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This space hosted the 2025 Sand Creek Massacre Commemorative Candlelight Vigil, held on the evening of November 29 to mark the 161<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the massacre. The 1.5-hour program featured singers, drum

Truth telling from Otto Braided Hair  
Otto Braided Hair shared that earlier that morning, the speakers and others had gathered at the Sand Creek Massacre site in Eads, Colorado, to pray for the women, children, and elders who were killed there. He then sang, a cappella, Chief White Antelope's Journey Song—the Cheyenne anthem. Braided Hair explained, "White Antelope was singing the

A hand holds a lit tealight candle in the foreground. The background shows a modern interior space with a large, textured wall, a curved ceiling with recessed lighting, and other people in the distance. The text "© Montoya Whiteman" is visible in the bottom right corner.

## ***Wassana, Morgan Among 20 Honored at Oklahoma Human Rights Awards Ceremony***

# Oklahoma Attorney General Launches MMIP Task Force, Backs Federal Legislation to Strengthen Tribal Law Enforcement

(OKLAHOMA CITY) Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond has launched a new state task force aimed at addressing the crisis of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP). The announcement was originally made during the United Indian Nations of Oklahoma annual meeting. Following up with that initiative, the attorney general's office and the statewide MMIP task force hosted a public listening session December 5 at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Service Center in southwest Oklahoma City to hear from tribal partners, families, and survivors about the challenges facing their communities. "In

The task force follows recent discussions between Drummond, the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), and tribal leaders, including Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Governor, Reggie Wassana and LaRenda Morgan, chairwoman of the Cheyenne and Arapaho MMIP Chapter. Morgan, an



# Connecting with culture, community and purpose: Tradition Not Addiction reintroduces youth drum group initiative

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

An up-and-coming new generation of a tribal youth drum group are on the rise to empower, inspire and foster cultural pride as part of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Tradition Not Addiction Youth Drum Group initiative.

With the hope of instilling self-confidence and personal growth within cultural teachings, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Prevention Programs made it a priority to bring back the youth drum group initiative. The last youth drum group was formed in 2019 and years prior that was led by former Tradition Not Addiction mentors Raquel Ramos and the late Thomas Ware III. The group at the time had five to six tribal youth that were consistent with learning the “dos and don’ts” of what it took to sing and sit at the drum and would get invited to sing at various events and outreaches.

“The confidence that it brought to the youth, some of them were a little shy but once they started getting out there, learning the importance of the cultural aspect of the drum, you started to see them blossom,” Kati Sullivan, prevention programs director said.

Wanting to bring that sense of pride back to the communities, Sullivan said the purpose of the drum group would be to empower cultural pride and use community connection, connecting with each other through the drum. Youth would also grow personally by learning tradition songs, teachings and protocols.

“The youth drum group, it’s initiative would be to preserve indigenous culture, their own Cheyenne and Arapaho culture and strengthen identity,” Sullivan said.

The prevention programs sent out an open invitation for any tribal youth in grades 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> that would be interested to apply for the group, gaining interest from as many as 15 youth who signed up.

Bringing the drum group back with a new generation of youth to participate, Sullivan, who began her position with the prevention programs in 2019, said there will be the same expectations for the group as before, but the most important would be cultural preservation and bringing youth empowerment, health and wellness aspects to the group.

“A huge part of our identity is our culture and the traditions and that also supports mental health and ties into health and wellness, with identity and who we are as people, culture engagement and once you get really into the depth of that, it also lowers the rates of substance misuse, depression, anxiety because you’re a part of something that’s overall heal-

ing,” Sullivan said.

Sending out an open invitation to youth for the drum group, Sullivan said the program didn’t want to exclude anyone and wanted to encourage girl participants as well.

“We are not excluding girls, we’d love for girls to join, we want to expand on teaching the protocols also to the women. Not only just the men but in the future we would like to have women singers,” Sullivan said.

In its beginning stages, the youth drum group planned to have their first get together in the month of December with the first meeting taking place in El Reno, Okla., and with plans of holding meetings in various communities for all youth to join. Youth will have the opportunity to make their own drumsticks and ribbon shirts to wear when they are called on for events. The program hoped to have the youth drum group formed with a consistent group by early January 2026.

With high hopes of participation from tribal youth in the drum group, Sullivan said the idea for a new drum group is great and she hopes for consistency. The initiative would help youth dive into who they are as indigenous peoples, going back to traditional and cultural ways starting with the drum.

