

# Denver to name new park after Native American woman

By Bennito L. Kelty, Westworld

The ten-acre park in Green Valley Ranch will be the first urban park in the city named after a Native American.

The City of Denver will christen the future Green Valley Ranch Park as Amache Prowers Memorial Park in honor of the nineteenth century Native American rights activist and Sand Creek Massacre survivor.

The \$8 million park, approved by Denver City Council, will open along the intersection of South Kittredge Street and East Boiling Drive, two residential streets near Green Valley Ranch's border with Montbello, just north of Interstate 70 and Airport Boulevard.

Prowers, also known as Walking Woman, is known

for helping survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864. She also protected and passed on Colorado's Indigenous history and traditions while trying to bridge cultures during the state's formative years.

"This park would be a tribute to her dedication to the cultural understanding, community leadership and role in shaping Colorado," reads an ordinance naming the park. In a memo to council, Denver Parks and & Recreation executive director Jolon Clark described Prowers as a "mediator between Colorado settlers, Mexicans and Native American communities during the 1860s and 1870s."

Denver City council unanimously approved the

DENVER PARK pg. 5



Amache Prowers, Walking Woman, Southern Cheyenne is known for helping survivors of the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864. (Courtesy photo)

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune

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# November 1 SNAP benefits set to be cut off amid government shutdown

Native Americans, Low-Income Families Brace for Impact

The federal government shutdown that began on October 1 has placed one of the nation's most vital food assistance programs on the brink of collapse, with catastrophic consequences expected for millions of Americans, particularly Native American communities and low-income families.

According to a warning from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), if Congress fails to restore funding, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will not be able to issue full benefits beginning November 1, 2025. With approximately 42 million people enrolled nationwide, the stakes are high.

While SNAP affects people across the U.S., the shutdown is expected to hit Native American communities especially hard. For tribal nations, treaty- and trust-funded services are already under strain, and the shutdown exacerbates existing vulnerabilities.

In many tribal areas, up to one in four households rely on SNAP or similar food assistance programs. Some tribal governments warn that their reserve funds, already thin, will not sustain basic services beyond a few weeks of disruption. With SNAP funding at risk, and federal agencies slow or shuttered, communities face a "double whammy," both lower food-assistance support and interruption of other federal services.

Tribal leaders emphasized that while the Indian Health Service (IHS) remains funded via advance appropriations and avoids immediate shutdown-related cuts, many adjacent safety-net programs like housing grants, energy assistance, and nutrition programs are vulnerable.

States including Texas, Illinois and New York have already

alerted hundreds of thousands of families that their November SNAP benefits may not be issued if the shutdown continues.

In Texas alone, more than 3.5 million people rely on SNAP; 1.7 million of them are children. The state has warned that without a budget deal by late October, November food-

can get. When you're reducing these programs, it will cause a burden on Oklahomans", said Austin Prickett, director of Marketing and Communications for the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma.

Advocacy groups say the timing couldn't be worse: with rising food prices, inflation-driven household costs, and the traditional holiday season ahead, the loss of SNAP benefits could push many families from barely getting by into outright crisis.

Republican lawmakers are publicly blaming democrats for the shutdown and resulting food-aid cut-offs, characterizing it as a failure by democrats to cooperate on budget votes. Some state notices for SNAP say explicitly, "Because republicans in Washington D.C. failed to pass a federal budget ... November 2025 SNAP benefits cannot be paid."

Democrats contend the blame is misplaced. They say the real issue is a refusal by republicans to extend enhanced health-insurance subsidies under the American Rescue Plan and subsequent legislation, which would otherwise avert massive premium increases and millions losing insurance coverage. According to independent fact-checkers, without extension of those tax credits, average premium contributions in the marketplaces would increase more than 75 percent.

In other words, democrats say they have offered to keep the government open and address the looming healthcare cliff, but republicans rejected the offer, setting the shutdown in motion. The contradiction between the two sides' narratives has produced confusion and anxiety among program recipients.

We understand the challenges tribal members may face with the halt in SNAP benefits, and we are taking steps to help support our people during this time.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes offer Food Distribution and Food Pantry programs to assist individuals and families in need. We are working to ensure these programs are well stocked and prepared to meet a possible increase in demand.

While we cannot guarantee that every need will be met, we are committed to doing everything within our means to support our tribal members, especially our elders and families.

Governor Reggie Wassana

stamp payments will be halted.

In Oklahoma nearly 17% of Oklahoma's population relies on SNAP benefits to keep their household fed. According to the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 686,800 Oklahomans, every one in six Oklahoma residents, receive SNAP benefits. Food banks in Oklahoma are working tirelessly to help these families receive the help they need.

"We want people to have as much access to food as they

SNAP pg. 5





# Indigenous Arts Festival joins Watonga Cheese Festival for historic celebration

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*



*The first Indigenous fashion show held at this year’s Watonga Cheese Festival highlighted works from Cheyenne and Arapaho fashion designer Nan Blassingame, who owns Native American Notions.*

( W A T O N G A , Okla.) On October 10 and 11, two traditions, one rooted in Oklahoma’s agricultural history, the other in the living culture of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, joined together in an unprecedented partnership.

The Plains Collective, a nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing Native culture hosted the Indigenous Arts Festival in conjunction with the long-standing Watonga Cheese Festival, celebrating its 48th year.

The collaboration marked the first effort of its kind to intentionally unite the community of Watonga with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in celebration of culture, history and creativity.

This festival was promoted for being more than just entertainment, but a connection bringing together Indigenous art, history, and food with long-standing local traditions, to create a space where everyone can celebrate together, learn from one another, and strengthen the bonds of community.

Visitors were able to experience the vibrancy of Native artistry through exhibitions by renowned Indigenous artists, cultural displays at Roman Nose State Park, and a spectacular fashion show featuring Native designers. Included in the celebration, were traditional food demonstrations and a frybread contest.

Alongside these cultural showcases, festivalgoers also enjoyed the long-standing Cheese Festival favorites: the lively parade, quilt and art shows, youth activities, and community events such as the Great Rat Race, Pedal Tractor Pull and Fall Festival Rodeo. Together, the diverse activities weave what Ramona Tallbear described as “a tapestry of shared experiences, bridging Native and non-Native traditions in a way that celebrates both individuality and community.”

The idea for the Indigenous Arts Festival grew from the vision of three brothers from Watonga, Melvin, Larry, and Quinton Roman Nose, who

dreamed of creating an event that would acknowledge the Cheyenne and Arapaho people as equal partners in the community.

“Really surprised at how it grew,” Tallbear said, a board member for the nonprofit Plains Collective. “This was their (Roman Nose brothers) dream and it all came together. This year’s event serves as a “soft launch” for an even larger Indigenous Arts Festival planned for next year. What makes this inaugural effort particularly significant is that it comes with the full support of both the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal government and the Watonga city leadership.”

The history between the city of Watonga and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes stretches back more than a century. After the Civil War, Plains Tribes, including the Cheyenne and Arapaho, resisted encroachment from settlers until they were forced onto reservations in what is now northwestern Oklahoma. The 1892 Land Run,

which opened Cheyenne Arapaho lands for non-Indian settlement, created decades of conflict and mistrust between Native peoples and incoming European settlers Tallbear said.

“But times are changing. Today, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Lucky Star Casino in Watonga is the community’s largest employer, with 575 tribal members on staff. The tribes’ growing visibility, professionalism, and success are reshaping perceptions and building new relationships,” Tallbear said.

The pairing of the new festival with Watonga’s beloved Cheese Festival is no accident. By intertwining the Indigenous Arts Festival with this local tradition, organizers hoped to showcase the strength of Watonga’s history while honoring the resilience and creativity of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

“Through art, food, song, and community, we are creating a future where both cultures thrive side by side,” Tallbear said.



