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CheyenneandArapaho-nsn.gov

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P.O. Box 38
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Voices of Remembrance: A Candlelight Vigil for the Sand Creek Massacre

Lighting the Path of Truth and Remembrance

(DENVER, Colo.) A crowd of about 100 people gathered in the Denver Public Library's new Park View space, a centerpiece of the more than \$60 million voter-approved bond project completed over four years. The Denver Public Library created this space to strengthen its connection with Denver's vibrant community.

Located on the first floor of the library, the ParkView space has a catering kitchen, artwork, and acoustic installation of over 1,200 wood panels that envelop the walls and ceiling. Each panel is accented with dots of different sizes that are visually eye-catching.

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

group, dancers, a land acknowledgement, and speakers, culminating in a candlelight vigil followed by a community meal.

Brian Johnson (Nez Percé/Shoshone) from the Sand Creek Massacre Foundation served as the master of ceremonies introducing the keynote speakers: Gail Ridgely (Northern Arapaho Tribe), Otto Braided Hair (Northern Cheyenne Tribe) and Chris Tall Bear (Southern Cheyenne Tribe).

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

SAND CREEK VIGIL pg. 8

Montoya Whiteman, Tribal Tribune Correspondent



Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond makes opening remarks to the audience at the beginning of a listening session addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples epidemic in Oklahoma. (Courtesy photos)

Oklahoma Universal Human Rights Alliance presents 11th annual awards

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

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter



Human Rights Awards were presented to Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes MMIP Chapter Chair LaRenda Morgan and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana at the Oklahoma State Capitol on Saturday Dec. 6, 2025. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

(OKLAHOMA CITY) Promoting equity, social justice and a voice for all human rights, the Oklahoma Universal Human Rights Alliance (OKUHRA) gives recognition to individuals and groups that reflect and embody what it means to defend and preserve individual rights and liberties.

With many actively working in communities across Oklahoma to preserve human rights, 20 individuals were recognized by OKUHRA for their continuous activism of human rights in their respective roles, including Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana and LaRenda Morgan, government affairs officer and Cheyenne and Arapaho MMIP Chapter chairwoman.

OKUHRA held the 11th annual Human Rights Awards at the Oklahoma State Capitol in Oklahoma City on Saturday, Dec. 6.

The ceremony was conducted in the Oklahoma House Chamber of the State Capitol, where an opening prayer was given by Fred Mosqueda, who works with the Arapaho Language and Culture program, and opening remarks were presented by Gerardo Martinez. A meditation demonstration was presented by Sister Bindu, an OKUHRA chairman message was given by Wilfredo Santos Rivera followed with remarks by UN students Miguel Clemente and Camila Abdusattofova.

Since 2012, OKUHRA has awarded human rights activists or organizations for their contributions in Oklahoma. Anyone can nominate an individual or organization for the award and the OKUHRA committee reviews the nominations and selects the awardees.

The alliance was created by chair Wilfredo Santos

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

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

(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 partnership with the Victim Services Unit of the Attorney General's Office and OSBI, we are creating a task force with our tribal partners because you know best," Drummond said. "No family should suffer their family member being missing or their family member being murdered, and the perpetrator not being held."

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 7th through 12th 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 misusage, 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-andrapaho-nsn.gov.

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MORE INFORMATION

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405.538.3083



NOVEMBER

During the holiday season we will still be available to help you with

WORK READINESS -BY APPOINTMENT ONLY-

SCHEDULE BY CONTACTING
THE CLINTON OFFICE @ 580-331-2412
OR THE CONCHO OFFICE @ 405-422-7662
Email us at Dreamsgroup@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

DECEMBER



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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Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Community Health Representative Program

KIDS WINTER Safety TOUR

Pre-K - 8th grade

A Winter Event Filled with fun & safety!

December 22ND
FROM 12-3PM
Concho ERC

Activities: Cultural dancing, winter safety, cookie decorating, necklace making, games, and pictures w/ Santa
Lunch & incentives for participants
For More Information please call: (405) 295-1750

Grades Pre-K-8th
Join us!

Community Health Representatives

KINDLY JOIN US FOR A
Family Night
Take Charge of Your Health

DEC 17 5-6:30 pm
Wednesday
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 event (1). 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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CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:
HAYLEE WHITE PLUME PADDYAKER Case No. PG-2025-0089
DOB: 01/17/1997

An Alleged Incapacitated Person,

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

TAKE NOTICE that Jennifer Madboll, 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/452451494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV00fMxM15QJRxDtHOT09>
 - 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 25th day of November, 2025.