“If you didn’t grow up traditionally, learning about it, who you are, I really believe that’s a part of our identity and who we are as people again, once they get an understanding of how important it is, it can also lead to finding their purpose in life and where they want to go and what they want to do with their life, having some sort of feeling where they are supposed to be,” Sullivan said.

Leading the youth drum group as the mentor will be Max Bear, who has worked with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Language and Culture Department. Bear has had his own experience working with drum groups, as he also was a part of the teachings with the former youth drum group for Tradition Not Addiction.

“It was a small success, we had some singers on there that already had experience and they actually got a couple of spots to do invitations, to do a couple songs here and special events they got invited to and then once we had initially got them started, then teach them how to sing and to get them conducted as a group in front of public,” Bear said.

Forming a new drum group, Bear said is important as songs are becoming lost in translation in the indigenous world, songs that highlight the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.



Max Bear mentoring the former youth drum group, teaching the proper ways of drum etiquette. (Submitted photos)

“I think we need to hang on to those as much as possible and teach the youth about these songs, make sure that they carry on,” Bear said.

Passing along his own teachings, Bear had been introduced to the drum at the age of eight, where he started drumming, singing and sitting at the drum.

“My mom and my uncle actually paid my way in and that’s how you’re supposed to do it when you start out, you buy your way in, either give away to somebody or the head singer at the time and that’s what they did, they gave away for me so I could sit at the drum,” Bear said.

Bear said there’s a lot of etiquette involving being a singer and when sitting at the drum that he will be teaching the youth. With the drum representing the heartbeat and Mother Earth, Bear explained the significance of the drum as always being in the middle of the arena as well as the basics of how to conduct oneself when sitting at the drum.

“Women do not sit at the drum but behind the singers as women singers and while sitting around the drum treat it as such, nothing is passed over or don’t reach over the drum, profane language and horse play is not permitted. If something needs to be handed out, it should be passed along clockwise direction,” Bear

said.

Learning firsthand the etiquette of being at the drum, Bear said etiquette is most important as it can be referenced to how others treat the world.

“A precious commodity so to speak, there’s a lot of etiquette and there’s ways to do things around the drum, there’s a lot of dos and don’ts,” Bear said.

With a shortage of drum groups and singers within communities, Bear said it’s tough finding a group to sing at events.

“That’s the kind of thing we run into now is that there’s hardly people out there that step up and do these things when years ago there was a lot of people that stepped up and sang or stepped in when they had to,” Bear said.

Looking forward to the formation of the new youth drum group, Bear hopes to see the group take on the initiative and make it their own when singing and drumming.

“I can just show them how, give them the tools they need and understanding, but I really want them to adopt it as their own group, so they can have something of their own,” Bear said.

For youth interested in participating in the youth drum group, contact the prevention programs at [prevention@cheyenne-andarapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:prevention@cheyenne-andarapaho-nsn.gov).

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CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

NOVEMBER

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DECEMBER

CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES



# A Season of Community, Culture, and Care: December Updates from the Office of the Tribal Council

Submitted by Albert Old Crow, Tribal Council Coordinator

As winter settles in across our Cheyenne and Arapaho communities, the past several weeks have been filled with meaningful gatherings, important governance updates, and reminders of the strength that comes from staying connected. From cultural presentations to community meals, legislative concerns to youth opportunities, Tribal members continue to show up for one another in ways both big and small.

## Governance & Tribal Civics: Participation Matters

The launch of Tribal Civics Tuesdays has sparked renewed interest in understanding how our branch of government operates. The first topic—Why the Constitutional Amendments Were Not Recognized—helped clarify that while around 1,650 Tribal members voted, our Constitution requires participation from 30% of registered voters (1,736 people) for amendments to take effect.

This engagement reflects a growing desire among Tribal members to shape our government. The next session, Writing Effective Tribal Council Resolutions, aimed to empower Tribal members with the tools and knowledge to participate more effectively in our shared governance.

Future installments will continue to focus on building civic understanding and strengthening Tribal Council’s role as a co-equal branch of government.

Concerns also continue regarding legislative transparency. At recent Legislative Hearings, several resolutions—including mid-year budget modifications—were passed without public discussion. Tribal members are encouraged to ask their Legislators about decisions made in Working Sessions that are not open for public participation

## Cultural Events & Community Gatherings

Across our communities, cultural engagement remains strong. The Plains Collective Cultural Arts Meeting in Watonga highlighted the insights of presenters Wilbur Bullcoming (Hammon) and James Black (Watonga), who shared teachings on the symbolism of the Cheyenne and Arapaho flag and the power of ledger art in telling our people’s stories. Their messages were warmly received and will continue to inspire future programming.

