

ICE Expansion Reopens Old Wounds for Native Nations

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*



People gather January 11 at Scissortail Park in Oklahoma City for an anti-ICE protest following the shooting death of Renee Good, a U.S. citizen, was fatally shot by an ICE agent in Minneapolis, Minn., on January 7. (Photo Nathan J. Fish/The Oklahoman)

Across Indian Country, history is not something we read about, it is something we remember, carry, and continue to survive.

As U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) expands its presence across the country, Native communities are once again feeling the weight of fear, surveillance, and trauma imposed by government action.

Reports have emerged nationwide of Native Americans being stopped, detained, and in some cases held in detention centers for days before being released. In Minneapolis, Minn., ICE has recently

shot and killed two U.S. citizens, even as more than 800 ICE agents reportedly patrol city streets, stopping people they deem "suspicious" without warrants or probable cause. Similar reports have surfaced in California, New York, and Washington, D.C.

President Donald Trump campaigned on immigration enforcement, claiming ICE would target "criminals, rapists and murderers" living in the United States illegally.

What many communities are witnessing instead are masked, militarized ICE units operating in predominantly "blue" states, stop-

ping working people, elders, business owners, and children with no criminal history. Families describe loved ones being taken off the streets and forced into unmarked vehicles, with no explanation of where they are being held. Parents, spouses, and children are left searching for answers, reliving a nightmare Indigenous peoples know all too well.

For Native Americans, this moment is hauntingly familiar.

Our ancestors endured the forced removal of children to boarding schools, mass incarceration without due

process, and imprisonment in facilities like Fort Marion based on false accusations and racial profiling. The fear being inflicted today reopens those generational wounds.

Oklahoma Developments Raise Alarms

In Oklahoma, ICE has opened a detention facility in Watonga, just outside Cheyenne and Arapaho Country, using a long-dormant prison. In Oklahoma City, federal officials are reportedly planning a second detention center that would house up to 1,500 people in an empty warehouse near Western Heights Public Schools, a

district made up primarily of Hispanic students.

The proposed facility is located near Interstate 40 and Council Road, and reports indicate that neither state nor city leaders were notified beforehand. Federal officials have reportedly stated that federal law does not require them to consult local governments.

State lawmakers have raised serious concerns about the lack of transparency, public safety, and the suitability of a warehouse for long-term human confinement. Community members worry about public health risks, emergency response strain, and the lasting impact such a facility would have on surrounding neighborhoods.

Tribal Leadership Responds

Many Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens live and work in and around the Oklahoma City area. In response to growing concern, Cheyenne and Arapaho Governor Reggie Wassana issued guidance to tribal citizens, emphasizing safety, vigilance, and awareness of legal rights.

His statement is published below in its entirety, as issued.

"I have been keeping up to date on the many posts and articles that have been circulating regarding the actions of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents and of how they are illegally stopping individuals of color, abusing them and/or wrongfully detaining them. The Trump administration is continuing to take drastic

responses to illegal immigration in this country which has resulted in citizens being detained, beaten, and even killed. The presence of ICE in Oklahoma has caused concern to many tribal members and other minorities. As of today, there has been an increasing number of ICE incidents or improper detentions in our surrounding area. Despite the chaos that has been ensuing, my top priority is to ensure the safety of all of our tribal members.

To be safe, I encourage tribal members to:

- Always carry identification with you. This includes your Tribal ID and at least one (1) other form of identification such as a driver's license.
- If ICE agents approach you, remain calm and polite, and request identification to verify that the individual stopping you is actually an enforcement officer with ICE.
- Do not physically resist or flee. Continue to remain calm and polite, and present your identification.
- Keep personal contact information readily available. This way you can notify friends and family of your location.

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Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Dept. of Transportation Safety Program wins second place in combating human trafficking in Transportation Impact Awards

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) today announced the full list of recipients for the Department's annual Combating Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award as part of National Human Trafficking Prevention Month.