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

FRESH FOOD MARKET
DECEMBER 17TH
5PM - 7PM
OR UNTIL SUPPLIES LAST
OKC TRIBAL SERVICE CENTER
4400 SW 21ST STREET
405.422.7656
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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2020-2021-2024 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST/OK CHAPTER MEDIA AWARD WINNER



Dear Santa

Canton Head Start

I want for Christmas is a Monster truck-Dillion
I want for Christmas is a dinosaur-Marcus
I want for Christmas is a Spiderman-Enzo
I want for Christmas is a Sonic-PJ
I want for Christmas is cat- Gertrude
I want for Christmas is a cat- Farrah
I want for Christmas is a tractor- Malachi
I want for Christmas is a spiderman-Alonzo
I want for Christmas is a remote control truck- Brantley
I want for Christmas is a Mario- Amir
I want for Christmas is a sonic- Jayden
I want for Christmas is a princess- Ada
I want for Christmas is cat- Ren
I want for Christmas is a spiderman- Matheson
I want for Christmas is a doll- Kole

I want for Christmas is a tractor and farm animals- Ruger
I want for Christmas is a Kpop demon hunter-Lily
I want for Christmas is a batman- Kenzo
I want for Christmas is a babydoll- Amaya
I want for Christmas is spiderman- Khyce
I want for Christmas is a chucky doll- Raelynn
I want for Christmas is spiderman- Antonio
I want for Christmas is a Barbie- Larissa
I want for Christmas is a monster truck- Samuel
I want for Christmas is a bluey- Hadley
I want for Christmas is cars- Zaiden
I want for Christmas is a remote control car- Izaviah
I want for Christmas is a baby- Natalie
I want for Christmas is a barbie's- Anabel
I want for Christmas is Kpop demon hunter- Elayzia

Clinton Child Care

I would like blocks and fidget toys.
Love, Louden
I would like blocks and fidget toys.
Love, Thiago
I would like toy cars and dinosaurs.
Love, Lucas
I would like large Legos, blocks, and toy cars.
Love, Jayden
I would like books, stuffed animals, and pyramid builders.
Love, Camilo
I would like Lilo and Stitch toys, dress-up clothes, and baby dolls.
Love, Nahmi
I would like baby dolls and accessories.
Love, Hazel
I would like magnet tiles, puzzles and pretend play food.
Love, Hayley
I would like a mermaid Barbie and K-Pop toys.
Love, Genesis
I would like a puppy toy.
Love, Paisley H.
I would like K-Pop toys.
Love, Madelyn S.
I would like a mermaid Barbie and accessories.
Love, Mya
I would like puzzles, Legos and pretend play accessories.
Love, Silas

I would like monster jam trucks.
Love, Marco
I would like spider man toys.
Love, Diego
I would like dress-up clothes, baby dolls and accessories.
Love, Tokahe
I would like Lilo and Stitch toys and baby dolls.
Love, Belky
I would like squishmallows, Hello Kitty plushies, and Bluey toys.
Love, Madelyn B.
I would like ear pods, squishmallows, and matching PJ sets.
Love, Tinsley
I would like Legos and a scooter.
Love, Wyatt
I would like a Lilo and Stitch Lexibook, Lilo and Stitch toys, and the best presents.
Love, Amberly
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 a cool bike, small Legos, and coloring books.
Love, Phillip

Clinton Head Start

I would like a Barbie Doll House
Love, Anya B
I would like Spiderman toys
Love, Elliot S
I would like Spiderman toys
Love, Diego A
I would like dollhouse and dress
Love, Amariana R
I would like Bluey toys
Love, River B
I would like farm animals and a barn
Love, Leanna M
I would like an Elsa doll
Love, Alany H
I would like a babydoll
Love, Emily N
I would like Elsa doll
Love, Genesis L
I would like a babydoll
Love, Belky S
I would like a truck
Love, Kai G
I would like hot wheels
Love, Lincoln T
I would like a Grinch toy
Love, Preslee S
I would like a baby doll
Love, A'Deja B
I would like legos
Love, Raymond B
I would like Blues clues and a coloring book
Love, Tokahe R
I would like a Barbie and a Barbie house
Love, Aliyah C
I would like a toy puppy and a toy baby
Love, Mya H
I would like a Barbie doll and a cat teddy bear
Love, Mia C
I would like a Barbie doll and a fire truck
Love, Josephine H
I would like a T-Rex and a dinosaur toy
Love, Giovanni H
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
I would like a soft book and a teething toy.
Love, Kleo
I would like a light up toy and a musical toy.
Love, Nooku
I would like a play cell phone and a musical toy.
Love, Xander
I would like a baby doll and a musical toy.
Love, Haniah
I would like cars, lego blocks, and books.
Love, Theo
I would like a baby doll,

