—please hold receipts and submit once you've reached this threshold. Children who have not yet turned 3 by October 1 are eligible for the **Infant/Toddler Program**, which provides up to \$300 per fiscal year.

Continued on Page 12



Wyandotte
Nation

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT!

Make sure that your address and tribal ID are up to date with the Enrollment Department!

Ways to update your address:

- ➔ Phone
- ➔ Email
- ➔ Online Form

CONTACT NOW

- ☎ 918-678-6377
- 🌐 wyandotte-nation.org
- ✉ hbotts@wyandotte-nation.org



Link to update address online: <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/familyservices/>

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(FAMILY SERVICES)

Continued from Page 11

Please be sure to read the application and guidelines prior to making purchases for these programs. If you have questions, please contact Leanna Radabaugh at 918-678-6329.

Note: Walmart gift cards remain available for both programs. Receipts must be returned by September 30, each year; otherwise, you will be ineligible for Walmart cards in future program years.

Beginning January 1, 2026, the **Supplemental Health Program** will transition to a new provider, Point C. New benefit cards and detailed information will be mailed in December. Funding levels for 2026 will remain the same at \$1,500 for individuals and \$2,500 for families. To be eligible for the family funding, you must have dependents who are enrolled citizens under the age of 18.

Please remember:

- Program year ends December 31 and unused funds do not roll over.
- Reimbursement requests for 2025 funds must be submitted by February 28, 2026.
- If you use your card after December 31, funds will be drawn from your 2026 balance.
- When asked for your SSN, use your roll number instead: enter it as 000-00-####.
- To check your balance, call the number on the back of your card.

It's extremely important to keep your address current with the Enrollment Office. You can update your address online at: wyandotte-nation.org/services/familyservices/programs/change-of-address/. If you

have children to be added to the roll, please submit a completed application and an original state-certified long-form birth certificate as soon as possible. The annual deadline for new enrollments is August 15. Forms are updated each year and available from the Enrollment Officer at **918-678-6377** or wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org. We also encourage all citizens to know your roll number. It's required on all Family Services applications. If you prefer not to carry your cards, take a photo of them for easy reference.

The **477 Victim Services Program** is thrilled to announce that its new building, Willow House, is nearly complete! Staff will move in early November. Willow House will serve as a safe and supportive space where victims can access a wide range of services to help them heal and become self-sufficient. The program assists both Native and non-Native victims within a 100-mile radius, offering:

- 24-hour hotline
- Emergency shelter
- Legal assistance
- Safety planning
- Supervised visitation
- And other vital support services

Hotline: 877-276-0669 - **Email:** 477vs@wyandotte-nation.org

We extend our gratitude to Tara Gragg, who left her position as Indian Child Welfare Supervisor in August after 15 years of dedicated service. Tara made a tremendous impact on the lives of Wyandotte children and

families and will be greatly missed. We are pleased to welcome Tracy Coach, who brings more than 20 years of child welfare experience and is already doing an outstanding job in her new role. The Nation is always in need of qualified foster homes. If you've ever considered fostering or adopting, please contact Tracy at **918-678-6355**.

Other programs housed within Family Services include:

- Junior/Senior Assistance
- Burial Assistance
- Fuel Assistance
- Elder's Assistance
- Senior Energy
- LIHEAP
- New Enrollee Benefit
- Emergency Assistance
- Car Seats
- Tribal Tags
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Angel Tree

Details about these programs can be found on the Nation's website or in the annual Services Brochure.

If you're on Facebook and not yet a member of the Wyandotte Nation Citizens group, please consider joining. The group provides updates between newsletters on program changes, deadlines, and events. It's also a great place to connect with other citizens.

It's an honor for the Family Services staff to serve the citizens of the Wyandotte Nation.

If you have questions, please contact us at wnfs@wyandotte-nation.org or **918-678-6321**.

our tribal citizens, the WN Doctoral Scholarship Program. As well as continuing assisting citizens who are currently enrolled in our Vocational Program seeking gainful employment, trade skills, or job specific training.