Community meals and gatherings also brought Tribal members together. The Oklahoma City Community Christmas Dinner hosted by the Office of the Governor welcomed families for fellowship and holiday spirit.

Earlier in the month, the Housing Authority Community Meeting in Elk City drew a packed house, where participants received important home safety reminders and free smoke alarms. Tribal members expressed gratitude for an evening of information, food, and community support.

## Health & Wellness

The past month has continued to highlight the importance of healing—both individually and collectively. Several updates came from the Health Board, including ongoing planning for a major Mental Health Conference addressing generational trauma, expected early next year. Tribal members are encouraged to attend when dates are finalized.

Many Tribal members also attended the George Hawkins Rehabilitation graduation, honoring participants who completed the 90-day program—a milestone made possible through personal strength and community support. Five graduates were recognized for their dedication to sobriety, perseverance, and continued personal growth.

## Youth, Families, and Community Support

## Community Support

With the holiday season approaching, community efforts have focused on supporting families. The Employee Activities Committee’s Thanksgiving Food Drive distributed boxes—turkeys included—to nominated families, with Tribal employees contributing generously to meet community needs.

Looking ahead, parents and guardians should note that applications for the 2026 DREAMS Summer Youth Employment Program open on January 2, 2026. This long-standing program offers Tribal youth valuable work experience and mentorship opportunities.

Tribal members are also reminded that Enrollment will shift to accepting only debit/credit cards or postal money orders beginning November 24.

## Upcoming Events

December is filled with activities across the districts, including craft fairs, resource fairs, health education sessions, holiday luncheons, and youth safety programs. Community members are encouraged to review the schedule and participate in events that strengthen connection, culture, and well-being across our communities.

## Closing Thoughts

As we continue into winter, Tribal Council Coordinator Albert Old Crow reminds all Tribal members to check on elders, offer help to those in need, and maintain the kindness and generosity that have always defined the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. Whether through community meals, cultural sharing, civic participation, or checking on a neighbor, each act strengthens the circle of support that carries our people forward.

Warm wishes for a safe, peaceful, and connected holiday season.

Richard J. Grellner  
Attorney-at-Law  
Oklahoma City, OK  
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Grades  
Pre-K - 8th  
Join us!

A message from the SORNA Office  
For the upcoming event ( ), if you are a registered sex offender planning to attend these events, contact the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes SORNA Office at (405) 422-7456 or in person at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Justice Center located on 100 Black Kettle Blvd. Concho, OK 73022.

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"Take Charge of Your Health"

DEC  
Wednesday 17 5-6:30 pm  
2025

Canton Gym Canton, OK

205 N Jefferson  
Q: CHR 405-295-1750

DOOR PRIZES - DINNER TO BE SERVED - HEALTH INFO

A message from the SORNA Office  
For the upcoming dinner, if you are a registered sex offender planning to attend these events, contact the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes SORNA Office at (405) 422-7456 or in person at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Justice Center located on 100 Black Kettle Blvd. Concho, OK 73022.

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In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

HAYLEE WHITE PLUME PADDYAKER

DOB: 01/17/1997

Case No. PG-2025-0089

An Alleged Incapacitated Person,

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

TAKE NOTICE that Jennifer Madbull, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 14th day of JANUARY, 2026 at 10:00 A.M. at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR on the above date and time indicated for the 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=SEZRCmlrZWdWY09FMk5McE15OjRkXzctOTQ9 or

https://zoom.us/join

Meeting ID: 452 425 1494

Passcode: Court2021

Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:

Telephone number: 1 (360) 248-7799

Meeting ID: 452 425 1494

Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 25th day of November, 2025.

Melroy

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

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DECEMBER 17TH  
5PM - 7PM  
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OKC TRIBAL SERVICE CENTER  
4400 SW 21ST STREET  
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405.422.7683

A message from the SORNA Office  
For the upcoming event (Fresh Food Market ), if you are a registered sex offender planning to attend this event, contact the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes SORNA Office at (405) 422-7456 or in person at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Justice Center located on 100 Black Kettle Blvd. Concho, OK 73022.