*Ramona Tallbear (l), board member for Plains Collective nonprofit organization visits with Albert Oldcrow during the opening day of the Indigenous Arts Festival/Watonga Cheese Festival. (Courtesy photos)*



*Tribal citizens Abbigayle Cometsevah-Littleman, Beatrix Fingernail and Herbert Blackcrow participated, and medaled in the Great Rat Race 5K at the Watonga Cheese & Wine Festival on October 11, 2025.*



*Bobby James*

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# It’s Okay Not to Be Okay: Men Find Healing and Brotherhood at Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Wellness Conference

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

(OKLAHOMA CITY) Breaking down barriers and helping men find their voices in the ongoing battle against mental health stigma was the goal of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ first-ever Men’s Wellness Conference, held October 19–21 at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.

For too long, men, especially Native men, have carried silent burdens. Cultural expectations of strength and stoicism have kept many from seeking help, leading to devastating consequences. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health, suicide was the second leading cause of death for non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska Natives ages 10–34 in 2022. The suicide rate for these populations was 91% higher than the national average, and yet, they continue to receive less mental health treatment than the general population.

Nationally, more than six million men in the United States experience depression each year, but most go untreated. It’s a crisis that continues to grow in silence.

In response, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes organized the Men’s Wellness Conference, an extension of the success of their 2024 Women’s Wellness Conference. With the theme “Empowering Healing and Resilience,” the three-day event brought together hundreds of men to begin breaking that silence and to start meaningful conversations about health, healing, and brotherhood.

Through partnerships with Indian Health Service, Lucky Star Casino, and various tribal programs, the Department of Health created a space where men could learn, share, and heal together.

“Whatever form that means to everybody, whether it’s mental, physical, emotional, or family health, it’s about empowering the healing and starting the conversation,” said Zachary Blackowl assistant to the Prevention Programs director, who helped lead the planning efforts.

Breakout sessions covered topics ranging from men’s mental health and lifestyle balance to the importance of preventive screenings, issues that often go unaddressed among men.

“Screening awareness is key to prevention,” Blackowl explained. “It’s about building a community where getting help is normal. It’s not weird to see a doctor ... it’s smart.”

The conference drew more than 300 attendees, far surpassing initial expectations. High-profile guest speakers, including Taboo of the Black Eyed Peas, former NFL players Curtis Lofton, Kennedy Brooks, and Joshua Norman, shared personal stories about overcoming challenges and maintaining mental health in high-pressure environments.

Tribal leaders Gov. Reggie Wassana and Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham offered remarks, while elders Quinton Roman Nose and Fred Mosqueda shared words of wisdom in a panel discussion. Other presentations included Dr. Jordan Neil on colon cancer awareness and Chris Tallbear, National Institute of Public Health tribal advisor, who closed out the event.



An Elder panel entitled, “Wisdom for our Men,” features elders Quinton Roman Nose (l) and Fred Mosqueda (r) with Chance Rush as MC. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)

Throughout the conference, men opened up about their personal experiences, many for the first time.

Tommy Beartrack, Watonga Food Distribution manager, said the event helped him realize how important it is to acknowledge and manage stress.

“It’s not bad to worry about your mental health,” Beartrack said. “We deal with stress at work and at home, it’s good to learn how to handle it. It’s not taboo to talk about it anymore.”

Tyler Elledge, sports coordinator with the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. program, said being surrounded by other men facing similar struggles was refreshing.

“As men we don’t really get to express our feelings. We hold them in,” Elledge said. “It’s good to be around other men going through the same problems.”

For Timothy Yeahquo, Jr., director of Vocational Rehabilitation, the discussions hit close to home, “I myself have mental illness,” he shared. “For 16 years, I didn’t know what was wrong with me until I was diagnosed with severe obsessive-compulsive disorder. The manly thing to do is to take responsibility, it’s okay not to be okay.”

Yeahquo said he often reflects on his ancestors, warriors who fought battles of survival, and how today’s men must find that same courage to face internal struggles, “It’s taking responsibility and getting help,” he said. “Now with treatment, I’m able to get my life back and move forward.”

On the final day of the conference, the Honored Male Award was presented to Jerry Levi, director of the Office of Veterans Affairs (OVA), for his dedication to assisting veterans in need.

“It’s an honor,” Levi said. “But it’s really for the whole staff. We all put veterans first, that’s the key to what we



Jerry Levi, Office of Veterans Affairs director was presented with the Honored Male Award. Pictured l-r: Erwin Pahmahmie, Department of Labor executive director, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana, Jerry Levi, OVA director, and Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham.

do.”

Levi, who has been with OVA since 2022, said mental health care for veterans is often overlooked, and many continue to suffer in silence.

“It shouldn’t be a shame to say you need help,” he said. “Even just having someone to talk to can make all the difference,” Levi said.

For Prevention Programs Director Kati Sullivan, the turnout proved how necessary the event was. “We wanted to create a safe, open space where men could just be themselves,” Sullivan said. “To start a brotherhood. To show that it’s okay to talk about your struggles and seek healing.”

Connor Bushyhead, Executive Director of the Department of Health, said the next step is to build on the momentum. “We’re working toward sustainability, continuing these conversations through work groups and community engagement,” he said. “Different age groups face different challenges, but the goal is to tie it all together and keep moving forward.”

As the conference came to a close, one message resonated above all, it’s okay not to be okay. From conversations about screenings and stress to heartfelt stories of resilience, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Men’s Wellness Conference marked a new chapter in community health, one where men are no longer expected to suffer in silence, but encouraged to heal, speak, and rise together.

## Is Rep. Frank Lucas a real conservative?

Rep. Frank Lucas’s push for \$16.6 million in earmarks in addition to the \$50 million for climate research pilot projects at Fort Reno, while blocking local energy and tribal economic development.

Written by Reggie Wassana  
Governor, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes



Rep. Frank Lucas, R-Okla., right, and White House economic adviser Kevin Hassett listen during an “Invest in America” roundtable with President Donald Trump and business leaders at the White House, Monday, June 9, 2025, in Washington. (AP Photo/Evan Vucci)

Recent stories should alarm all Oklahomans. And hopefully, wake us up to demand our elected leaders take a common sense approach to addressing critical issues.

The first story I’m referring to was reported by Oklahoma Watch.

The story said Congressman Frank Lucas recently submitted legislation seeking \$16.6 million in earmarks to help fund climate research at Fort Reno. That’s a staggering increase from the little more than \$1 million Lucas has typically sought for the federal operation.

Even more concerning, the \$16.6 million request is a prelude to a \$50 million scheme that Lucas is pushing to create a “pilot project” for climate research, totaling \$66.6 million--this is Kamala-type stuff from a “Conservative” Oklahoma congressman.

Lucas was elected in 1994 and has made it his personal mission to keep Fort Reno from being returned to the Cheyenne and Arapaho people no matter the cost. Lucas has been challenged numerous times to produce the information he claims shows the federal government has twice paid our Tribes for the Fort Reno property. He has not produced anything. He’s all smoke and mirrors.

Yes, the federal government paid the Cheyenne and Arapaho people twice for land in western Oklahoma, but Fort Reno was not included in either payment because of the August 13, 1946 cutoff date established

by federal law. Fort Reno was still under military control at that time. Records clearly show that more than 9,000 acres were specifically excluded from the previous settlements.

Lucas is now going so far as to “carry water” for the worn out policies enacted by former President Barack Obama. The far-left policies that sought to cripple the oil and gas industry in the United States.

Is Congressman Lucas truly a conservative? His actions would indicate he’s not at all conservative.

The proposal put forward by my C&A leadership team, to create jobs and opportunities for tribal members and all Oklahomans, is much more conservative. It would allow the C&A to become self sufficient, all while creating much needed and good paying jobs for central and western Oklahoma.

The second story I saw that should cause Oklahomans great concern reported that half of the state’s more than 1.6 million households cannot afford basic necessities. That’s totally unacceptable and shines a terrible light on policies that often create barriers to job growth. Especially jobs that could provide above average pay and benefits.

Please stand with me in telling Congressman Lucas to stop playing games with the lives of Oklahomans. Our state deserves better. Our people deserve better.

This opinion piece first published Oct. 13, 2025 in the OKC City News.



Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana delivers opening remarks at the first Men’s Wellness Conference held at the First Americans Museum October 19-21.



# Lighting the Way: Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Victim Services Program brings awareness to Domestic Violence

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

(KINGFISHER, Okla.) Igniting a spark of hope for those affected by domestic violence, tribal citizens and community members gathered throughout October to stand together in solidarity and healing.

As part of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Victim Services Program hosted a series of events across tribal communities, including a candlelight vigil, a balloon release, and an awareness walk, all aimed at shedding light on the realities of domestic violence and offering pathways to support and safety.

On October 16, the glow of flickering candles illuminated the Kingfisher Emergency Response Center (ERC), where a small but powerful group came together to honor and remember victims and survivors of domestic violence.

According to the Indian Health Service (IHS), more than 1.4 million American Indian and Alaska Native men (82%) and 1.5 million women (84%) have reported experiencing violence in their lifetime. The data underscores a grim reality, Native women and girls are disproportionately affected, experiencing violence at significantly higher rates than other women in the United States.

For Victim Services Coordinator Nathan Littlehawk, the mission of October’s events was clear.

“We’re trying to get our program information out, to let the community know there is help for them,” Littlehawk said. “October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and we want to bring awareness because there is assistance and there is hope.”

The evening began with program introductions and welcoming remarks by Arapaho District 2 Legislator Kendricks Sleeper. The keynote speaker, Casandra Fraser, shared a deeply personal story of survival, faith, and healing, a testimony that moved many to tears.

Fraser said her decision to share her experience comes from a commitment to walk in faith and follow the Creator’s purpose for her life. While incarcerated, she found meaning in the biblical verse Isaiah 61, which inspired her to help others break free from their own cycles of pain.

“The first part of that verse says, ‘to set the captive free,’” Fraser said. “I try to live that every day, to bring hope to the hopeless, to let people know there’s a way out, no matter the situation.”

Through her words, Fraser hoped to reach others who may feel trapped in abusive relationships or struggling with trauma.

“They don’t have to stay stuck in what was or what’s going on now,” she said. “There’s a better future than the hurt and pain.”

Fraser said that a lack of awareness and limited access to resources often keeps Native women from seeking help.

“People didn’t know how to help, and I wasn’t ready to be helped,” she said. “I didn’t have confidence outside of myself, I was codependent. I think sometimes we just don’t know about the resources that are there.”

Now in a season of healing, Fraser reflected on one of the hardest lessons she’s learned, “We attract what we are. If we walk around in pain, we’ll keep finding pain. But once we



realize we’re worthy of something greater, that’s when we begin to live a better life.”

As participants held candles and bowed their heads in silence, the moment served as both remembrance and renewal a collective acknowledgment of pain, resilience, and hope.

“It’s for the survivors, for those still going through it, and for those who didn’t make it,” Littlehawk said quietly.

Throughout the month, Victim Services also hosted a balloon release in Seiling and an awareness walk in Clinton, giving community members opportunities to show support and learn about available resources.

“So many of our community members go through this and don’t know there’s a program to help,” Littlehawk said. “We also want the younger generation to know, what they may be experiencing is not a way to live.”

The Victim Services Program provides a range of support, including shelter referrals, food and gas cards, court advocacy, protective order assistance, clothing, and transportation to medical or legal appointments.

“We offer assistance and advocacy,” Littlehawk explained. “If someone needs help getting to court or a doctor, or needs emergency items, we’re here. There are resources. Some just don’t know where to turn, but we are here to help.”

While the Kingfisher event may have been small, its impact was profound. Every candle lit that evening represented a story, of loss, survival, or courage, and a reminder that no one should ever have to walk through the darkness alone.

“There is hope,” Littlehawk said. “There is help. And we



Guest Speaker for the Domestic Violence Awareness and Candlelight Vigil was Casandra Fraser who shares her story and experience with domestic violence. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)

are here.”

For assistance or more information, contact the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Victim Services Program at (833) 488-4887.

# Celebrating Wisdom and Wellness: Elders Conference Honors Tribal Seniors

Kimberly Burk, Tribal Tribune Correspondent

A catered lunch featuring honey-glazed chicken. Door prizes. Nutrition Bingo. Chair yoga. Socializing and lots of laughs. The Moses Starr Jr. Honored Elder Award.

All are on tap for this year’s Elders Conference sponsored by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Diabetes Wellness Program, set for November 14 at the Frisco Center in Clinton, Okla.

Diabetes is not a fun disease, acknowledges Marcos Baros, director of the Diabetes Wellness Program. But the Elders Conference, he said, is an event that many look forward to, drawing as many as 180 participants every year.

“We definitely try to make it fun,” Baros said. “We make it more engaging and interactive.”

The conference includes workshops on optometry, podiatry, nutrition and Diabetes 101, Baros said, to cover the variety of conditions that can accompany the disease.

“Once you are diagnosed diabetic, it opens the floodgates for a majority of health problems,” Baros said. “It takes its toll, it wears you down, it wears you out.”

A behavioral health specialist will offer tips on battling loneliness and isolation.

“A lot of our elders are kind of on their own, missing their significant other,” Baros said. “A lot of days they just don’t feel like going anywhere.”

The Indian Health Service units in Clinton, El Reno and Watonga are currently treating 1,032 tribal citizens for diabetes, Baros said. He said it’s difficult to determine how many other tribal citizens have been diagnosed and receive health-care elsewhere.

Needless to say, the lunch menu will not include fry bread. Any discussion about diabetes in the Native population is likely to include a mention of fry bread, but Baros said he would never ask elders to banish fry bread or any favored treats from their lives.

As a native of New Mexico who has Pueblo ancestors, Baros admitted he cannot envision a future without an occa-



In 2024 tribal elder Mary Beaver was awarded the Moses Starr Jr. Honored Elder Award. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

sional fry bread indulgence.

“We never tell people to cut anything out of their diet, just to portion it out better,” he said.

Baros said he’s learned a lot from tribal elders, and loves getting to know them better.

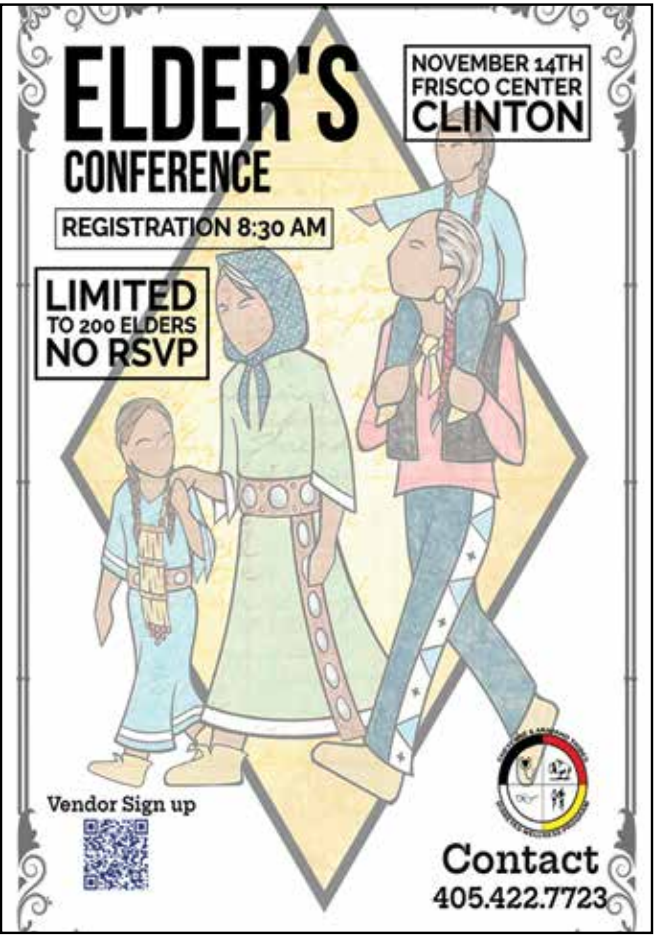
“The majority of them open up immediately,” he said. “They will share almost everything with you.”