Each year we have seen an increase of tribal citizens taking advantage of our Scholarship Programs for the first time. This year is no different with 30 new participants for the Undergrad Program, 10 for the Masters, 7 in the Concurrent, and 8 in our Vocational Program. As for the Doctoral Program, we have 6 participants who are spearheading the first year of the program. The total numbers for all of the programs are currently:

- Concurrent: 10 Active participants
- Undergrad: 206 Active participants
- Masters: 41 Active participants
- Doctoral: 6 Active participants
- Vocational: 12 Active participants

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

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

- Undergraduate scholarships are limited to eight (8) semesters.
- The scholarship amount for the undergraduates are worth \$5,000 for fall, but beginning next spring semester (January), will be \$6,000 for students enrolled full-time, 12 hours.
- If you are enrolled in less than 12 hours, your scholarship will be

Education

*Submitted by Cristi Hudson,
Workforce Development Director*

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department have been busy processing all of the Fall 2025 semester scholarships for participants currently enrolled in our Concurrent, Undergrad, and Masters Scholarship Programs. We also recently started another scholarship program for

Continued on Page 13

We now offer Online Renewals!

Visit tags.wyandotte-nation.org or scan the QR Code below to renew your vehicle online. Please note there is a **3% convenience fee for all debit/credit card transactions online and in office.**

✘ This link is NOT compatible with Safari ✘



TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(EDUCATION)

Continued from Page 12

prorated to the number of hours you are attending.

- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the program's duration.
- Deadline for new scholarship applicants enrolling for the fall term for is May 1. Deadline for Spring submission for new applicants is November 1.

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

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

Doctoral Scholarships are awarded to enrolled Wyandotte tribal citizens who are attending or will be attending a Doctoral Graduate Program at an accredited university. An unofficial transcript is required at the end of each semester in order for us to process your next semester's scholarship. If you are new to the scholarship program, the following are guidelines

you are required to meet to maintain the scholarship:

- Doctoral scholarships are limited to eight (8) semesters, or less.
- The scholarship amount for this program are worth \$5,000 per semester for students enrolled full-time, 12 hours.
- If you are enrolled in less than 12 hours, your scholarship will be prorated to the number of hours you are attending.
- Students will be placed on probation for failure to complete 12 hours or more with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA.
- Students will be allowed one probationary semester during the program's duration.
- Deadline for new scholarship applicants enrolling for the fall term for is May 1. Deadline for Spring submission for new applicants is November 1.

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

The Wyandotte Nation Education Honor Cord is available for current graduating high school seniors who are registered Wyandotte Nation citizens. Students are eligible for an honor cord once per lifetime. Honor cords are provided to recognize Wyandotte Nation citizens at high school graduation ceremonies. Applying for the honor cord should be made during the student's final semester. Students may submit an application online or by emailing a completed application to ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org.

The Wyandotte Nation Education Department provides Adult Vocational Training assistance for income-

qualified students in attending technical schools where the participants will be job ready in two years. This program provides assistance for citizens who are wanting to learn a skill, knowledge, or craft in a specific employment or trade field.

To obtain a Concurrent, Undergraduate, Master, Doctoral, or Vocational Scholarship application, they are now available on our website, www.wyandotte-nation.org. Please submit any questions that you may have to Evan Hotulke, our Education Specialist at ehotulke@wyandotte-nation.org; or by calling his office at 918-678-6331.

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 within our 100-mile service area.

To apply, clients must complete the initial 477 Application for Services and provide the following:

- Proof of tribal membership
- Proof of residency
- Selective Service Registration Card (for males ages 18 - 25).

Additional documentation may be required based on the type of service requested.

Applications and forms are available on the Wyandotte Nation website under the "Services" tab by selecting "477 Program". More information on 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 and job training, employment & workforce development, youth services, childcare subsidy, child welfare, victim services, family violence assistance, and LIHEAP. We are committed to supporting families by tailoring services to their unique needs, fostering safe and stable environments, and promoting self-sufficiency. We also aim to increase access to high-quality childcare, supporting parents and families in achieving employment, education, and career goals. The Wyandotte Nation 477 Program continues to provide vital services that strengthen families and support long-term self-sufficiency.

Childcare Subsidy - The Child-

care Subsidy or Assistance portion of the 477 program helps low-income families pay for daycare for children ages 0 through 12 years old. To qualify, families must meet income guidelines and provide required documentation. Currently, the program supports around 130 children enrolled with providers across our service area.