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### Canton Head Start

I want for Christmas is a Monster truck-Dillion	I want for Christmas is a tractor and farm animals- Ruger
I want for Christmas is a dinosaur-Marcus	I want for Christmas is a Kpop demon hunter-Lily
I want for Christmas is a Spiderman-Enzo	I want for Christmas is a batman- Kenzo
I want for Christmas is a Sonic-PJ	I want for Christmas is a babydoll- Amaya
I want for Christmas is cat- Gertrude	I want for Christmas is spiderman- Khyce
I want for Christmas is a cat- Farrah	I want for Christmas is a chunky doll- Raelynn
I want for Christmas is a tractor- Malachi	I want for Christmas is spiderman- Antonio
I want for Christmas is a spiderman-Alonzo	I want for Christmas is a Barbie- Larissa
I want for Christmas is a remote control truck- Brantley	I want for Christmas is a monster truck- Samuel
I want for Christmas is a Mario- Amir	I want for Christmas is a bluey- Hadley
I want for Christmas is a sonic- Jayden	I want for Christmas is cars- Zaiden
I want for Christmas is a princess- Ada	I want for Christmas is a remote control car- Izaviah
I want for Christmas is cat- Ren	I want for Christmas is a baby- Natalie
I want for Christmas is a spiderman- Matheson	I want for Christmas is a barbie’s- Anabel
I want for Christmas is a doll- Kole	I want for Christmas is Kpop demon hunter- Elayzia

### Clinton Child Care

I would like blocks and fidget toys. Love, Louden	I would like monster jam trucks. Love, Marco
I would like blocks and fidget toys. Love, Thiago	I would like spider man toys. Love, Diego
I would like toy cars and dinosaurs. Love, Lucas	I would like dress-up clothes, baby dolls and accessories. Love, Tokahe
I would like large Legos, blocks, and toy cars. Love, Jayden	I would like Lilo and Stitch toys and baby dolls. Love, Belky
I would like books, stuffed animals, and pyramid builders. Love, Camilo	I would like squishmallows, Hello Kitty plushies, and Bluey toys. Love, Madelyn B.
I would like Lilo and Stitch toys, dress-up clothes, and baby dolls. Love, Nahmi	I would like ear pods, squishmallows, and matching PJ sets. Love, Tinsley
I would like baby dolls and accessories. Love, Hazel	I would like Legos and a scooter. Love, Wyatt
I would like magnet tiles, puzzles and pretend play food. Love, Hayley	I would like a Lilo and Stitch Lexibook, Lilo and Stitch toys, and the best presents. Love, Amberly
I would like a mermaid Barbie and K-Pop toys. Love, Genesis	

I would like a puppy toy. Love, Paisley H.	I would like some things for my mom because she does hard things for us and my dad. Please help my mom and dad. I would also like video games and a camera. Love, Adelyn
I would like K-Pop toys. Love, Madelyn S.	

I would like a mermaid Barbie and accessories. Love, Mya	I would like a cool bike, small Lego’s, and coloring books. Love, Phillip
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### Clinton Head Start

I would like a Barbie Doll House Love, Anya B	I would like a teddy bear and a Barbie doll Love, Ariella J
I would like Spiderman toys Love, Elliot S	I would like toy cars and a Spiderman toy Love, Gerardo G
I would like Spiderman toys Love, Diego A	I would like a Hulk hand and a Spiderman hand Love, River H
I would like dollhouse and dress Love, Amariana R	I would like Legos and a soccer ball Love, Adan S
I would like Bluey toys Love, River B	I would like a toy car and a Cinderella doll Love, Esperanza D
I would like farm animals and a barn Love, Leanna M	I would like a Spiderman toy and toy cars Love, Omar R
I would like an Elsa doll Love, Alany H	I would like a purple kitty cat Love, Aitana G
I would like a babydoll Love, Emily N	I would like a Unicorn Love, Ama M
I would like Elsa doll Love, Genesis L	I would like a Spiderman toy Love, Eldon P
I would like a babydoll Love, Belky S	I would like Paw Patrol toys Love, Ezra J
I would like a truck Love, Kai G	I would like a red princess dress Love, Fernanda Q
I would like hot wheels Love, Lincoln T	I would like a Big Monster truck and Paw Patrol toys Love, Ezydein V
I would like a Grinch toy Love, Preslee S	I would like a fire fighter truck Love, Genesis J
I would like a baby doll Love, A’Deja B	I would like a music toy Love, Isabella G
I would like legos Love, Raymond B	I would like a yoyo Love, Jesslyn A
I would like Blues clues and a coloring book Love, Tokahe R	I would like a water gun Love, Royal K
I would like a Barbie and a Barbie house Love, Aliyah C	I would like a soda pop and Paw Patrol toys Love, Marco S
I would like a toy puppy and a toy baby Love, Mya H	I would like Paw Patrol toys Love, Neeko A
I would like a Barbie doll and a cat teddy bear Love, Mia C	I would like a pink little puppy Love, Olivia C
I would like a Barbie doll and a fire truck Love, Josephine H	I would like Bluey toy Love, Rosalina H
I would like a T-Rex and a dinosaur toy Love, Giovanni H	I would like a Spiderman toy Love, Aron M
I would like Spiderman doll and toy cars Love, Jesus P	
I would like a toy motorcycle and toy cars Love, Daniel G	
I would like toy cars and a Mario Jacket Love, Damian J	