Baros also appreciates the candidness of Cheyenne and Arapaho elders, especially on the topic of diabetes and lifestyle changes.

“They understand what you are trying to do,” he said. “But they will tell you straight up, it’s hard for them to make that change.”

A highlight of the conference will be the announcement of the Moses Starr Jr. Honored Elder. The award, established in 2019, honors an elder who has made a significant contribution in one or more of three areas: advocacy in health, tribal engagement or addressing health disparities.

Christina Sharp, coordinator of the Health Education



Department, which oversees the award, said all five of this year’s nominees will be invited to the presentation and given reserved seating.

“We will recognize all the elders who were nominated,” Sharp said. “We will talk about why they were nominated, and who nominated them.”

This year’s nominees are Kenny Williams, Bonnie Shaikh, Twila Ann Ashcraft, Wanda Whiteman and Ruth Whiteskunk. The name of the Honored Elder will not be announced prior to the ceremony.

The honor will be presented by the family of C-3 Legislator Tommy Trout, who is a descendant of Moses Starr Jr.

Registration for the Elders Conference starts at 8:30 a.m., and workshops continue until 3 p.m. The RSVP system will not be used this year, so participants should just show up at the door. Vendor booths will include arts and crafts vendors as well as information about tribal services and IHS programs.

For more information, call (405) 422-7723.



# DENVER PARK

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name Amache Prowers Memorial Park during its meeting on Monday, October 6. According to Councilwoman Stacie Gilmore, who represents northeast Denver, the park will open by summer.

## Who Was Amache Prowers?

Prowers was born Amache Ochinee in 1846, a member of the Southern Cheyenne tribe, in the southeastern plains of Colorado. She married cattle trader John Prowers in 1861, when she was just fifteen years old. She took his last name but kept up Cheyenne traditions, historians say, including the language and recipes for food and medicine.

While camping by Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado, the couple was kidnapped as troops led by Colonel John Chivington prepared to raid a camp of Cheyenne and Arapaho; over 200 people were killed, primarily women, children and old men, while younger men were away hunting. The attack broke a treaty negotiated by Amache’s father, Cheyenne Chief O’kenehe, who was one of many chiefs killed at Sand Creek on November 29, 1864.

Amache and John Prowers were eventually released. In 1865, the two testified in Congress and helped win 160 acres of land for each tribal member who lost family in the Sand Creek Massacre, according to the National Park Service. Amahe and her surviving family, including her mother and two daughters, combined their allotments and built a large adobe house, and operated a school, a general store and hotel on that land, expanding her husband’s cattle trading business on the 640 total acres. By 1881, they had 15,000 head of cattle and were helping develop the town of Boggsville in eastern Colorado, which is now part of Prowers County, named after the couple.

Amache taught her nine children both English and the Cheyenne language, raising them with Anglo and Indigenous cultures. According to the NPS, she “continued to be involved with the Cheyenne community and speak out for their interests” throughout



*The Amache Prowers Memorial Park was approved by Denver City Council in 2024, with construction beginning in the Spring 2025. The \$8 million project, when completed, will be moved under Parks & Recreation to control park operations.*

her life. She died in 1905, about twenty years after her husband. She is buried at Las Animas Cemetery.

A few decades after her death, the Japanese internment camp officially dubbed the Granada War Relocation Center became known as “Camp Amache” after a mail mix-up with the nearby town of Granada. More than 10,000 people of Japanese ancestry were incarcerated there from 1942 to 1945, according to the NPS. Two years ago, the NPS designated the location as a National Historic Site.

In 2018, the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame inducted Amache Prowers for her “poignant” efforts to bring different cultures together and keep the memory of the Sand Creek Massacre alive.

“Prowers never forgot the injustices of ethnic genocide,” a description from the Colorado Women’s Hall of Fame reads. “She kept a teepee in the backyard to seek respite from the tumultuous changes brought by the American conquest of Indian land and peoples in Colorado.”

Amache Prowers Memorial Park will be the first urban park in the city named after a Native American, according to the City of Denver.

According to council documents, Trennie Burch, co-chair of the

city’s American Indian Commission, suggested the name, but it also came up during public surveys. A naming committee appointed by Parks & Rec nominated Amache Prowers Memorial Park as the final choice; the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board unanimously agreed.

Right now, the park is just a ten-acre span of dirt in the middle of a tranquil neighborhood, but plans include a playground, shaded benches and tables, grassy picnic areas, dozens of trees, a turf field for soccer, volleyball and other sports, and courts for tennis or pickleball. Across the street, an off-leash dog park is already open next to the well-hidden Kittredge West Lake, a fishing pond.

The park’s development was approved by council in 2024, and construction began this spring. The \$8 million to build Amache Prowers Memorial Park is coming from the Avion Metropolitan District, formerly the Denver Connection West Metro District, which raises funds through property taxes. According to Denver City Council, the district gifted “a significant amount of funding and the land” for the park and signed off on the name. Parks and Recreation will take control of park operations upon completion.

# SNAP

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A key piece of the dispute is the expiration of expanded premium tax-credits under the Inflation Reduction Act / American Rescue Plan era, which lowered insurance premiums for many marketplace enrollees. If these credits expire, the average out-of-pocket premium contribution for subsidy-eligible enrollees could rise by 75 percent, or even more in certain states.

Democrats say the shutdown is being used as leverage by republicans, forcing a scenario where families could lose both their food assistance and face major spikes in insurance costs within months. With millions potentially being kicked off coverage or priced out, the timing overlaps dangerously with the SNAP benefit stoppage.

What Happens If SNAP is Cut Off November 1?

State agencies have been instructed to hold off processing November SNAP issuance files until further notice.

Recipients may receive zero payment in November, unless the shutdown ends or Congress acts to shuttle funding to states.

EBT cards for October will still work, and leftover balances may be usable, but new benefits may not load.

Food banks and community support networks are bracing for unprecedented demand, especially in trib-

al and rural communities where grocery access is already limited.

As families lose SNAP support, the risk of increased debt, skipped meals, housing instability and health problems rises sharply.

“Everything is very under-funded already, so it’s just gonna get skinnier,” Boyd Gorneau said, according to Indian Country Today, reflecting the anxiety of tribal leadership about the shutdown’s escalation. Gorneau is the chairman of the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe in South Dakota.

“We’re hoping we will come out of this unscathed ... but you have to go a few days to see if there’s any sand in the gears,” said OJ Semans of the Coalition of Large Tribes told Indian Country Today

The immediate question is whether Congress will pass a continuing resolution or omnibus appropriations bill before late October that sends funding to SNAP and restores health-care subsidies. Without action, November 1 looms as the date when millions of families and many tribal households may be cut off.


Analysts warn that restoring benefits retroactively will be difficult, state systems may not be able to re-load EBT files quickly, and once benefits are missed, vulnerable households could suffer immedi-

ate harm.

Meanwhile, the health-care battle continues, unless the premium tax-credit extension is included in the budget deal, many marketplace enrollees could face skyrocketing cost-sharing and potentially lose coverage altogether in 2026.

This dual crisis, disruption of basic nutrition support and possible collapse of subsidized insurance, highlights how a budget stalemate disproportionately harms those already least able to absorb financial shocks: low-income families, households in rural areas, and Native American communities.

For many households, SNAP isn’t a “nice to have” but the difference between putting food on the table and going hungry. For those same families, a sudden increase in insurance premiums or loss of coverage compounds the hardship. The shutdown, in effect, threatens both basic survival and access to health care. With the government shutdown dragging on and no deal in sight, November 1 is shaping up as a critical deadline. Unless Congress acts, millions of Americans, including many Native Americans, may wake up one day without their SNAP benefits, and many others may soon face steep spikes in insurance premiums. The question now: who will bear the brunt of the political standoff?