Concho Child Care

trucks, and lego blocks.
Love, Rome
I would like a construction truck, community people, and paw patrol.
Love, Carson
I would like a baby doll, puzzles, and Bluey toys.
Love, Nehlani
I would like a baby doll, playhouse, play kitchen, and puzzles.
Love, Iyla
I would like cars/trucks, puzzles, and building blocks.
Love, Liam
I would like cars/trucks, musical instruments, and building blocks.
Love, Devyn
I would like a toy car and a Cinderella doll
Love, Esperanza D
I would like a Spiderman toy and toy cars
Love, Omar R
I would like a purple kitty cat
Love, Aitana G
I would like a Unicorn
Love, Ama M
I would like a Spiderman toy
Love, Eldon P
I would like Paw Patrol toys
Love, Ezra J
I would like a red princess dress
Love, Fernanda Q
I would like a Big Monster truck and Paw Patrol toys
Love, Ezydein V
I would like a fire fighter truck
Love, Genesis J
I would like a music toy
Love, Isabella G
I would like a yoyo
Love, Jesslyn A
I would like a water gun
Love, Royal K
I would like a soda pop and Paw Patrol toys
Love, Marco S
I would like Paw Patrol toys
Love, Neeko A
I would like a pink little puppy
Love, Olivia C
I would like Bluey toy
Love, Rosalina H
I would like a Spiderman toy
Love, Aron M
puzzles, and kitchen toys.
Love, Stuv
I would like a baby doll, musical toys, and puzzles.
Love, Vylet
I would like a baby doll, coloring books/crayons, and musical toys.
Love, Halo
I would like puzzles, baby doll, and musical toys.
Love, Evelyn
I would like trucks, building blocks, and sensory books.
Love, Tushka
I would like a activity cube,



Concho Head Start

I would like a toy jetpack and a toy spaceship.
Love, Lyam
I would like a book and a sandbox.
Love, Hudsyn
I would like a computer and some dumbbells.
Love, Tre
I would like a baby doll and playdough.
Love, Charlie
I would like an Elsa toy and a toy tiger.
Love, LaVonna
I would like a toy race car and toy blocks.
Love, Tristen
I would like an Elsa toy and playdough.
Love, Amari
I would like a Hulk toy and Spiderman toy.
Love, Kye
I would like a dragon toy and Hulk toy.
Love, Karsyn
I would like an Elsa toy and Moana toy.
Love, Wyoma



Concho Child Care

puzzles, and kitchen toys.
Love, Stuv
I would like a baby doll, musical toys, and puzzles.
Love, Vylet
I would like a baby doll, coloring books/crayons, and musical toys.
Love, Halo
I would like puzzles, baby doll, and musical toys.
Love, Evelyn
I would like trucks, building blocks, and sensory books.
Love, Tushka
I would like a activity cube,