### Concho Child Care

I would like a soft book and a teething toy. Love, Kleo	puzzles, and kitchen toys. Love, Stuv
I would like a light up toy and a musical toy. Love, Nooku	I would like a baby doll, musical toys, and puzzles. Love, Vylet
I would like a play cell phone and a musical toy. Love, Xander	I would like a baby doll, coloring books/crayons, and musical toys. Love, Halo
I would like a baby doll and a musical toy. Love, Haniah	I would like puzzles, baby doll, and musical toys. Love, Evelyn
I would like cars, lego blocks, and books. Love, Theo	I would like trucks, building blocks, and sensory books. Love, Tushka
I would like a baby doll,	I would like a activity cube,

### Concho Child Care

trucks, and lego blocks. Love, Rome	I would like a baby doll, play kitchen, and a playhouse. Love, Zori
I would like a construction truck, community people, and paw patrol. Love, Carson	I want ninja turtles, cars, and a ninja turtle car. Love, Amari
I would like a baby doll, puzzles, and Bluey toys. Love, Nehlani	I want a baby doll, a turtle, and a Moana toy. Love, Aiyana
I would like a baby doll, playhouse, play kitchen, and puzzles. Love, Iyla	I want dinosaurs, monster truck, and dragons. Love, Phippen
I would like cars/trucks, puzzles, and building blocks. Love, Liam	I want Spiderman and friends, play phone, and big building blocks. Love, Kamden
I would like cars/trucks, musical instruments, and building blocks. Love, Devyn	



### Concho Head Start

I would like a toy jetpack and a toy spaceship. Love, Lyam	I would like a Jinu and Rumi doll. Love, Elyza
I would like a book and a sandbox. Love, Hudsyn	I would like a sandbox and Barbie. Love, Morningstar
I would like a computer and some dumbbells. Love, Tre	I would like a Barbie and a car. Love, Aaliyah
I would like a baby doll and playdough. Love, Charlie	I would like a baby doll and a pony Love, Berkleigh
I would like an Elsa toy and a toy tiger. Love, LaVonna	I would like slime and a necklace. Love, Claudia
I would like a toy race car and toy blocks. Love, Tristen	I would like a baby doll and a Barbie. Love, Michaela
I would like an Elsa toy and playdough. Love, Amari	I would like a baby doll and Barbie. Love, Avereigh
I would like a Hulk toy and Spiderman toy. Love, Kye	I would like a dragon and a monster truck. Love, Silas
I would like a dragon toy and Hulk toy. Love, Karsyn	I would like a Barbie and a baby doll Love, Zayla
I would like an Elsa toy and Moana toy. Love, Wyoma	







## HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

continued from pg. 1

Rivera, who was part of the previous Human Rights Commission that was dissolved in 2010. To fill the void, OKUHRA was then formed, with a mission to be a guardian of liberty for all human beings, working daily in courts, legislatures and communities to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties the Constitution and laws of the United States guarantee everyone in the country.

Supporting human rights, Marie Michaud, OKUHRA secretary said the alliance are always searching for younger people to join in.

“We are really welcoming anybody. We can talk, share, have a lot of discussion, we share ideas,” Michaud said.

Recognizing others for their work in the communities that are doing everyday good things around them, Michaud said is encouraging and motivating for all.

“I know it’s motivating me to look around and see what I can do in a small way, some people can do it in a bigger way, so that’s what I think what we saw today and also very different groups, businesses and private groups,” Michaud said.

With the presentation of awards to honorees with different backgrounds, Michaud described it as a humbling recognition because of the people who nominated them.

“Knowing that they are doing good things for human rights for one part of the population of so many people, so anybody who is doing something like that, listening to others and help, I think that’s what it’s all about,” Michaud said.

The award presentation

ensued with each honoree given recognition for their respective work in the communities across Oklahoma and each were presented with a certificate for their outstanding human rights achievements.

Nominated by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) Chapter, LaRenda Morgan was recognized for her work and activism with Missing and Murdered Indigenous People. Morgan is one of Oklahoma’s leading advocates for MMIP as she helped advocate for Ida’s Law, that was created to address the MMIP crisis in Oklahoma and officially passed into law in 2021.