This award incentivizes innovative and shareable solutions to combat human trafficking in the transportation industry. The winners of the 2025 DOT Combating Human Trafficking in Transportation Impact Award include:

1st Place: New Jersey Transit for its "NJ TRANSIT's Continued Commitment to Combating Human Trafficking: A Multi-Faceted Approach" proposal to prepare for the 2026 FIFA World Cup by expanding partnerships, training 12,000 employees, launching a public awareness campaign for its 225 million annual passengers, and providing direct support to potentially trafficked individuals.

2nd Place: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Department of Transportation's Transportation Safety Program for its "Safe Roads, Save Lives: Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Campaign Against Human Trafficking in Transportation" proposal to develop training, toolkits, survivor support resources, and an awareness campaign tailored for tribal transportation stakeholders, law enforcement, and travelers through roadway billboards and public transit buses in Oklahoma.

3rd Place: 3Strands Global Foundation for its "Railway Agents Combating Exploitation Program" proposal to train and raise awareness of human trafficking among 7,000 railway professionals across the state of California.

"The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Dept. of Transportation (CADOT), in collaboration with the Cheyenne and Arapaho MMIP Chapter, strives to ensure national messages regarding human trafficking is a shared message and that the tribes do their part to safeguard the public across the tribes

service area. CADOT's goals this year are to amp up efforts regarding human trafficking across the tribes service area that include activities such as 1) develop posters to be posted within our Transit buses, 2) develop stickers with campaign messages to be displayed in tribal casinos and facilities (pending approval); and install ITS message boards on tribal lands to display campaign messages including the human trafficking message," CADOT Executive Director Angela Plumley said.

DOT's Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking (TLAHT) initiative, with over 600 transportation and travel industry partners, continues to maximize its collective impact in combating human trafficking across all modes of transportation in every state. Transportation-related organizations can join the multimodal, nationwide effort by:

Signing the TLAHT pledge,

Accessing mode-specific counter-trafficking resources, Developing comprehensive programs and policies, Training their employees, and

Raising awareness about human trafficking and its intersection with transportation.

Additionally, the joint DOT and Department of Homeland Security Blue Lightning Initiative (BLI) trains aviation industry personnel to identify potential traffickers and human trafficking victims, and to report their suspicions to Federal law enforcement through in-flight and on-the-ground reporting methods. To date, over 150 aviation industry partners have trained more than 400,000 employees through BLI.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration's "Your Roads, Their Freedom" public awareness campaign educates the commercial motor vehicle industry on recognizing and reporting suspected instances of human trafficking. The campaign includes indicator cards for frontline workers and posters to be displayed in rest areas, travel centers, bus stations,

and other places where human trafficking may occur.

Learn more about the Department's efforts to combat human trafficking. To report suspected instances of human trafficking, tips can be reported to the National Human Trafficking Hotline by calling 1-888-373-7888 or texting "HELP" to 233733 (BEFREE).

USDOT TRANSPORTATION LEADERS AGAINST HUMAN TRAFFICKING

The U.S. Department of Transportation's (USDOT) Transportation Leaders Against Human Trafficking (TLAHT) Initiative is comprised of transportation and travel industry stakeholders working jointly to maximize their collective impact in combating human trafficking. This partnership focuses on five key areas and connects transportation stakeholders to available resources on industry leadership, policy development, public awareness, and information sharing and analysis.

BECOME A PARTNER
Use TLAHT tools and partner with other stakeholders across the U.S. through this collaborative effort by signing the TLAHT pledge and committing to train your employees, raise awareness, and track data.

ISSUE A LEADER STATEMENT
Make your stakeholders aware of your intentions and actions and call your organization to act! You can create a counter-trafficking video and make a statement to set an example for your employees and stakeholders.

TRAIN YOUR TRANSPORTATION EMPLOYEES
Empower your employees through training to learn common human trafficking indicators and methods of reporting. USDOT's 55,000 employees have taken initial and recurrent counter trafficking training since 2012.