In addition to childcare subsidies, the 477 team works with local childcare providers—offering training to meet state standards and collaborating with other area tribes to host family engagement activities in the community.

Education, Employment & Training - The 477 Program's education services offer scholarships, workforce and job training assistance, and vocational support for tribal members within the service area. The goal: help students achieve their academic and employment goals while reducing joblessness in the community. Currently, there are about 25 participants receiving educational support.

Community Outreach and Events - In August, the 477 Program sponsored a community Back-to-School Event, to provide backpacks and school supplies for area children and teens from pre-k to college age. Roughly 800 students received backpacks and supplies through this event.

Coming up in November, the 477 Program has coordinated with eight other area tribes to sponsor an Educational Stomp Dance for the area tribal daycares. This will be the first event of its kind, featuring teachings of stomp dances and other cultural activities that allow students to engage in cultural activities outside of their own tribal programs. We are looking forward to more events like this in the future!

The Wyandotte Nation Historical Library has been bustling this fall as we've settled into the school year! Our preschoolers and afterschool students from the Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center have been busy during library time reading stories and exploring hands-on activities.

Continued on Page 14

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

(EDUCATION)

Continued from Page 13

We're excited to share that our Story Book Walk will soon be getting an update. Stay tuned for an exciting announcement coming soon!

As always, we invite you to stop by the library to explore our growing collection of books, DVDs, and resources. Don't forget! We also offer access to the Oklahoma Virtual Library, where you can enjoy eBooks, audiobooks, and more from the comfort of home.

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 at www.wyandotte-nation.org. For questions contact our librarian, Madeline Harnar, at mharnar@wyandotte-nation.org or call 918-678-6332.

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center is a Tribally Licensed 4 Star Childcare Facility. We provide a Preschool program, an Infant/Toddler Program, a Before/After School Program, and a Summer Program. We operate year round in conjunction with the Wyandotte Public School System. The Preschool program consists of two Preschool classrooms for students age 3-4 and two Pre-K classrooms for students age 4-5 that are preparing to transition to kindergarten. The Infant/Toddler Program is made up of three 2-Year Old Toddler classrooms, two 1-Year Old classrooms, and two Infant classrooms. The Before & After School Program runs concurrently with the Preschool program for students up to age 12 that attend Wyandotte Public Schools. For the school year we enroll 136 students within our Infant/Toddler and Preschool programs. The Before & After School program provides an additional 60-70 places for students from the public school. Our Summer Program is a large program that generally enrolls around 150-175 students from 6 weeks to 12 years old.

The Wyandotte Nation Child Development Center goal is to provide the highest quality of childcare possible. We strive to create meaningful, lasting relationships with our students and their families so that we can best serve each individual. We take great pride in the care that our staff pro-

vides to our children. We support our staff members with training, resources, and the freedom to create a unique learning environment in which each child can thrive. We offer KUMON math and STEM activities to enhance learning opportunities. Throughout the school year we offer a variety of different family functions including but not limited to Open House, Grandparent's Day, Family Night events, Halloween Carnival, Parent/Teacher Conferences, Family Style Thanksgiving, Holiday programs/parties, etc. We host numerous community workers and volunteers throughout the year to help children identify and become familiar with different members of our communities. We also work closely with the Wyandotte Nation Cultural Department to help integrate the teaching of our Wyandotte language and traditions. Students participate in weekly language/cultural lessons as well as dance instruction. This is showcased at our annual Leaford Bearskin

Housing

Submitted by Valari Richards, Housing Director

We have started construction on the latest rental units in the housing addition. The new units will include (1) two-bedroom duplex, (3) three-bedroom single family rentals, and (3) four-bedroom single family rentals. Construction is expected to be completed in 2026.

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. Federal income guidelines do apply for the housing programs.

We still have some spots available for the current school year in the College Rental Assistance Program. The program is available to help qualifying college students (nationwide) with rental/dorm assistance during the school year. To qualify, applicants must currently be on tribal scholarship through the education department, residing in dorm rooms or a rental unit, and must submit all required paperwork. Assistance is available for a maximum amount of (8) semesters per student. The assistance for this program is limited to the first (25) qualifying applicants on a first-come, first-serve basis. Applications for this program are not currently available on the website. Please reach out to us by phone or email for this application.

