

# What's Up Wyandot

## Chaialee Heads into Sophomore Year as a Polar Bear

Champ Chaialee, a graduate of Carey High School, will soon be returning to Ohio Northern University in Ada to begin his sophomore year as a Polar Bear. Champ, who began receiving Wyandot County DD services in 2021 is an excellent role model for others who have goals of pursuing post-secondary education. After graduating high school, the Carey native, set out to Ada to begin his college years, majoring in political science. After being diagnosed his junior year of high school with Autism, Champ had several obstacles to overcome while starting college. Not only was he leaving home for the first time to live on campus and begin classes, but Champ was not used to

being on his own. "Firstly, putting in my application to college was a bit scary," Champ stated. "It was really my first time getting into the real world," he continued. "With my autism, I am often isolated to people. I think differently than others and it was hard to meet friends," Champ said. Champ successfully overcame these challenges to have a successful first year. "My first year was amazing!" he exclaimed. "I loved my professors, and it was interesting to be on my own!" Not only did Champ pass all his classes, Champ also joined the Phi Mu Delta Fraternity and Model United Nations. He also enjoyed his first time flying and traveling by himself when he went to Charlotte, NC and Atlanta, GA for

Model United Nations conferences. He was also able to meet friends in his hall and his fraternity. Champ returns to campus soon and is looking forward to getting to know his roommate, focusing on academics and trying to get involved on campus. Champ hopes to one day teach and educate the community about politics. His goal is to obtain his master's degree and then become a political analyst. His advice for others?

"Take advantage of your autism. Just because I'm autistic – it doesn't stop me. What keeps me moving forward is the high interest of a subject – for me that is political science." He continued, "The difference between an average person and an autistic person is your high interest. Take the opportunity to invest in what you are interested in. Don't do things that are practical – do things that are passionate!" Goodluck this year, Champ!



Champ pictured with Ohio Supreme Court Justice Michael Donnely. He met Justice Donnely at college last year.

## TRAUM BREWING DEDICATES BEER TO AUTISM



Traum Brewing in Upper Sandusky has dedicated a pale ale "Wildflowers" to the autism community. Wildflowers is a delicate pale ale brewed with a variety of American hops and locally-sourced wildflower honey from Harpster Honey Company. A portion of the proceeds from Wildflowers will be going to Wyandot County DD to help promote inclusion and awareness! Wildflowers bursts flavors of lemon citrus with earthly flower tones. Go out and try Wildflowers, and thank you, Traum!

## Wyandot County Fair to Feature Accessible Restroom Trailer

In conjunction with the West Central Ohio Council of Government (WestCON COG), we have received funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) grant to purchase two new accessible restroom trailers with universal changing tables for use at local fairs, festivals, and events for member counties within the COG. The trailer features a universal adult changing table, ceiling lift system, ADA toilet and sink, and ample room for companion care. The trailer will debut in Wyandot County at the Wyandot County Fair! For more information about the trailer, contact Todd Dilley at [tdilley@wycbdd.org](mailto:tdilley@wycbdd.org)



## Upcoming Events

**Heart of a Champion Livestock Show at Wyandot County Fair:**  
September 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm at the Arena

**DSP Appreciation Week:**  
September 8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup>

**Family Support Parent Networking Group:**  
September 10<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at Wyandot County DD Playground

## Did You Know?

Did you know Wyandot County DD provides services through one's lifespan. Wyandot County DD serves children from birth throughout adulthood?

## Recognize DSPs (Direct Support Professionals)/ Care Providers

In honor of DSP Appreciation Week, send us your photos of you as a DSP/ Caregiver or your DSP/Caregiver! Send your photos to [contact@wycbdd.org](mailto:contact@wycbdd.org) to be featured on our Facebook page! You can also nominate your DSP as the DSP of the Quarter by visiting: <https://wycbdd.org/direct-support-professional-starfish-spotlight/>  
Thank you, DSPs/Caregivers!



◆ Learn. ◆ Earn. ◆ Live. ◆ Connect. ◆

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