Receiving the award, Morgan said felt good because it brings more awareness to the plight of MMIP and the work that needs to be done.

“People are recognizing the injustices of our Indian people in this area, a lot of our people that are missing or that have been murdered, they’ve been overlooked and a lot of our tribal people that have been murdered have not received justice,” Morgan said.

Working with state and federal law enforcement, Morgan said the chapter makes sure that Indigenous people receive the basic human rights of being searched for, investigated and receiving justice like other people do.

In continuing the work of the MMIP chapter, they are going to start focusing more on prevention for youth.

“To educate them on how not to become an MMIP and all the factors involved in that,” Morgan said.

Ending the awards pre-



*Honorees for the 11<sup>th</sup> annual Human Rights awards are (in no particular order), Dr. Millie Audas, Fernando Baquera Ochoa, Forrest Bennett, Father Scott Boeckman, Alely Cristelli, Sean Cummings, Lucy Fusselman, Roger Godwin, Bella Adriana, Gutierrez Garcia, Estela Hernandez, LaRenda Morgan, Antonio Munoz, NAMI Oklahoma (National Alliance on Mental Illness), Nikki Nice, OKC National Memorial & Museum, Nelly Ruiz, Pastor Derrick Scobey, District Judge Ale-tia Haynes Timmons, Sandra Valentine and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Governor Reggie Wassana. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)*

sentation, Gov. Wassana was the last to be presented with an award.

Gov. Wassana said the award is a representation of all the efforts and work the Tribes, along with himself as leader, have done to help protect the rights of tribal citizens.

“To help all of our tribal citizens in the way of health, shelter, nourishment, all the things that the tribe lacks that we need to improve upon, that we’ve been trying to work hard for over the past eight years,” Wassana said.

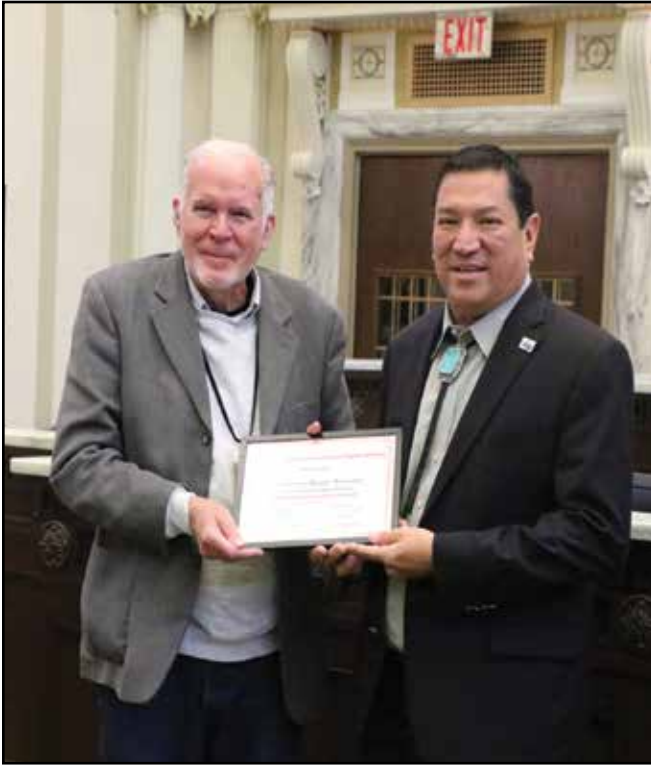
Wassana believes the Tribes have made headway regarding the Tribe’s buffalo, the expansions and updates of buildings.

“It gives people a place to go, it gives them food,

it gives them shelter, so we’re trying to work hard, we know we’ve still got a long way to go, but we feel like we’re making an impact, anytime anybody needs food, we have food, we have shelter, we have hotels, we have buildings for all of our activities,” Wassana said.

While being recognized for his leadership of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Wassana said it felt humbling, although the work isn’t done for recognition.

“We do this to try to get our tribal citizens through that next generation and hopefully we can provide comfort and safety and protection for not only elders, but those that are young as well,” Wassana said.



*Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana (right) is presented with an award from the Oklahoma Universal Human Rights Alliance on behalf of Bill Bryant, from the United Nations.*



# ATHLETES' SPOTLIGHT

By Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

## Dominic Tonn, Mustang High School

Making Waves: Mustang High School senior Dominic Tonn powers into his final season with heart, discipline and unstoppable drive. At 17, Tonn has spent nearly his entire life in the water, developing a fluid, swift technique that has made him a cornerstone of the Mustang High School swim team. As a senior, Tonn is determined to make his final season his best yet, leading his team toward another shot at the state championship, a feat Mustang has achieved every year since his freshman season.