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 for non-tribal members.

If you are interested in any of these programs listed above or have any questions, please contact our office by phone at (918) 678-6336 or (918) 678-6339, or via e-mail at vrichards@wyandotte-nation.org. Some applications are available on the Wyandotte Nation website as well.

Department Staff:

Valari Richards, Housing Director
Jocelyn Metcalf, Housing Specialist
Levi Griffin/Paul Parker, Project Coordinators
Randy Qualls/Drew Lankford, Residential Maintenance Technicians

Memorial Preschool Pow-Wow each spring. The final big highlight of our school year is the Preschool Graduation Ceremony. All students are recognized at this ceremony with our graduates wearing caps & gowns as they move on to kindergarten. For our Summer Program, we are able to take our students on a variety of different fun & educational field trips including zoos, aquariums, parks, splash pads, etc. These field trips allow our students to enjoy their summer break while also maintaining a structured environment to help them thrive.

The 2025-2026 School year began August 12, 2025. We are accepting enrollment for our 2025-2026 Pre-K and Preschool classrooms as well as our 2-Year Old Toddler Program. Students should be age 4 on or before September 1, 2025 to be eligible for the Pre-K classrooms and age 3 on or before September 1, 2025 for the Preschool classrooms. To be eligible for our Toddler Program, students should be 2 years old on or before

September 1, 2025. You can always submit an application for any age to be added to our waiting lists. Applications can be completed online at <https://wyandotte-nation.org/services/education/turtletots/> Thank you for your interest in our facility.

During the fall our facility will stay busy! October bring fire safety, field trips to Creations Safari and Annabell's Fun Farm, parent/teacher conferences and our Halloween carnival. At our Halloween Carnival, our education/477 department and library staff, and staff from other departments set up booths with games and candy for the students to trick-or-treat to. It's always a highlight of the year seeing all the kids in their costumes!

In November, we will celebrate a Thanksgiving lunch with our families at the River Bend Hotel. In December, we will have our Christmas program and parties with a special visit from Santa Claus!

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Elders

Submitted by Brenda House, Elder Services Director

Greetings all!

The Northeast Oklahoma Care-giver Coalition will host our annual Veteran's Day Luncheon and Honors at the Grace Church in Miami, OK, from 10 am to 1 pm. Chief Billy Friend will be our guest speaker. Wyandotte Nation Senior Princess, Veyda Marlow and Junior Princess, Nevaeh Cooper will present the Lord's Prayer. The American Legion Honor Guard will post the colors. The lunch menu will be brisket and all the sides. Friends and family are invited to attend.

Our annual Thanksgiving Dinner is November 20 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. On the menu is turkey and dressing, green beans, hot rolls, devilled eggs, cranberry salad and pumpkin pie. This will be a sit down dinner with staff from the other departments helping serve the elders.

We will head to Branson, Mo, November 21 to see the Texas Tenors Christmas Show. We will have lunch at the Grand Country Buffet before we attend the show. The meal site will be closed at the Artie Nesvold Elders Center to allow our Food Service Team Members to attend the event and spend some time with our Elders.

Our annual Christmas Dinner is December 18 from 11:30 am to 1 pm. The staff and others from different departments will help serve the sit down dinner to the Elders. The menu is brisket, baked potato, baked beans, devilled eggs, cranberry salad, hot rolls and strawberry angel food delight. Santa will be handing out homemade candy prepared by the Title VI Elves. He will be seeing who is naughty or nice so keep that in mind. Lol!

CAREGIVER

Our Caregiver Support Group is the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 - 11:30 am in the conference/safe room. Lunch provided following the meeting. Our Christmas Party/Caregiver Support Group will be December 4 at 10:30 am at the Miami Main Street Café.

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 from 10 am - 2 pm, Monday-Friday.

We also have a beading class every Wednesday morning starting at 9 am. Supplies are furnished. Participants make two like items, donate one to the gift shop, and keep one for themselves.

If anyone is interested in joining our Senior Gift Shop Group, please contact Brenda or any of our Elders that are 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.