**JODI MARQUETTE**  
American Indian  
Wills Clinic

**PLEASE BRING THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR APPOINTMENT:**


- ☐ Driver's license or Tribal or State-issued ID.
- ☐ Full names and dates of birth of children and grandchildren.
- ☐ Any paperwork regarding your Indian land.

**Friday, November 14th**  
**OCU School of Law**  
**Oklahoma City, OK**

- No Walk-Ins will be accepted. Appointments must be made in advance, scheduled by phone.
- The American Indian Wills Clinic provides no-cost estate planning services to Tribal Members who live in Oklahoma.
- Wills and other estate planning documents are drafted by appointment only.

 To make an appointment or learn more about your options for your Indian land, call Lori Harless, Program Coordinator, at 405-208-5017


**For more information on your Indian land, contact the OST Beneficiary Call Center at 1-888-678-6836**



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Law Education. Justice.

This project was made possible in part by a generous grant from the Oklahoma Bar Foundation

# DEAN'S

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Diabetes Wellness Program

# FRESH FOOD MARKET

**5pm-6:30pm**  
**or until supplies last**

 Hammon 11/5/2025	 Geary 11/6/2025	 Concho 11/12/2025
 Canton 11/18/2025	 Kingfisher 11/19/2025	 Clinton 11/25/2025

**all events are at the respective ERC**



**Phone**  
(405) 422-7656  
(405) 422-7683



## Introducing the 2025-26 American Indian Exposition Princesses



**Pictured l-r: Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana, Cheyenne Princess Audrina Greeley, Arapaho Princess Eryn Roman Nose and Cheyenne and Arapaho Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)**

On October 20, a princess meet and greet was held for Cheyenne Tribal Princess Audrina Greeley and Arapaho Tribal Princess Eryn Roman Nose at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes headquarters in Concho, Okla.

Greeley will serve as the 2025-2026 Cheyenne Tribal Princess and Roman Nose will serve as the 2025-2026 Arapaho Tribal Princess for the American Indian Exposition held Oct. 29 – Nov. 1, 2025 at the Caddo County Fairgrounds in Anadarko, Okla.

Greeley, 15, is a sophomore attending Watonga High School in Watonga, Okla. She was born in Oklahoma City and raised in the Hammon and Watonga communities. She participates in softball, basketball and track. Dancing jingle and cloth, Greeley has been dancing since she could walk. Taking on the Cheyenne Tribal Princess role, she looks forward to meeting new people.

“It feels good because I get to represent my tribe and it

means a lot to me,” Greeley said.

Greeley’s parents are Lance Greeley and Regina Youngbear. Her maternal grandparents are Duke and Hollie Youngbear and paternal grandparents are Clarence Greeley and the late Johnnie Sue Greeley.

Roman Nose, 17, is a senior at El Reno High School, where she plays basketball. She was born in Oklahoma City and raised in El Reno, Okla. What Roman Nose looks forward to the most in her Arapaho Tribal Princess role is meeting new people and getting out of her comfort zone.

“It feels good, I’m very honored to be picked and to represent my family and tribe,” Roman Nose said.

Roman Nose’s parents are Parry and Stephanie Roman Nose, her grandparents are Quinton and LaDonna Roman Nose, her grandmother is Dara Franklin and great-grandmother is Ruth Brooks. Her siblings include Rachelle Roman Nose and two brothers, Carter and Evan Roman Nose.

# ATHLETES' SPOTLIGHT

By Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

## Michael Ferrell, Sherman Indian High School

It’s a race between him and himself when it comes to enduring the long stretch of terrain ahead for Cheyenne and Arapaho youth, Michael Ferrell, 18.

Born and raised in Weatherford, Okla., Ferrell attends boarding school at Sherman Indian High School in Riverside, Calif., where he’s been



attending school since his freshman year.

Standing 6 foot tall, Ferrell is part of the cross-country team, which he began his sophomore year to stay in shape during the off seasons of basketball.

Ferrell has looked forward to running cross country each season, fully embracing it as a sport he’s come to love. What Ferrell loves the most about cross country is the team chemistry he’s built with friends and motivating himself.

“It’s really just about not racing, it’s mainly about yourself in a way because you’re racing for the best time and you really don’t know who you’re racing against sometimes, most of the time,” Ferrell said.

His biggest motivation for continuing to run comes from not wanting to give up.

“Just like enduring the pain even when being upside down just pushing myself even when things feel not your way,” Ferrell said.

In his senior year, what Ferrell looks forward to the most is beating his time of 17:32. His goals include hitting the 16 minute mark and also being there for his team as the team captain and inspiring others to do the same.

“It feels like I’m actually doing something accomplishing, at the time right now because it’s really my last season here and I just want to do the best I can, do as much as I can while I still can,” Ferrell said.

As a multi-athlete, Ferrell also plays basketball and described his busy life as a constant hustle while maintaining a 4.2 GPA academically.

“It’s really just doing your work honestly, don’t let it pile up just do it. And I just do my work and just showing up to practice, forcing

## Cheyenne and Arapaho Artist Edgar Heap of Birds Exhibits in Paris

Cheyenne and Arapaho artist Edgar Heap of Birds and his family recently visited Paris, France, where he is featured in the major international art exhibition “Echo, Reverb, Delay” at the Palais de Tokyo Art Museum. The exhibition, which explores the relationship between American art and French thought, runs from October 22, 2025, through February 15, 2026.

Heap of Birds participated in a panel discussion and lecture on October 24, where he shared insight into his work and its commentary on history and identity. His striking installation features two 20-foot-tall indoor banners in red, white, and blue,

colors echoing both nations’ flags.

The artwork reflects on the Statue of Liberty, a French gift to the United States, and how “its back is turned” to Native Nations. Another theme explores the Louisiana Purchase Treaty, through which France sold a vast portion of North America to the U.S. without consulting the many Tribal nations who already lived there.

Heap of Birds’ powerful contribution continues his lifelong mission of using art to spark dialogue, reflection, and awareness across cultures, this time on one of the world’s grandest stages.



**Edgar Heap of Birds and daughter Deezebaa Heap of Birds standing proud with the tribal flag intervention on the roof top terrace, Palais de Tokyo Art Museum, Paris, France. (Photo submitted by Edgar Heap of Birds)**



day,” Ferrell said.

Having a support system and telling oneself they can do it is crucial to being a runner when it comes to cross country.

“It’s really about just telling yourself that you could do it, you know, because when you’re running, you’re kind of on your own, you have to tell yourself that you can do it and to push yourself. So I like how cross-country has really made me mentally strong in a way,” Ferrell said.

As the season comes to an end in his senior year of cross country, Ferrell hopes to be remembered as a leader.

“I want to be known as a caring teammate, a leader, showing people that I’ve always shown them, the steps and the way, the path, setting challenging high goals,” Ferrell said.

Overall what Ferrell has learned the most in running cross country is to always keep going, no matter what.

“Always keep yourself running, always run, no matter what, how you feel, just always run in general, just run. Really it’s just running,” Ferrell said.

When he’s out there running the long stretch of terrain, trotting up hills and across different slopes, Ferrell is in his element as he said running gives him a strong mental mentality.

“The one thing running has taught me personally is to take care of your own body, just taking care of your body, staying healthy and staying in shape,” Ferrell said.

After graduating in the spring of 2026, Ferrell plans to continue his education and attend college to study either business administration or cyber security.

*Michael’s parents are Felicia Yelloweyes and Sundance Ferrell. His grandmother is Carol Whiteskunk and grandfather is Lamonte Yelloweyes. Siblings include Michaela Ferrell, 17, Michelle Ferrell, 15, and Malachi Yelloweyes.*



LEGAL NOTICES

CIV-2025-0064

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Application of: )  
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)  
A.B. )  
D.B. IV ) Case No. CIV-2025-0064  
B.B. )  
)  
)  
Minor Children  
To Change His/Her Names  
By Next of Kin, Pamela Bearbow

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **DONNIE BEARD III**  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **12<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR**, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. **You have the option to appear in person or through Zoom.** To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Your smart device will need a camera, microphone, and a stable internet connection. If you do not have access to a smart device, you can use a non-smartphone or traditional telephone.

**Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.**

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
  - Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCentU2WDV0OFMxMnlSQ3RxeTtHQT09orhttps://zoom.us/join>
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2025-0072

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
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In the Matter of: )  
)  
)  
VERONICA POWELL )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. CIV-2025-0072  
VS. )  
)  
)  
HUNTER LONG )  
Respondent, )

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **HUNTER LONG**  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **12<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR**, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. **You have the option to appear in person or through Zoom.** To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Your smart device will need a camera, microphone, and a stable internet connection. If you do not have access to a smart device, you can use a non-smartphone or traditional telephone.

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  - Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCentU2WDV0OFMxMnlSQ3RxeTtHQT09orhttps://zoom.us/join>
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2025-0079

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In The Matter Of the Application Of: )  
)  
)  
ADDISON JUSTINE WHITEMAN )  
DOB: 02/18/2007 ) Case No. CIV-2025-0079  
)  
)  
)  
To Change His/Her Name

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**TAKE NOTICE**, that ADDISON JUSTINE WHITEMAN has filed in this Court for Petition For Name Change, as follows, to wit; from ADDISON JUSTINE WHITEMAN to ADDISON JUSTINE FISHER and that the same will be heard by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 West Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, 73022, on the **3<sup>rd</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2025 at 10:00 A.M.**, and any written protest may be filed in the case, prior to the date set for the hearing.

Issued this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Mary Elledge*  
Mary Elledge, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court

JFD-2025-0008

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Dissolution of Marriage of: )  
)  
)  
MATTHEW REYES )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. JFD-2025-0008  
and )  
)  
)  
NIKA REYES )  
Respondent, )

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **NIKA REYES**  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **14<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR**, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. **You have the option to appear in person or through Zoom.** To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Your smart device will need a camera, microphone, and a stable internet connection. If you do not have access to a smart device, you can use a non-smartphone or traditional telephone.

**Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.**

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
  - Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCentU2WDV0OFMxMnlSQ3RxeTtHQT09orhttps://zoom.us/join>
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 14<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2025-0016

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: )  
)  
)  
A.W. )  
T.W. ) Case No. PG-2025-0016  
A.M. )  
)  
)  
Minor Children,

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **MARICIA PARKER**  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **12<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR**, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. **You have the option to appear in person or through Zoom.** To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Your smart device will need a camera, microphone, and a stable internet connection. If you do not have access to a smart device, you can use a non-smartphone or traditional telephone.

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  - Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCentU2WDV0OFMxMnlSQ3RxeTtHQT09orhttps://zoom.us/join>
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2018-0052

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: )  
)  
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M.L.M. )  
) Case No. PG-2018-0052  
)  
)  
)  
Minor Child,

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **LESLIE BLACK**  
**BRANDON MORTON**  
UNKNOWN ADDRESSES

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **12<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR**, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. **You have the option to appear in person or through Zoom.** To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Your smart device will need a camera, microphone, and a stable internet connection. If you do not have access to a smart device, you can use a non-smartphone or traditional telephone.

**Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.**

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
  - Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCentU2WDV0OFMxMnlSQ3RxeTtHQT09orhttps://zoom.us/join>
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 9<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2025-0019

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: )  
)  
)  
K.V.H. )  
) Case No. PG-2025-0019  
)  
)  
)  
Minor Child,

**NOTICE OF HEARING  
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **KATHERINE ANN BUCKMAN**  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **19<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER 2025, at 10:00 A.M.** in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

**YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR**, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. **You have the option to appear in person or through Zoom.** To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Your smart device will need a camera, microphone, and a stable internet connection. If you do not have access to a smart device, you can use a non-smartphone or traditional telephone.

**Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.**

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
  - Zoom link:  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCentU2WDV0OFMxMnlSQ3RxeTtHQT09orhttps://zoom.us/join>
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of October, 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2012-0029

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
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COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, ) Case No: CIV-2012-0029  
EX. REL., )  
WINONA YOUNGBIRD, )  
PETITIONER, )  
VS. )  
WINONA YOUNGBIRD: )  
CUSTODIAN )  
TRACY HORNSBY SR., )  
RESPONDENT, )

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**TO: TRACY HORNSBY SR.**

**TAKE NOTICE** that you are a named party in the Motion to Reduce Arrears to Judgment by Tribal Child Support Services. **You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.** Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
COURT CLERK  
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

**Prepared by:**  
**Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant**  
Tribal Child Support Services  
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37  
El Reno, OK 73036  
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304  
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CIV-2010-0098

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, ) Case No: CIV-2010-0098  
EX. REL., )  
CHARLES BLACK SR., )  
PETITIONER, )  
VS. )  
CHARLES BLACK: )  
CUSTODIAN )  
HONEYCOMB MORROW, )  
RESPONDENT, )

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**TO: CHARLES BLACK SR.**

**TAKE NOTICE** that you are a named party in the Motion to Modify Child Support by Tribal Child Support Services. **You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2025 AT 9:00 A.M.** Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.

*Tawny Melendez*  
COURT CLERK  
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

**Prepared by:**  
**Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant**  
Tribal Child Support Services  
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37  
El Reno, OK 73036  
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304  
Facsimile: 405-262-1125



koo'hee'in?  
Did you know?

The Little Arkansas Treaty

The Little Arkansas Treaty was a set of treaties signed between the United States of America and the Kiowa, Comanche, Plains Apache, Southern Cheyenne, and Southern Arapaho at Little Arkansas River, Kansas in October 1865.

On October 14 and 18, 1865 the United States and all of the major Plains Indians Tribes signed a treaty on the Little Arkansas River, which became known as the Little Arkansas Treaty.


It is notable in that it lasted less than two years, the reservations it created for the Plains Indians were never created at all.

The reservation was to be in the Indian Territory (Oklahoma) but the government had other tribes in the area so the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes were allowed to continue to live in the area that they called their own, between the Platte and Arkansas Rivers.


The Arapaho who left their X mark were Little Raven, Storm, Big Mouth, Black Man, Chief of Everything and Haversack

Link to the Tribal Treaties Database provided by the Oklahoma State University Libraries:  
<https://treaties.okstate.edu/tribes/original-signatories-tribes/arapaho>

Arapaho Language and Culture Program  
(405) 422 7878/(405)422-7569



Scan QR Code to download Nov. 1 Tribal Tribune on any mobile device



Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING

Date: November 10, 2025

Time: 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Old Town Museum, Opera House, 2717 W. 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Elk City , OK


There will be food, drinks and door prizes!

For more information please contact CAHA at (580)331-2400.

YOU DID IT!

Congratulations

Congratulations to my nephew Apolo Michael Blackbear Francis who graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology. Apolo’s parents are Luther Blackbear and Stacey Francis of Cadiz, Kentucky. Love, Floyd Blackbear



CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
FILED SEP 15 2025  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
DOCKET PAGE  
IMAGE  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THEM  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES COURT CLERK  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, ) Case No: CIV-06-51  
EX. REL., )  
JACKIE SIMPSON, ) TERRANCE TAHDOOAHNIPPAH:  
PETITIONER, ) OBLIGOR  
vs. ) JACKIE SIMPSON:  
TERRANCE TAHDOOAHNIPPAH, ) CUSTODIAN  
RESPONDENT, )

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: JACKIE SIMPSON

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Motion to Reduce Arrears to Judgment by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2025 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.

  
COURT CLERK  
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:  
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant  
Tribal Child Support Services  
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37  
El Reno, OK 73036  
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304  
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
FILED SEP 15 2025  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
DOCKET PAGE  
IMAGE  
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THEM  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES COURT CLERK  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA DEPUTY


TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES, ) Case No: CIV-2025-0056  
EX. REL., )  
ALEXIS WARLEDO, ) LAKOTA BEARRUNNER:  
PETITIONER, ) OBLIGOR  
vs. ) ALEXIS WARLEDO:  
LAKOTA BEARRUNNER, ) CUSTODIAN  
RESPONDENT, )

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: LAKOTA BEARRUNNER

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Petition for Determination of Paternity and Establishment of Child Support by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 1<sup>st</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER 2025 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated this 15<sup>th</sup> day of September 2025.