Tonn competes in multiple events, including the 200-medley relay, 200-individual medley, 100-breaststroke, and 200-freestyle relay. But his journey in swimming began



long before high school. At just seven years old, a chance visit to the YMCA introduced him to the pool, where he instantly fell in love with the water.

“I was at the YMCA for a flag football game and there was lightning, so we went inside to wait. While inside I saw the pool and asked my mom if I could try it. I have always enjoyed being in the water, so it just felt right,” Tonn recalled.

For Tonn, swimming is more than a sport—it’s a place to clear his head and un-

wind. And his motivation comes not only from his passion for the water but from the support of his mother, Amanda Goljenboom.

“She pushes me to stay active and always supports me. Swimming is something I’m good at and really enjoy, so that keeps me motivated too,” Tonn said.

As he embarks on his senior season, Tonn’s goals are ambitious: beat his personal records in every event, break school records, and make a lasting impact on his team, particularly in the 100-breaststroke. Yet he balances this drive with academics, maintaining an estimated 3.2 GPA while juggling rigorous training and club swimming for the King Marlin Swim Club.

“I have great coaches who help me if I’m struggling and my mom is a huge support. I’ve learned to stay organized and use my time wisely,” he said.

Tonn’s dedication extends beyond personal achievement. Over the years, he has grown into a leader, mentoring teammates on technique and fostering a positive, encouraging environment. “I really love the sport and want everyone to enjoy it,” he said.

Swimming year-round, Tonn focuses on the details that make champions: stroke technique, turns, breathing, and starts. He believes mental drive is just as critical as physical skill.

“It’s just you in the pool and you have to be able to push yourself, especially at the end of a tough practice when you’re tired,” Tonn explained.

Looking back on his high school career, Tonn hopes to be remembered as a team-

mate who cared, encouraged, and made every practice and meet enjoyable. “I want people to remember that I cared about the team and made practices and meets enjoyable,” he said.

“Dom is a big part of the boys’ team,” Mustang High School Head Swim Coach Antony Evans said. “He is our best breaststroker and also swims on the relays. We can always count on him to swim fast no matter what stroke. There’s nothing Dom can’t do in the pool—he’s become good at all four strokes.”

Tonn’s recent personal bests—29.51 for the 50-backstroke and 29.42 for the 50-breaststroke—are proof of his relentless drive. But for Tonn, the most important lesson swimming has taught him is patience and discipline.

“I absolutely love swimming. It gives me confidence and a sense of freedom. It’s my happy place,” he said.

As the water reflects the early morning light, Dominic Tonn continues to make waves—both in the pool and in the hearts of those around him.

After graduation in the spring of 2026, Tonn plans to attend college with high hopes of swimming at the next level for college. He plans to major in wildlife conservation management because of his love for nature



and his desire to make a difference.

*Dominic Tonn is the son of Amanda Goljenboom, grandson of Moosey Birdshead and John Goljenboom and the great-grandson of Wanda Walker, Lawrence Birdshead, Shirley and Paul Goljenboom. He is also the great-great-grandson of Cordelia Howlingbuffalo, Sampson Walker, Rose Tallbear, and Joseph Birdshead.*



## MMIP

continued from pg. 1

advocate for Ida’s Law, emphasized the importance of identifying community needs and expanding support for families. Despite Ida’s Law taking effect in 2021, Morgan said the two OSBI agents assigned to MMIP cases are overwhelmed with cold cases, education, and data collection.

According to the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, 83 American Indian and Alaska Native individuals remain missing in Oklahoma, many for years. Drummond said the new task force will employ advanced technology, including forensic DNA tools, to help identify remains and resolve cold cases.

Ensuring cultural care and strengthening communication with tribal nations remain priorities for the state.

Morgan’s advocacy stems from personal experience. In 2015, her cousin, Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen Ida Beard, disappeared from El Reno. Morgan said law enforcement dismissed concerns and mishandled early inquiries, prompting her to share Beard’s story online. The posts caught the attention of State Rep. Mickey Dollens, who helped elevate the case and eventually co-authored Ida’s Law, establishing OSBI’s MMIP liaison office.

Ida’s Law builds on a long lineage of federal policies intended to bring justice to Indigenous families, including the General

Crimes Act, Major Crimes Act, and the Violence Against Women Act. Federal initiatives such as Operation Lady Justice and the Not Invisible Act have also pushed MMIP issues into the national spotlight. Findings from the Not Invisible Act Commission in 2023 highlighted the need for consistent funding, improved data coordination, culturally responsive communication, and strengthened tribal criminal jurisdiction.