Department Staff:

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

Daniel Welch, Food Service Team Supervisor, 918-678-6390.

Seth Higginbotham, Amanda Turner, Kelli Snell, Kayla Ezell, Susan Skaggs and Debbie Kleidon, Food Service Team Members 918-678-6328.

Menu, 918-678-6326.

Planning & Natural Resources

Compiled by Christen Lee, Environmental & Planning Director

Environmental

July: This month was a scorcher with temperatures reaching over 100 degrees for an extended period. Staff came in early to accomplish as much as possible and avoid the mid afternoon heat. Our main concern was keeping staff well hydrated and cool. Our water technicians performed the monthly water sampling on eight waterways within the tribal jurisdiction. Staff also performed our 2nd quarter nutrient and seasonal e-coli sampling on these sites.

The week of the 14th – 18th was the final week of TCAP (Tar Creek Apprenticeship Program). Department staff participated in the TCAP Career Day on the 15th with an information booth, and also in the closing day events on the 17th.

On July 23-24, Christen Lee and Kathleen Welch co-hosted along with the Eastern Shawnee Tribe and the Southwest Climate Center, an Extreme Weather and Tribal Clean Waters Conference in OKC at the First Americans Museum. Kathleen gave a presentation on the Wyandotte Nation Environmental Department and the Stream-bank Stabilization Project that took place on Sycamore Creek, just south of the powwow grounds.

August: The extreme heat continued through the month and staff continued to perform daily activities, pushing through above 100 degree temps.

On August 15 our department provided an information booth at the Seneca Cayuga Tribal Elders Health Fair.

On August 12-14, Kathleen Welch attended the ITEC Conference in Ca-toosa, OK. Kathleen gave a presentation on our Annual Environmental Festivals.

The week of the 18th – 22nd, Kathleen Welch and John Gerhard attended the 2025 Tribal Lands Forum in Minneapolis, MN.

Staff performed our 3rd quarter nutrient sampling and our final seasonal e-coli sampling on all eight monitoring sites for waterbodies in with in the Wyandotte Nation jurisdiction.

September: On September 5, John Gerhard, Ryan Haggard and Kathleen Welch had an environmen-



tal education booth at the Eastern Shawnee Lost Creek Water Festival. Fourth and fifth grade students from area schools (Wyandotte, Fairland, Quapaw, and Seneca, MO) attended the event.

On September 23-24, Christen Lee, John Gerhard and Kathleen Welch attended the Tri-State Mining District Meetings which were held at NEO College in Miami, OK.

Staff continues to perform private well drinking water testing and septic assessments within a 25-mile radius of Wyandotte Nation.

Services Provided

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

Department Contacts:

Kathleen Welch (Env. Department Manager) 918-678-6335
Ryan Haggard (Env. Technician I) 918-678-6345

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

Tracy Coach (918) 678-6355
 tcoach@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

Valari Richards (918) 678-6339
 vrichards@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



(PLANNING)

Continued from Page 15

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 and for Septic Assessments contact Kathleen Welch and John Gerhard.

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.

BIA One Time Funding

This award will fund Court Appointed Attorneys, District Judge, Prosecuting Attorney, and a Juvenile Probation Officer.

Legal Assistance for Crime Victims

Wyandotte Nation was awarded a two year planning grant, to establish a program to provide legal assistance

Grants Awarded from July thru September 2025	
BIA One Time Funding	\$255,012
Legal Assistance for Crime Victims	\$367,191
Federal Home Loan Bank Topeka	\$300,000
Family Violence Prevention & Services State Grants	\$141,077

to crime victims. The grant will fund startup project costs (equipment, policy / procedure development, wages, etc...).

Federal Home Loan Bank Topeka

The Wyandotte Nation has been awarded \$300,000.00 in project funding from Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka, working alongside partners from Welch State Bank. The project will enhance public safety during severe storms and allow for the continuation of the Wyandotte Nation's Sewage / Septic Tank Assistance Program.

Family Violence Prevention & Services State Grants

The award for this program will fund partial salary and fringe of the Program Manager and Lead Advocate, grant required training and travel, direct shelter and supportive services, and outreach and awareness.