Dear Santa

Concho Head Start

I would like a black piggy.
Love, Taliyah

I would like a red bike.
Love, Jace

I would like a pen that
doesn't draw on carpet.
Love, Felipe

I would like paint brushes.
Love, Jalen

I would like dinosaur toys.
Love, Angel

I would like legos.
Love, Valentin

I would like a Hello Kitty
doll.
Love, Esmeralda

I would like a big car.
Love, Cash

I would like a remote
control car.
Love, Andres

I would like legos.
Love, Robin

I would like Bluey stuff.
Love, Tennyson

I would like Bluey stuff.
Love, Micco

I would like Bluey.
Love, Lovelynn

I would like a Penguin.
Love, Noeli

I would like an Elsa dress.
Love, Sofia

I would like baby dolls.
Love, Janaya

I would like baby dolls.
Love, Sarah

I would like a baby.
Love, Alice

I would like baby dolls.
Love, Aliani

I would like a Bluey bed.
Love, Aleigha

I would like a green
dinosaur monster truck.
Love, Axel

I would like an avengers
motorcycle.
Love, Caecil

I would like a Christmas
Halloween toy.
Love, Dyer

I would like pink playdough.
Love, Evelyn

I would like a dollhouse.
Love, Gianna

I would like a bicycle.
Love, Josiah

I would like Bluey toy and a
trampoline.
Love, Kai

I would like new makeup.
Love, Kylie

I would like kitchen toys.
Love, Levi

I would like a Football.
Love, Malakai

I would like a Ninja turtle
motorcycle.
Love, Mateo

I would like a Spiderman
toy.
Love, McClain

I would like a Spiderman
pirate ship.
Love, Michael

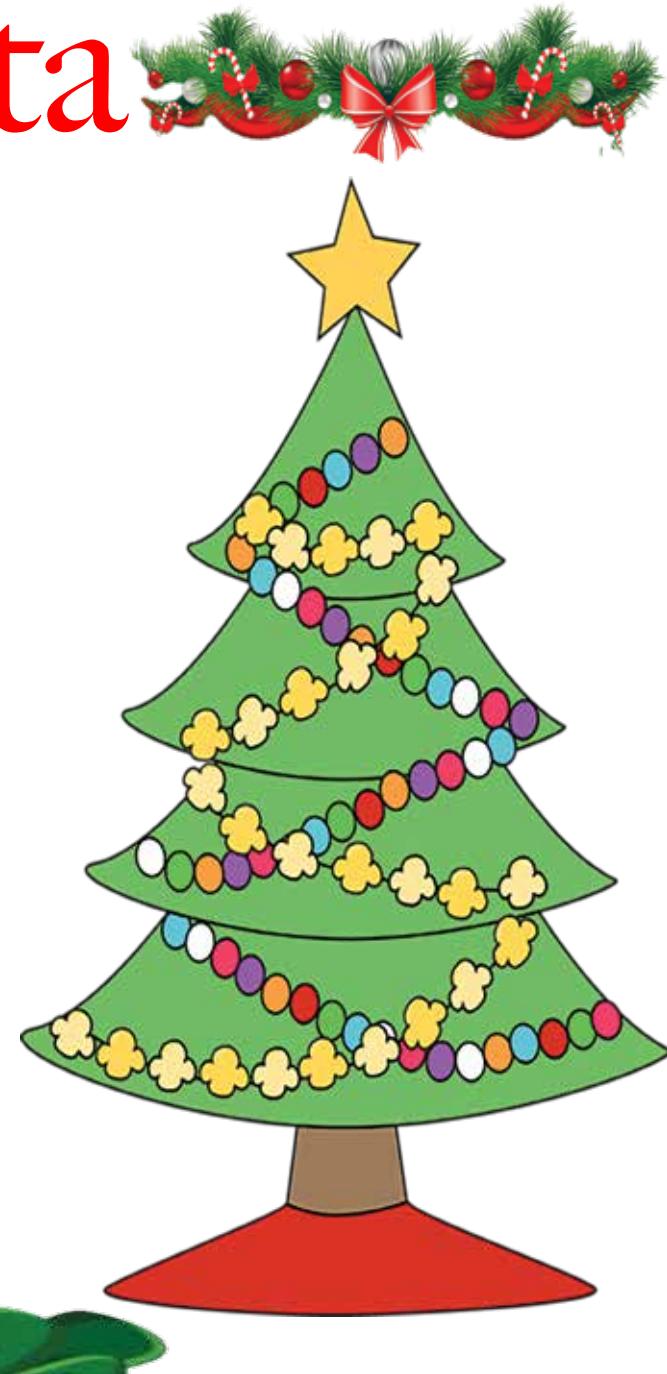
I would like a vanity.
Love, Natalie

I would like an animal toy.
Love, Noah

I would like slime.
Love, Oakley

I would like art supplies.
Love, Ruby

I would like a pirate ship.
Love, Tyshon



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," Wassana said.

"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 11th annual Human Rights awards are (in no particular order), Dr. Millie Audas, Fernando Baquera Ochoa, Forrest Bennett, Father Scott Boeckman, Aley 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 Aletia 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.

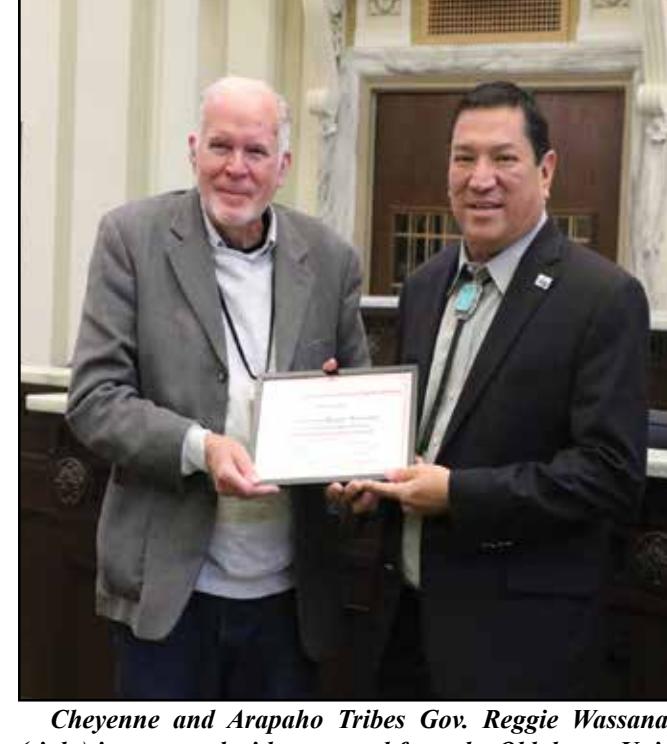
Wassana believes the Tribes have made headway regarding the Tribe's buffalo, the expansions and updates of buildings.