Drummond is also supporting the newly introduced Tribal Warrant Fairness Act, federal legislation that would allow the U.S. Marshals Service to assist tribal law enforcement in apprehending violent offenders. “We’ve had a cavernous failure in federal, state and county prosecutions of missing and murdered Indigenous people,” Drummond said, noting that dozens of state attorneys general have signed on in support.

Despite these advancements, Morgan continues to seek answers in her cousin’s case. She now leads the Cheyenne and Arapaho MMIP Chapter and serves on the state task force. One of her goals is to improve public safety education for children and elders, especially regarding online threats and signs of domestic abuse.

“We protect our people, preserve our children, our elders, preserve life,” Morgan said.

Drummond is running for Oklahoma Governor in the 2026 elections.



Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond visits with Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Gov. Reggie Wassana after a MMIP listening session held at the tribes’ service center in Oklahoma City.



Members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho MMIP Chapter attend the MMIP listening session, from l-r: Raven Morgan, Taylor Holland, Angie Williams, LaRenda Morgan and Nicki Casula.

Right: Cheyenne and Arapaho MMIP Chapter Chairwoman LaRenda Morgan visits with Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond.



PG-2025-0021

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES  
OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

FILED DEC 02 2025  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: )  
S.S. )  
D.S. ) Case No. PG-2025-0021  
T.S. )

Minor Children, )

NOTICE OF HEARING  
BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: JESSE SANKEY  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 7th day of JANUARY 2026, at 10:00A.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:  
o Zoom link:  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=SGRCenU2WDY5OEFMc0MlSQ1RNeTlBjOT09 or  
https://zoom.us/join  
o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494  
o Passcode: Court2021  
• Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:  
o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799  
o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494  
o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2025-0085

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES  
OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

FILED DEC 02 2025  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
COURT CLERK  
DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: )  
M.B. )  
A Minor Child, ) Case No. PG-2025-0085

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: DERRICK BENNETT  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

TAKE NOTICE that Sarah Ballenas, has filed in this Court a Petition To Appoint Guardian For A Minor Child (M. B.), and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 7th day of JANUARY, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR on the above date and time indicated for the 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:  
o Zoom link:  
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=SGRCenU2WDY5OEFMc0MlSQ1RNeTlBjOT09 or  
https://zoom.us/join  
o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494  
o Passcode: Court2021  
• Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:  
o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799  
o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494  
o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 2nd day of December, 2025.

Mary Elledge, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court



# OBITUARIES

***Margie Ann Pewo***

		CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA <b>FILED DEC 02 2025</b>															
IN THE TRIAL COURT CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA P.O. BOX 102 CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022		IN THE TRIAL COURT DOCKET PAGE FILM IMAGE COURT CLERK															
<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 45%;">In the Matter of a Paternity Proceeding:</td> <td style="width: 5%; text-align: center;">)</td> <td style="width: 50%;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>AMY LEE ACOSTA</td> <td style="text-align: center;">)</td> <td rowspan="4" style="vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;">Case No. CIV-2025-0089</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Petitioner,</td> <td style="text-align: center;">)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>VS.</td> <td style="text-align: center;">)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>MELVIN LANDAVERDE-MARTINEZ</td> <td style="text-align: center;">)</td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 40px;">Respondent,</td> <td style="text-align: center;">)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>			In the Matter of a Paternity Proceeding:	)		AMY LEE ACOSTA	)	Case No. CIV-2025-0089	Petitioner,	)	VS.	)	MELVIN LANDAVERDE-MARTINEZ	)	Respondent,	)	
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Petitioner,	)																
VS.	)																
MELVIN LANDAVERDE-MARTINEZ	)																
Respondent,	)																
<u><b>NOTICE BY PUBLICATION</b></u>																	
The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: <b>ANY INTERESTED PARTIES</b>																	
<p>You are hereby notified that Amy Lee Acosta has filed in this Court a Petition to Establish Paternity requesting a court order be issued to name Melvin Landaverde-Martinez on the birth certificate as father of J.C.M.A., a minor child. Any interested parties may appear at the hearing set on the <u>4<sup>th</sup></u> day of <u>FEBRUARY, 2026</u> at <u>10:00 A.M.</u>, in the courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">Dated this 2<sup>nd</sup> day of DECEMBER, 2025.</p> <div style="text-align: right; margin-top: 20px;">          Mary Elledge, Deputy Court Clerk          Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court       </div>																	