Current Projects:

- We are working with Create4All Architect/Engineer, and Crossland Construction on the Bearskin Gymnasium Expansion. This project is funded by HUD, and is an ICDBG-23.
- The ICDBG-24 will fund Infrastructure for the Vesper Property (located behind Heritage Acres). This property is over 17 acres, and will allow for expansion of housing to the north. We will advertise for an A/E soon.
- The IHBG-24 will fund the construction of eight (8) senior duplexes, (16 units), located on the Vesper Property. We will advertise for an A/E soon.
- IHBG-24-A will fund one (1) duplex (two units), and six (6) single family homes of three (3) and four (4) bedrooms. These homes will be located on Bear Road in Heritage Acres. Patterson Latimer Jones Brannon Denham (PLJBD), has been selected as the A/E, with Four Corners Builders as the Contractor.
- SWIFR- Lost Creek Recycle Center Expansion and Improvements. PLJBD has been chosen as the A/E, and RE Smith as the Contractor.

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

TRIBAL DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Healthcare & Wellness

Submitted by Kelly Friend, Director of Health Services

Everyday Preventive Actions Can Help Fight Germs, Like Flu

FIGHT FLU



CDC Says "Take 3" Actions to Fight Flu.

1. Take time to get a flu vaccine.
2. Take everyday preventive actions that may slow the spread of germs that cause respiratory (nose, throat, and lungs) illnesses, like flu.
3. If you get sick with flu, take prescription antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Early treatment is especially important for the elderly, the very young, people with certain chronic health conditions, and pregnant women.

How does flu spread?

Flu viruses are thought to spread mainly from person to person through droplets made when people with flu cough, sneeze, or talk. Less often, a person might get flu by touching a surface or object that has flu virus on it and then touching his or her own mouth, nose, or possibly eyes. Many other viruses spread these ways too. People infected with flu may be able to infect others beginning 1 day before symptoms develop and up to 5-7 days after becoming sick. That means you may be able to spread flu to someone else before you know you are sick as well as while you are sick. Young children, those who are severely ill, and those who have severely weakened immune systems may be able to infect others for longer than 5-7 days.

What are everyday preventive actions?

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- While sick, limit contact with others as much as possible to keep from infecting them.
- Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze. Throw it in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand rub.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth. Germs spread this way.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces and objects that may be contaminated with germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like flu.
- For flu, CDC recommends that you (or your child) stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone except to get medical care or for other necessities. The fever should be gone without the use of a fever-reducing medicine. The stay-at-home guidance for COVID-19 may be different.
- In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, local governments or public health departments may recommend additional precautions be taken in your community. Follow those instructions.



For more information, visit:

www.cdc.gov/flu

or call **1-800-CDC-INFO**



U.S. Department of
Health and Human Services
Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention

CULTURAL DIVISION

Intern trip, Gathering, Pow-Wow highlight busy quarter

Submitted by Kim Garcia (Tętsi?tara?ł), Cultural Preservation Officer (Inyqmarihú?łę? Ahęhtasta?), Wyandotte Nation Cultural Center & Museum

Kweh! We've had an exciting and productive quarter here at the Cultural Division!

At the end of July, we took our interns on a weeklong trip to Washington, D.C. It was a full and memorable experience! We toured the city and visited three Smithsonian museums. Oklahoma Senator Markwayne Mullin graciously hosted us in his office, and his staff gave us an incredible tour of the U.S. Capitol Building, where we were even able to sit in on a Senate session. We also visited Arlington National Cemetery, witnessing the Changing of the Guard, and spent time at the National Museum of the American Indian and its Resource Center—where we had the rare opportunity to

view drawers upon drawers of Wyandotte artifacts. It was truly amazing to see so much of our history preserved.

In August, we continued our hands-on cultural programming with a pucker toe moccasin class taught by Chris Houk, and a beading class led by guest instructor Brittany Bailey Long from the Ottawa Tribe. The rest of the month was dedicated to preparing for our annual Gathering and Pow-Wow.

September was one of our busiest months yet! On the Monday leading up to the Pow-Wow, we hosted two kayak trips and a lunch for those attending the Gathering—an excellent way to reconnect with nature and with one another.