RAISE AWARENESS
Raise awareness among the traveling public using transportation-related and general counter-trafficking materials. DOT's TLAHT Awareness Campaign aims to educate and empower travelers and employees across all modes of transportation to recognize and report suspected instances of human trafficking. This includes a multimodal training, modal graphics, and modal posters with QR codes linking to indicators and reporting information. (See details on reverse.)

PUT THE BRAKES ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING

U.S. Department of Transportation

Building Readers, Growing Teachers: NYCP Grant Invests in Cheyenne and Arapaho Youth

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

A five-year grant awarded to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education for \$4.8 million addresses needs from the communities in early literacy struggles, to lack of out of school learning options, low college attendance rates and shortage of native educator options for tribal youth.

The Native Youth Community Project (NYCP) grant is offering the opportunity for 20 tribal students to participate in the upcoming Summer Bridge Camp from May 26 to June 12, allowing students to take on internships to work alongside classroom teachers and gain hands-on knowledge in teaching literacy and of the overall goal of producing indigenous teachers and educators.

With the long-term goal of someday building a charter school for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the NYCP aims to target objectives of building a foundation for a charter school in the future. The objectives of the project incorporate early literacy for head start children and college and career readiness for high school students and young adults in college.

Quin Elkshoulder, NYCP college and career readiness specialist will be targeting 10th through 12th grade students in the service area. Throughout the school year, Elkshoulder will be working alongside students on events, trips and resources, targeting college career readiness with the main focus leading toward education.

As part of the summer bridges camp, an internship for high school and college students will give an opportunity for 20 tribal students of any tribal background, to help with the camp.

"They would be assisting the teachers on the literacy instructions that they're giving and then they'll be providing different things for professional development and guidance throughout the internship program," Elkshoulder said.

Elkshoulder will be planning to visit schools to give presentations and an overview of the project.

Jamie Rishel, family engagement specialist will be helping bridge the gap between the families and students, ensuring both are staying involved with school and activities. Rishel said they are still in the review process of activities for families to stay involved at home.

"We're trying to come up with activities that they can do to take home, provide books to take home to reach other kids and just be there for whenever they need anything, questions, resources, look into anything they may have questions about or anything they might need to know," Rishel said.

Amanda Goljenbooms' role as student engagement specialist for NYCP is to support the family engagement specialist and college and career readiness specialist, but also ensuring the implementation of all of the components for the project.

"Making sure that the students are getting a good experience whether it's from a high school intern, the college and career or it's the students going back home to the family and their view point, a big focus of mine is designing the curriculum and materials that support all of that," Goljenboom said.

Jordan Tippeconnic, project director for NYCP will be overseeing the grant while Elkshoulder, Rishel and

Staff of the Native Youth Community Project pictured l-r: Quin Elkshoulder, college and career readiness specialist, Amanda Goljenboom, student engagement specialist, Jordan Tippeconnic, NYCP project director and Jamie Rishel, family engagement specialist. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)



Goljenboom are the components in carrying out the grant amongst communities. Tippeconnic said the schools the grant will target are the three head start centers located in Concho, Clinton and Canton, Okla.

With the incorporation of NYCP, Goljenboom said the overall big picture and the next step from the former Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes STEP grant, is learning about charter schools.

"We're hoping to work with our head starts and figuring out what that process looks like, so that hopefully in five years when we want to open up our charter school, we have the education and the capacity to know how to do that," Goljenboom said.

The summer bridges camp will be held at each head start site in Concho, Clinton and Canton where students will do internships alongside teachers. The camps would focus on reading, early liter-

acy as well as incorporating field trips.

"We'll have a program that's called "real aunties and uncles read," getting community members to come in and read for the children, but we're still in the stages of figuring out the curriculum and the day to day and what that looks like," Goljenboom said.

Goljenboom said the curriculum would incorporate Cheyenne and Arapaho language and culture.