  
COURT CLERK  
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:  
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant  
Tribal Child Support Services  
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37  
El Reno, OK 73036  
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304  
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

# CADOE receives \$4.8 million NYCP grant and \$1.5 million Professional Development Grant

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education will soon be offering opportunities for higher education in teaching positions as well as providing literary camps for tribal youth, encouraging student achievement for all.

Two grants were awarded to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education, the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP), a five-year grant for \$4.8 million from the U.S. Department of Education entitled Increasing Literacy and College and Career Readiness Opportunities to Support Success for Native Students and a \$1.5 million Professional Development Grant entitled The Southern Plains American Indian Teaching Pathway Project.

With the much anticipated hope of one day having a charter school, to include language and culture for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Department of Education Executive Director, Carrie Whitlow said the department wanted to implement that when applying for the NYCP grant. The department previously had a NYCP grant, which awarded the department’s current STEP program that is closing out and was more geared toward administrative work. The new NYCP grant will incorporate direct services, Whitlow said.

“One of the grant ob-

jectives was to complete a charter school application and it’s this very long and lengthy process where you have to address location of a school, how many students you would serve, what grades, funding, so many different areas and so when we were putting the proposal for the application together, one area, a focus that we did not get to address was curriculum,” Whitlow said.

What would make the charter school unique is the incorporation of language and culture, Whitlow said. Thinking of the next big picture for the department with the hopes of one day having a charter school, Whitlow said there was a need for a curriculum that would integrate Cheyenne and Arapaho language and culture for kindergarten through second grade. However, there are no Cheyenne and Arapaho teachers, principals, school counselors, superintendents or no interest in tribal students pursuing higher education in education.

“If they are majoring in education, they’re not going specifically to become elementary teachers, early childhood, middle school, high school, nobody’s pursuing that path right now,” Whitlow said.

The NYCP would focus on literacy and the department plans to hold a Summer Bridges Literacy Camp in the summer time and will

work directly with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Head Start and Child Care programs to recruit students.

With a growing population of early childhood students attending Head Start and child care centers, the hope would be that children leave the centers to attend the proposed charter school beginning in kindergarten.

“We are working with childcare and head start, those two programs and recruiting those students and families to come to our summer literacy camps every summer,” Whitlow said.

The other part to the grant would work with the Head Start teachers as they are furloughed every summer, essentially allowing them the opportunity to work at the camps and be paid a stipend. The grant would also focus on recruiting 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students to also work at the literacy camp and be paid, with the hope of generating interest in students to pursue early childhood education.

“Maybe that would help them generate interests, there’s three moving parts to this grant and hopefully all those things will align at some point to our bigger picture. This is a direct service grant ... whenever we’re applying to grants, they’re getting a lot more specific and really trying to meet the needs,” Whitlow said.

Whitlow said as a depart-

ment, they are always trying to meet the needs of students and families.

“I’m very excited about this project and very excited about the work that we’ll get to do with it,” Whitlow said.

Addressing the need for more Cheyenne and Arapaho and tribal interest in teaching positions, the department was awarded the professional development grant to help pursue interest in the teaching field. The project is a partnership with the University of Kansas (KU) and Haskell Indian Nations University.

Last fall, Whitlow said there was an estimated 35 tribal students attending Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., where they also have an elementary education program to become an elementary teacher.

“We need to produce teachers, not just us but other tribal nations across the U.S., and so this is a partnership between KU and Haskell and two other tribes, what we would do with this grant is that we would recruit our students at Haskell that have associates’ degrees by fall and try to recruit them to go into elementary education for their bachelor’s degrees,” Whitlow said.

One way to do that is to incentivize it, Whitlow said, as students would get a stipend, technology paid for, including laptops, an iPad, tuition and books and what-

ever they needed.

As part of the grant, students would also get paid to travel to the National Indian Education Association Conference for two years, which is held at different locations across the country for educators to attend.

“A great place for educators to go, exposing them to the network, how to conference and attending different sessions,” Whitlow said.

Another part of the project is that Haskell and KU would plan to host a summer program for students to expose them to indigenizing curriculum, indigenizing pedagogy, exposing students to indigenous professors and teachers, that is very specific for teachers to teach native students.

Darlington Public School also signed on as a partner to the grant, where students could possibly conduct student teaching at the school.

With several moving parts for implementation of the grant, Whitlow is excited for the partnerships and to start the recruiting process with the high hopes of bringing indigenous teachers to classrooms in western Oklahoma.

With 93% of American Indian and Alaska Native Children attending public schools, the majority of tribal students attend public schools in the service area.

“Not very many are attending BIE, private, or charter schools, nor do we have

those schools in our service area. Yes, we have Riverside Indian School, but they’re an hour away and they’re outside of our service area. Our students are in public school districts,” Whitlow said.

Striving to see more indigenous representation in curriculum, Whitlow said there’s a need for tribal citizens to be interested in education to fill positions such as teaching and academic roles.

“Our students need that representation within these public school districts ... we would like to have our students and families have access to a school that reaffirms their identity and who they are and where they come from and where they feel like they belong and they’re not the outsider anymore. That’s the big goal,” Whitlow said.

With the implementation of the grants to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education, Whitlow said the department is building capacity to be more responsible for the education of tribal citizens and these projects allow the department to think outside of the box.

“It is still our responsibility as a tribe and education department to continue those efforts to make sure they’re sustainable. As a department, we take care and we help our students on their educational journeys,” Whitlow said.



# IAIA Alum Tommy Orange MFA '16 Named a 2025 MacArthur Fellow



The Institute of American Indian Arts (IAIA) is pleased to announce that IAIA alum Tommy Orange (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes) MFA '16 has been named a 2025 MacArthur Foundation Fellow. On Oct. 8, the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation announced the 2025 MacArthur Foundation Fellows, a distinguished group of talented individuals working in a wide range of fields. Recipients are recognized for their exceptional creativity and demonstrated excellence in their discipline. The foundation bestows fellows with a generous, unrestricted \$800,000 stipend commonly referred to as a “genius grant.”

Tommy Orange is an award-winning fiction writer whose work is known for capturing the rich complexity of urban Native American lives. He is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, born and raised in Oakland, Calif. In 2016, Orange graduated from IAIA with an MFA in Creative Writing, and soon after, he completed his first novel, *There There* (2018). *There There* received the 2019 PEN/Hemingway Award for Debut Novel, the John Leonard Prize from the National Book Critics Circle Award and was recognized as one of the

10 Best Books of 2018 by The New York Times. Orange’s second novel, *Wandering Stars* (2024), received the 2025 Aspen Words Literary Prize and was longlisted for the Booker Prize in 2024. Orange is currently a faculty mentor in the IAIA MFA in Creative Writing program.

“On behalf of the IAIA community, I extend our warmest congratulations to Tommy Orange on this extraordinary recognition. His storytelling expands how the world understands contemporary Indigenous life and honors the strength and brilliance of our communities. As an alum and a faculty mentor in our MFA in Creative Writing program, he models the craft, discipline, and generosity we hope to instill in every student. We are immensely proud of him and grateful for the ways his work continues to inspire new generations of Indigenous writers,” said IAIA President Dr. Shelly C. Lowe (Navajo).

Visit <https://www.macfound.org/programs/awards/fellows/> website for a complete list of 2025 MacArthur Foundation Fellows. The website highlights a biography, photographs, and a video of each recipient, including Tommy Orange.



On Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025 Darlington Public School officially opens the door to their facility, Mr. Meriwether Early Childhood Center for students in the pre-K through second grade.

The new building, named after former superintendent Glenn Meriwether, was blessed by Parry Roman Nose and Cheyenne Chief Gordan Yellowman.