Our Gathering officially began on Tuesday, and the week was full of meaningful events. We enjoyed history talks with Lloyd Divine, language updates with Darcy Allred and Dr. Kopris, NAGPRA updates with Heather Miller, and genealogy sessions with Beci Wright. Breakout

sessions allowed families and community partners to connect in smaller groups, which proved to be one of the most valuable aspects of the week.

In the afternoons, we offered demonstrations including moccasin-making with Chris Houk, social dance lessons with our singers, and a ribbonwork demonstration that I had the honor of leading. Participants then took part in a variety of traditional craft workshops, learning to create black ash baskets, porcupine quillwork, ribbon shirts, flint knapping, reed baskets, corn husk flowers and dolls, beaded earrings, finger weaving, and brooches. Others explored traditional seed and moccasin games, researched family history, practiced language lessons, or joined our craft circle to complete ongoing projects.

Tuesday evening featured the announcement of our Wyandotte Artisan Showcase winners (see all entries at linktr.ee/wncm). On Wednesday

evening, we hosted our second annual Fashion Show, followed by Community Night on Thursday at the newly renovated Pow-Wow grounds. We shared a delicious traditional meal and enjoyed social and stomp dances under the stars.

Friday began with a naming ceremony and blessing of the Pow-Wow grounds, followed by our annual Memorial Walk to the cemetery, where we honored those who have passed this year. Flowers were placed at graves and we had a moment to honor Chief Bearskin, and we closed the day with a talking circle to leave in a good way.

Friday evening marked the start of Pow-Wow weekend, which saw record attendance! Visitors praised the beautiful renovations to our grounds—featuring paved parking lots, expanded vendor space, additional restrooms, and a striking new awning around the arena. The new restrooms also showcase a

Continued on Page 19

Qmakyehstih Yuhšréⁿdeh
Winter Gathering
JANUARY
17th and 18th

WINTER STORIES SOCIAL DANCES
 5K RACE TRADITIONAL FOODS & GAMES



1 TURTLE DRIVE, WYANDOTTE, OK 74370



Spring Workshop
Learn Traditional Arts

March 16-20, 2026

CULTURAL DIVISION

(CULTURAL)

Continued from Page 18

stunning mural painted by tribal citizen Nathan McAlister. We are so proud of how far the events have come and look forward to seeing even more Wyandotte citizens join us in the years to come.

Looking ahead, November is Native American Heritage Month! Follow us on social media for tribal facts, language lessons, class announcements, and more. We'll celebrate with our Native American Heritage Month Social Dance on Friday, November 14—dinner will be served at 5:30 p.m., followed by the dance.

As always, to register for classes and stay up to date on everything happening in the Cultural Division, visit linktr.ee/wncm.

Native American Heritage Month

November is Native American Heritage Month and to celebrate, we are sharing a Wa^{ndat} word or phrase every day on our WNCM Facebook Page. This year's theme is **ekwahšrogya?** we all make, based on the Cultural Division's spring cultural workshop series that featured basketry, hide tanning, and quillwork. Each week focuses on a different cultural craft for that week's word/phrase of the day. Be sure to follow along all month! The audio will be available on www.wandot.org/NAHM - just click on the Audio 2025 button! You can explore past years' offerings, too.

Wa^{ndat} Wednesdays + Immersion-style Sessions

Join us every third Wednesday of the

Language Notes

month at **Wandats Wednesdays** (online using ZOOM) to practice together. It's a **yawahstih** (great) way to build up vocabulary without having to worry about grammar. Wa^{ndat} Wednesdays are designed to be "stand-alone" classes so you can attend when it is convenient for you.

As noted in previous announcements, we are expanding Wa^{ndat} Wednesdays into our new immersion-style sessions offered twice weekly—facilitated by Darcy Allred and Alex Badley. The language handout delivered in each Wa^{ndat} Wednesday will now act as a course plan (with approximately 20 words) centering on a topic that will be segmented into that month's weekly immersion sessions. The first month's

theme was **šahskęno?nyę?** are you well? with a variety of ways to express mood, states of being, and other conversational responses in Wa^{ndat}. See the monthly calendar below to browse our language learning topics through spring 2026.

What is an "immersion-style" language session?