"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

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

MUSTANG SWIM



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.



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-



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.

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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

OBITUARIES

Lisa Marie Foster

Lisa Marie Foster, age 40, of Piedmont, Okla., passed away at her home on November 26, 2025.

Lisa Marie Franks was born in Oklahoma City on August 20, 1985. She spent her childhood in Oklahoma City and later attended school in Ardmore, Okla., where she met the love of her life Russell Foster. They were introduced by friends who believed they would make a perfect match, and they were right, what began as a friendship grew into 22-years filled with devotion and love.

Lisa graduated from Kingston High School before entering the workforce as a heavy equipment operator. She was known for her strong work ethic and determination. In high school, she excelled in basketball and loved the thrill of competition.

In 2008, Lisa embraced her most cherished role, becoming a stay-at-home mother when Sandriena

joined their family. Lisa and Russell later expanded their family through the loving adoption of Braelynn and Ava in 2014, and Summer in 2015. Summer, Braelynn, and Sandriena shared Lisa's love for sports, especially basketball and soccer. Ava, always by her mother's side, enjoyed watching her sisters play and cheering them on.

Though competitive in spirit, Lisa carried a gentle and calming presence that made her home warm and peaceful. Russell often said that being around her was enough to bring him comfort. Lisa had a big, open heart and cared deeply for everyone she met. Her presence brought light, and her absence will be deeply felt by all who loved her.

Lisa was preceded in death by her grandmother Elizabeth Franks, mother Marcie Ann Franks, uncles, Ronnie Franks and Michael Franks; and cousin, Jamie Franks.

She is survived by her



husband Russell Foster of Piedmont, daughter Summer Foster of Edmond, Okla., daughter Braelynn Foster of Edmond and daughters Sandriena Leflore and Ava Foster, both of Piedmont, brother Timothy Franks, sisters, Jessica Martinez and Lakota Franks.

Wake services were held December 3 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held December 4, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber-Benson Funeral Home.

Tryston Richard Proa

Tryston Richard Proa "Red Feather", age 24, lifelong resident of Clinton, Okla., passed away November 28, 2025, at his home in Clinton. He was born February 24, 2001, in Clinton.

Tryston graduated from Clinton High School in 2020 during the Covid pandemic. He was a member of the Clinton Indian Baptist Church and was especially proud of his membership in the Bow String Society, where he honored and embraced his Native heritage.

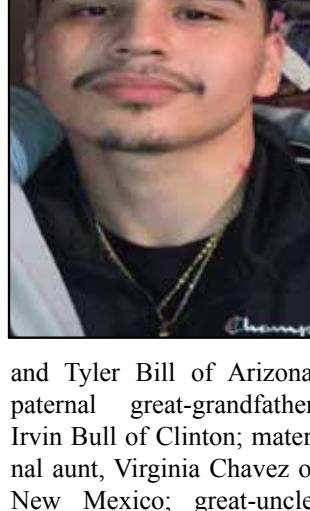
Throughout his life, Tryston worked at several jobs around Clinton including Bar-S Foods and Cheyenne and Arapaho Parks and Recreation, and he also traveled out of state working for the A&I Company. No matter where he worked, Tryston built friendships easily and was known for his big heart, his humor, and his willingness to help anyone in need.

From a young age, Tryston showed a natural gift for athletics. He excelled in many sports, particularly baseball, and was talented in football and wrestling as well. More than anything, Tryston loved spending time

with his daughter, she was truly his world. He was a devoted family man who cherished every moment with his loved ones. Proud of his Native culture, he enjoyed participating in cultural events and being involved in Native community functions. Tryston greeted everyone with love, freely offered hugs, and had a special way of making people laugh and feel cared for.

He was preceded in death by his maternal grandparents, Richard and Patricia Slinkey, great-grandparents, Sam and Angeline Fletcher, his sister Kaylan Naranjo, great-grandmother, Bernice Bull; his grandmother and grandfather, Rhonda and Ronald Redshin; his paternal grandmother on his biological father's side, Felix "Chofe" Rios; aunt and uncle, Betty and Cenovio Flores and uncles, Victor Rios and Tino Rios.