Pictured l-r: Deforest Tallbear, school board member, Donna Wehmuller, school board member, Lloyd Wehmuller, former school board member, Gina Musae, school principal, Cheyenne Chief Gordan Yellowman, Dara Franklin, Indian Education director, Parry Roman Nose and Loren Tackett, school superintendent.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

LET'S CELEBRATE  
VETERAN'S  
DAY PARADE & PROGRAM

12PM-2PM VETERANS POTLUCK  
2PM VETERANS PARADE PREP & LINEUP  
3PM VETERANS PARADE BEGINS

PROGRAM TO FOLLOW PARADE AT CENTRE THEATRE

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2025  
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DOWNTOWN EL RENO

VETERAN PARADE  
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ROSANNA TALLBEAR  
405-422-7457

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WARRIOR

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

## Aerianna Eve French

Aerianna Eve French was born on February 15, 2008 and she gained her wings on October 5, 2025. With heavy hearts and endless love, we celebrate the precious life of Aerianna, who left us much too soon at the tender age of 17. Though her time on this Earth was far too short, her light burned so brightly, leaving an unforgettable impression on all who got the gift of knowing her. Aerianna was so full of life, love and laughter that it could turn anything ordinary into something magical! She enjoyed music, movies, makeup, her cats, baking, and being creative. Halloween was her favorite time

of year but loved all holidays, never turning down the chance to decorate. She adored her family, friends and her girlfriend who brought so much joy into her life. Aerianna loved deeply and unconditionally with a heart that was as warm as her smile. Her laughter was contagious, her kindness, genuine, and her soul beautifully unique. Those who are blessed enough to know her will forever remember her playful spirit, her compassion, and her courage to be unapologetically herself. Arianna is survived by her loving family and friends who will carry her memory



in their hearts forever. She will be going to join her two grandmothers and all other family and friends that went before her. A celebration of life will be held Saturday, Oct. at the Chickasha Breakthrough Ministry in Chickasha, Okla.

## Jasper Homer Washa

Jasper Homer Washa, Ogo'Mah'hilstis Wolf Quiver, was born June 22, 1972, in Oklahoma City, to Jasper Homer Washa Sr. and Maude Jean (Wahnee) Washa and passed away on Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025 at Baptist Integrish Medical Center in Oklahoma City. Jasper was a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. He was raised in Weatherford and graduated with the class of 1991. A talented musician, Jasper began playing bass guitar as a young man and continued to share his love

of music throughout his life. He played in many bands that fueled his love of music, most notably Black Gate. He is preceded in death by his father and two uncles, Harold Washa and Jimmy Washa. Jasper is survived by his mother Maude, four sons, Alexander, Braden, Connor and Nickolas Washa, one daughter Ailill Washa, and one brother Stephen Washa. Wake services was held October 20 at the Lockstone Funeral Chapel. Funeral services were held October 21, at the same venue, officiat-



ed by Rev. Gerald Panana, followed by an interment at the Chief Black Short Nose Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.

## Arwen Sue Youngbull

Arwen Sue Youngbull, a beloved mother, sister and cherished member of her community, passed away on October 15, 2025, in Oklahoma City, at the age of 47. Born on August 11, 1978, in Elk City, Okla., Arwen was a proud resident of the area, deeply connected to its spirit and the people who inhabited it. Arwen pursued a career as a dedicated cashier, holding important roles with the drop team at Lucky Star Casino in Clinton, Okla., and at Elk City Nursing Home. Her warm spirit and friendly demeanor made her a favorite among customers and colleagues alike. Known for her vibrant personality, Arwen enjoyed spending time in nature, taking long walks, and relishing the simplicity of being outdoors. She found joy in the small pleasures of life, whether it was curling up with a good book, watching television, or enjoying the soothing sounds of music. She attended Elk City School, where she built last-

ing memories and friendships in her formative years. Arwen's dedication to her family was paramount, and she spent her life nurturing and supporting her children and loved ones. She is survived by her mother, sons Josiah Youngbull and Kyle Whiteskunk, her daughter, Isabel Gonzales, and mother Ruby Bighorse. Additionally, she is mourned by her sisters, Stacy Castaneda and Tiffany Pesacreta, and her brothers, Cody Youngbull, Tommy Stepetin, and David Stepetin. Arwen also leaves behind her beloved grandmother, Eleanor Whitecrow, along with seven adoring grandchildren who brought much joy into her life. She was preceded in death by her father Edmond Wayne Youngbull, her sister Amber Youngbull, her brother Cory Youngbull, and her common-law husband Jose Luis Salinas Gonzales. Each of these individuals held a special place in Arwen's heart, and their memories will continue to inspire those



who knew her. Arwen's legacy will be one of love and kindness, marked by her commitment to family, her work in the community, and her zest for life. Her presence will be greatly missed by all who were fortunate enough to know her. A traditional all-night wake service was held October 23 at the Indian Baptist Church in Elk City, Okla. Funeral services were held October 24 at the Church of the Nazarene, followed by an interment at the Longview Cemetery under the direction of Lee Home-Town Funeral Home.

## Shirley Ellis

Shirley Ellis was born May 7, 1980 and left this earth on October 3, 2025. Wake services were held Friday, Oct. 17 at the Precious Memories Mortuary in Shreveport, LA. Funeral services were held Saturday, Oct. 18, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Carver Cemetery under the direction of Precious Memories Mortuary.





# Cheyenne and Arapaho Citizen Ross Anderson Among 2025 National Native American Hall of Fame Inductees

(OKLAHOMA CITY) The National Native American Hall of Fame has announced six distinguished individuals who will be inducted into its 2025 class, recognizing their outstanding contributions to Indian Country in areas such as government, military service, and athletics. Among this year's honorees is Ross Anderson, a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and of Mescalero/Chiricahua Apache descent.

The induction ceremony takes place 6 p.m., Saturday, Nov. 1, 2025, at the OKANA Resort and Hotel in Oklahoma City. The gala will welcome Native leaders, dignitaries, and special guests including U.S. Representative Sharice Davids (Kansas) and Oklahoma City Mayor David Holt.

Honoring a Record-Breaking Athlete

Ross Anderson has earned his place among the elite in Native and American sports history. In 2001, Anderson became the first Native American to place in the Pro Speed Skiing World Championships. Just five years later, he was recognized as “the fastest skier in American history”, achieving an astonishing 154.06 mph, the fastest speed ever recorded in the Western Hemisphere.

In 2024, Anderson made further history by becoming the first Native American inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame, as well as being honored by the Colorado Snowsports Hall of Fame and the Ski New Mexico Hall of Fame, where he received the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Having first set foot on skis at age three, Anderson has spent a lifetime gliding across the world's snow-capped peaks. His remarkable achievements have made him one of the world's fastest skiers in a sport celebrated for its combination of speed, skill, and danger.

**Celebrating Native Excellence**

Other 2025 inductees include:

**W. Ron Allen (James-town S’Klallam Tribe)** – Renowned for his leadership and advocacy for tribal sovereignty and self-governance.

**Notah Begay III (Navajo Nation and San Felipe/Isleta Pueblo)** – Acclaimed PGA golfer and youth sports advocate.

**Dwight W. Birdwell**



Ross Anderson, a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and of Mescalero-Apache descent continues to retain the title of faster skier in the western hemisphere . Photo taken in 2011 in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

**(Cherokee Nation)** – Medal of Honor recipient for heroism during the Vietnam War.

**Deb Haaland (Laguna Pueblo)** – U.S. Secretary of the Interior and the first Native American to hold a Cabinet position.

**Lynn Valbuena (Yuma Nation)** – Longtime tribal leader and advocate for women in leadership roles.

**About the Hall of Fame**

The National Native American Hall of Fame, located in Oklahoma City, honors Native Americans whose achievements have shaped contemporary history. Its mission is to recognize and celebrate the inspirational contributions of Native leaders, athletes, and cultural icons, while educating the public on their lasting impact.

For more information about the National Native American Hall of Fame, visit [nativehalloffame.org](http://nativehalloffame.org) or contact CEO James Parker Shield at [james@nativehalloffame.org](mailto:james@nativehalloffame.org).

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