Immersion-style language learning is a back-to-basics approach—learning like babies! This means learning a language through immersive listening, imitation, and repetition only in Wa^{ndat}. No spelling or English translations, in other words staying in the language. The main strategies are to

Continued on Page 20

Native American Heritage Month Social Dance



November 14, 2025
Bearskin Fitness Center Gym
Supper at 5:30pm
Social Dances at 6:30pm

Contact Joshua Garcia at:
918-678-6391
jgarcia@wyandotte-nation.org



e:žatq̄hšrihšas Reading Research Group

2nd Thursday of Month

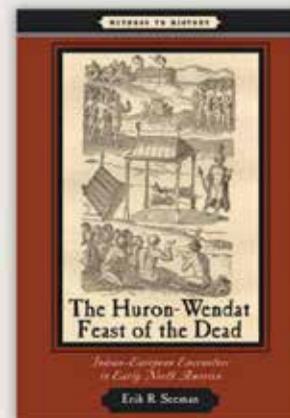
In-Person: 1 PM at Artie Nesvold Elder Center
Zoom: 7 PM

Only open to citizens of Wyandotte Nation

Nov. 13th
Chapters 3-4

Dec. 11th
Chapters 5-6

Jan. 8th
Remainder of
Book



Interested?



Scan the QR for
more information
or to register.

CULTURAL DIVISION

(LANGUAGE NOTES)

Continued from Page 19

speak 100% Waⁿdat in each immersion set, and most importantly, to have fun. The overall goal of this immersion-style approach is to become more confident in speaking Waⁿdat enough to carry on a short conversation by the end of each monthly topic.

These immersion-style sessions are 1-hour, consisting of roughly three 10-minute “mini-immersion” sets with 5-minute breaks in between sets. Participants meet once a week over 3-4 weeks and are expected to participate every week for the group to effectively retain the selected vocab together. Prerequisites include a lesson on Waⁿdat sounds and a short history on the Waⁿdat language. If you can’t commit to one month, there will be more opportunities when we announce the following month’s Waⁿdat Wednesday with the next topic.

Regular and new Waⁿdat Wednesday participants are enthusiastically encouraged to join the immersion sessions! Although we are a long way away from total immersion

programming because Waⁿdat is still “sleeping” (meaning we don’t have proficient speakers...yet!), we have many tools, support, and staunch perseverance to help us reawaken Waⁿdat. Please reach out to Darcy Allred, wandatlanguage@wyandotte-nation.org if you’d like to join these sessions or have any questions about immersion-style programming.

Daytime sessions, facilitated by Darcy Allred: Sundays, 10 – 11 am PT, 12 – 1 pm CT, 1 – 2 pm ET

Evening sessions, facilitated by Alex Badley: Tuesdays, 4 – 5 pm PT, 6 – 7 pm CT, 7 – 8 pm ET

Fall ‘25 – Spring ‘26 Waⁿdat Wednesday + Immersion-Style Topics

**Topics and monthly schedule subject to change*

Month: Topic

- October: Greetings & states of being
- November: Part 1: Food + drinking & eating
- December: Part 2: Food + drinking & eating
- January: Animals
- February: Numbers + counting
- March: Kinship
- April: Plants

May: Weather & seasons
June: TBD

Interested in learning our language?

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

Be sure to send any comments or suggestions, especially those on your language & culture wish list, to: wandatlanguage@wyandotte-nation.org
Language support courtesy of our Wyandotte Nation Linguist, Dr. Craig Kopriss. All mistakes are our own.

– *Beci & Darcy*

WYANDOTTE NAMES

Being gifted a traditional name in our Waⁿdat language connects us with our ancestors and highlights our commitment to stand up for Wyandotte Nation. Waⁿdat names are the property of the Nation and in contemporary times are bestowed by our Chief after a tribal citizen successfully completes the application process, which has 3 parts: 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 2026 is now open!

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 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!) Tižameh!

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

2026 Wyandotte Book Club

February 9th | **May**

August | **November**

Scan the QR for more information or to register.

Waⁿdat Wednesday

LEARN BASIC WAⁿDAT VOCAB

(NO PRIOR CLASSES NEEDED)

Noon & 8pm

3rd Wednesday of month

Scan the QR for more information or to register.