Survivors include his parents, Sonny and Sylva Redshin of Clinton, sisters, Jessica Slinkey, Alizaiya Proa, and Yazmine Proa, all of Clinton, brothers, Alfonzo Slinkey and his wife "JoJo," Ronnie Redshin, both of Clinton,



and Tyler Bill of Arizona; paternal great-grandfather, Irvin Bull of Clinton; maternal aunt, Virginia Chavez of New Mexico; great-uncle, Charles Fletcher of El Reno; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, and other relatives who loved him dearly.

A traditional all-night wake service was held December 4 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held December 5, at the same venue, officiated by Gerald Panama and Jerry Roman Nose, followed by an interment at the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of Lee Hometown Funeral Home.

CIV-2025-0070

CHEYENNE & ARAPOAH TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 14 2025
IN THE TRIAL COURT

DOCKET _____ PAGE _____
FILM _____ IMAGE _____
IN THE TRIAL COURT
COURT CLERK
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of:

SHILOH REDHAT) Case No. CIV-2025-0070
Petitioner,

VS.)
NATHANIAL GRIFFITH)
Respondent,

**CIVIL SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION**

CHEYENNE AND ARAPOAH TRIBES TO: NATHANIAL GRIFFITH
Address Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER to the Petition which is filed in the Office of the above-named Court. A copy of the Petition is available through the Court Clerk's office and to file your Answer with the above-named Court within twenty (20) days of service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service. Within the same time, a copy of your Answer must be delivered or mailed to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court P.O. Box 102 Concho, OK 73022.

AFTER THE TWENTY (20) days, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court shall set a date for hearing of this cause, and you will be notified of the time and date.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR before the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court on the date set for hearing, a Judgment by Default can be entered and the Plaintiff shall be awarded the relief asked for, in the Petition.

YOU MAY SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY on any matter connected with this suit or your Answer at your own expense. Such Attorney should be consulted immediately so that an Answer may be filed within the time stated in this summons.

Filed this 14th day of October, 2025.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

OBITUARIES

Margie Ann Pewo

Margie Ann Pewo, Burnt Woman "Vonahe'e" age 88, of Hammon, Okla., passed away peacefully at her home on November 20, 2025, surrounded by her loving family.

Born on March 23, 1937, in McClure, Okla. Margie was the daughter of John and Pollie (Roman Nose) Belt. She attended Hammon Schools. On September 23, 1963, she married the love of her life, her forever companion Cheyenne Chief Edwin Pewo, and together they built a beautiful life in Hammon, raising nine children, including her first grandson Charles.

Margie had a deep passion for gardening and cherished her vibrant flowers. She was an avid collector of turquoise jewelry and antiques which decorated her beautiful yard and home. She enjoyed traveling and made many memorable trips to Taos, New Mexico. Embracing her Cheyenne ways, she played a significant role in her community by teaching the Cheyenne language to many, as she was a fluent speaker. She cherished singing Cheyenne hymns and listening to church hymns and Hank Williams Sr.

In addition to her many contributions to the Cheyenne community, she enjoyed a variety of activities. She was an expert in the traditional slicing and drying of

meat, was an active walker, and loved spending time with friends and visiting the casino. Margie loved spending time with her grandkids and great-grandkids, she loved watching them play basketball. Margie also served as a museum curator, reflecting her dedication to education and cultural preservation.

A lifelong member of both the Mennonite Church and the Native American Church, Margie was honored as the oldest Cheyenne Elder in the Hammon community. She remained fiercely independent and sharp-minded until her passing.

Margie is survived by her sons, Bennie Highwalker Jr., Tyrone Pewo and wife Loris, Kenneth Pewo, and Charles Highwalker; daughters, Kim Tunnell, Edwina Bullcoming and husband Wilbur, Virginia Williams and husband Boyd, and Pollie Goodman and husband John; and her adopted daughters, Melissa Goodblanket and Karen Little Coyote.

She is also survived by 36 grandchildren, Charles, Donita, Donald Jr. (Sink), Rose, Candy, Lance, Angela, Cory, Carrie, Anna, Ashley, Justin, Joel, Jordan, Nelson, Randall, Austin, Tysha, Tiffany, Tawny, Edwina, Edwin, Kenneth Jr., Kendra, Verick, Tori, Jamie, Jonathan, Jada, Javonna, Jalen, Joshua, John, Mariah, Martina, and Marley.



She leaves behind 65 great-grandchildren and 12 great-great-grandchildren, all of whom carry forward her love and legacy.

Margie is preceded in death by her parents, John and Pollie Belt; her husband Edwin Pewo and her daughters, Evelyn Highwalker and Johnnie Sue Greeley. Sisters, Ruby Standingwater, Leona Stepp and Sharon Byrd. Special nephews Victor Orange and Rayburn Orange.

Margie's legacy of love, joy, and cultural pride will be cherished and remembered by her family, friends, and community.

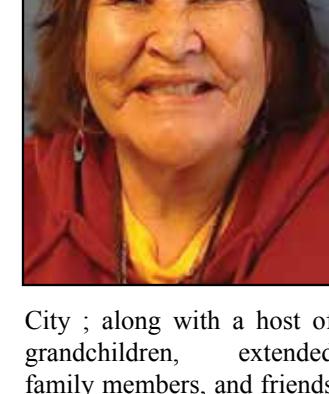
An all-night wake service was held November 25 at the Hammon Emergency Response Center in Hammon, Okla. Funeral services were held November 26 at the Hammon High School Auditorium, followed by an interment at the Hammon Mennonite Cemetery under the direction of Kiesau Lee Funeral Home.

Evelyn Angie Waters

Evelyn Angie "Taters" Waters, age 69, former Clinton resident, was born March 19, 1956, in Clinton, Okla., to Thurman and Anola (Blackwolf) Waters, and passed away December 2, 2025, in Tulsa, Okla., where she had made her home in recent years.

"Taters," as she was affectionately known to her family and friends, was raised in Clinton and attended Clinton Public Schools. She was a member of the Koinonia Indian Mennonite Church in Clinton and, after moving to Tulsa, worshiped with the Indian Baptist Church. Her faith, family, and tribal heritage were guiding foundations throughout her life.

Taters was deeply proud of her Native heritage and lived it daily. She enjoyed creating intricate beadwork and treasured attending traditional Native events such as powwows, Sun Dances, and other cultural gatherings. She loved being surrounded



by her people and traditions, and she never hesitated to lend a hand wherever one was needed. Those who knew her remember her as kind-hearted, humble, dependable, and always willing to help family and community.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thurman and Anola Waters, her son Orlando Waters, her brothers, Harvey Montatchi, Waddie Waters, Rollo Waters and her sister Sandra Spottedwolf.

She is survived by her daughter Selena Waters of Tulsa, her sister Christina Waters, who made her home with her in Tulsa, nieces, Brenda Brown of El Reno and Ramona Waters Austin of Apache, nephews, Arlan Spottedwolf of Yukon and Christian Spottedwolf of Lawton, cousins, Ramona Welch of Weatherford, Enid Kaye Boles of Portland, Shawn Spottedwolf of Clinton, Anthony Spottedwolf of Oklahoma City and Patrice Spottedwolf of Oklahoma

City; along with a host of grandchildren, extended family members, and friends who will remember her lovingly.

An all-night wake service was held December 6 at the Koinonia Mennonite Church in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held December 7, at the same venue, with Dusky Monetatchi officiating, followed by an interment at the Clinton Indian Cemetery under the direction of Lee Hometown Funeral Home.

CIV-2025-0084

CHEYENNE & ARAPOAH TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED NOV 25 2025
IN THE TRIAL COURT

DOCKET _____ PAGE _____
FILM _____ IMAGE _____
IN THE TRIAL COURT
COURT CLERK
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of:

ASPEN HANDLEY) Case No. CIV-2025-0084
Petitioner,

VS.)
TREVOR HIGGINS)
Respondent,

**CIVIL SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION**

CHEYENNE AND ARAPOAH TRIBES TO: TREVOR HIGGINS
Address Unknown

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER to the Petition which is filed in the Office of the above-named Court. A copy of the Petition is available through the Court Clerk's office and to file your Answer with the above-named Court within twenty (20) days of service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service. Within the same time, a copy of your Answer must be delivered or mailed to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court P.O. Box 102 Concho, Okla. 73022.

AFTER THE TWENTY (20) days, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court shall set a date for hearing of this cause, and you will be notified of the time and date.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR before the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court on the date set for hearing, a Judgment by Default can be entered and the Plaintiff shall be awarded the relief asked for, in the Petition.

YOU MAY SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY on any matter connected with this suit or your Answer at your own expense. Such Attorney should be consulted immediately so that an Answer may be filed within the time stated in this summons.

Dated this 25th day of November, 2025.

CHEYENNE & ARAPOAH TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED DEC 02 2025
IN THE TRIAL COURT

DOCKET _____ PAGE _____
FILM _____ IMAGE _____
COURT CLERK
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of a Paternity Proceeding:

AMY LEE ACOSTA) Case No. CIV-2025-0089
Petitioner,

VS.)
MELVIN LANDAVERDE-MARTINEZ)
Respondent,

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

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 as the father of J.C.M.A., a minor child. Any interested parties may appear at the hearing set on the 4th day of FEBRUARY, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., 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.

Dated this 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2025.

Mary Eledge, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2025-0089

CHEYENNE & ARAPOAH TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
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SAND CREEK VIGIL

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song for those who had already perished, to let them know it's okay to go."

He described the Cheyenne belief that when people die in a tragic way—especially when their body parts are taken, as happened at Sand Creek—their spirits remain unsettled. This, he said, is one of the main reasons why protecting Sand Creek is so important: it is a place where remains can be returned to the land from which they were needlessly taken. He emphasized the word "needless." He added that "needless" killings continue to occur in the world.

The offenders at Sand Creek, he said, did not act in a proper or honorable manner; they killed women and children. They did not call on the warriors to come forward to fight.

He also spoke about the vision of Cheyenne Chief Laird Cometsevah, Jr. (1931-2008), who worked closely with legislators for landmark legislation leading to the creation of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in 1998. Cometsevah wanted to advance legislation to prevent such brutal events from ever happening again.

Braided Hair said he is continuing the path that the Sand Creek chiefs envisioned for the Cheyenne people—a path of peace. He added that peace is not only for the Cheyenne, but for all people. "We all need healing," he said, asking, "How

are we going to get there? How can we reach a place without needless killing?"

His hope is that people come together with good intentions and inspire younger generations to live with love, respect, and care for one another. He urged everyone to embrace values that are good for us all, regardless of the color of our skin. Braided Hair closed by reminding the audience, "The people at Sand Creek were not savages. They had a way of life that was so good, so strong, so nurturing. This is what everyone needs."

Gail "Two Eagles" Ridgely's Reflections

Ridgely spoke with gratitude and remembrance saying that he appreciates those who keep the memory of the massacre alive and support commemorative events. He recalls his Sand Creek Massacre journey began in 1995 when he was contacted by Dr. David F. Halaas; a consultant, author, lecturer, and Colorado State Historian.

He spoke about the difficulty of reconciling the brutality of genocide by a "civilized people," and how he personally deals with trauma often thinking about the children at the encampment.

Ridgely said his father was a descendant of Chief Little Raven, and their family name changed from Ridge Bear to Ridgely to appear "more American."

He talked about his father's military service and strength. His father served



Otto Braided Hair, Chris Tall Bear and Gail Ridgely visit together during the Sand Creek vigil held in Denver, Colo. (Photo / Montoya Whiteman)

in the Philippine Islands during WWII for 19 months.

He saw his father as a pillar of strength, and yet it was upsetting to witness his father crying at the massacre site.

Ridgely talked about the ongoing injustice and that non-Native people still possess body parts from the massacre, highlighting unresolved issues of respect and restitution.

Chris Tall Bear's Listening and Learning Journey

Chris Tall Bear is a de-

scendant of Sand Creek Massacre survivors on both maternal and paternal sides and serves on the Sand Creek Massacre Memorial Committee.

As a product of the Indian Relocation Act and a public health specialist for over two decades, Tall Bear is on a personal learning journey to understand the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal histories.

He emphasized the significance of ceremony, especially at the massacre site and the role of cul-

tural practice.

Tall Bear has a commitment to community, and his goal is to honor Cheyenne and Arapaho people by remembering the Sand Creek Massacre and helping descendants "find a way to help, heal, and learn."

He expressed appreciation for Otto and Gail's advocacy, guidance, and deepening his understanding. He considers them mentors who have taught him the healing power of storytelling, culture, and ceremony.

Together, these tribal leaders reflect a shared calling; to preserve memory, foster healing, commit to truth and reconciliation, and ensure the story of the 1864 Sand Creek Massacre endures for future generations.

To find out more about the Sand Creek Memorial Foundation and events leading up to the 162nd Anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, visit <https://www.sandcreekmassacrefoundation.org>.

Lucky Star CASINO

2026

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One (1) name will be drawn **EVERY HOUR** from 2pm to 11pm, for **\$226 IN FREE PLAY**
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• Guests may win FREE PLAY non-consecutively
• Guests are eligible for GRAND PRIZE CASH DRAWING if they have previously won \$226 in FREE PLAY

All drawings will be held on Wednesday, December 31st from 2pm to midnight at all Lucky Star locations.

See Players Club for full details.

CHEYENNE & ARAPOHO TRIBES

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