As part of the project's objective of developing a college and career readiness internship program to help Native high school students explore teaching professions, high school students and any college student interested will have the opportunity to take part in the internship as well as take part in workshops and educational field trips. Elkshoulder said the workshops would be aimed at professional development

and hope to begin around March or April.

"It'll be throughout the year, so it's not really just for the camp, throughout the year I'll still be working with the interns that will have worked with the camp and students who want to be part of the program," Elkshoulder said.

Interns will also get to participate in college career fairs, one on one meetings and take part in college trips during the year, allowing students to visit education programs at universities or colleges. Elkshoulder plans to take students on trips to visit Haskell Indian Nations University, University of Kansas and Kansas State University to tour their college of education schools. Interns will also be awarded a monetary stipend for their participation in the internship.

The internship application is open to 10th through 12th grade students as well as col-

lege students from any federal tribe, students are required to have a 2.5 GPA along with good attendance and have to provide a transcript along with a personal essay over goals and what they hope to accomplish. The deadline for the application is February 13.

"The goal is to target students who are interested in teaching and want to become teachers so that when the charter school opens up, then we would have students interested in teaching at the charter schools, so the main focus is just getting students interested that will hopefully want to become a teacher," Elkshoulder said.

Outreaches are planned for Elkshoulder to visit El Reno, Clinton and Canton public schools to give brief presentations to students who may be interested in the program.

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First special session for 11th Legislature called by Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Governor

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

(CONCHO, Okla.) On January 12, 2026 a special session of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes 11th Legislature was called by Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana in Concho, Okla.

The public hearing was called to order at 10:05 a.m., with invocation given by Mariah Youngbull. Present at roll call was A1 Pamela Sutton, A2 Kendricks Sleeper, A4 Rector Candy, C1 Bruce Whiteman, C2 Milan Roman Nose, Jr., C3 Thomas Trout and C4 Mariah Youngbull. Absent for the special session was A3 Travis Ruiz.

On the agenda, three items were discussed and voted on:

A resolution to amend resolution 10L-SS-2025-1030-012 – a resolution to approve a submission for the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHGB) – FY 2025 Compet-

itive Grant Program (FR-6700-N-48).

Damon Dunbar, Department of Housing executive director presented the resolution as having to make amendments to the initial resolution to submit for the Indian Housing Block Grant for 2025 because of the costs.

"The funding is going to be \$7.5 million but that's for tribes with 50,000 or more people and we don't average that so we're going to apply for the \$6 million grant," Dunbar said.

Dunbar said the resolution needed to state a commitment from the tribes to state they will commit \$642,740 in tribal funds for infrastructure and direct costs to roads, driveways, curbing, septic and water wells for the proposed construction of duplexes in Concho, Okla.

"We need the commit-

ment from the tribe in the resolution so we can resubmit this to HUD, when we got the \$6 million grant we had the resolution saying we was going to build the nine duplexes over where we had the homes, we changed the sites next to the food pantry to the north side of the O&M building," Dunbar said.

With two sites arranged for the proposed duplexes, Dunbar said an amendment had to be made to the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to get their approval.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Housing was awarded \$6 million by the Indian Housing Block Grant (IHGB) for FY 2024, which marked phase I of a long-term vision project of constructing nine duplexes. If awarded the grant again, it would fall un-

der FY 2025, being awarded in 2026, moving the project to phase II.

Item number one passed unanimously with a vote of 7 yes.

A resolution to amend the General Taxation Act.

Oil and Gas officer for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Robert Bolton, presented the resolution explaining the tax law was originally initiated in the late 1980s and had provisions on stripper well status, meaning if an oil and gas well had minimal production, then the tribes had the option to not tax the well.

"When we amended the tax code in 2022, we kept that same provision in there, numerous wells were being drilled, taxes were still on the increase, well into the last year, right now we've gone from 76 rigs to 40 wells not

being drilled like they were," Bolton said.

Bolton continued to say production had gone down and that's a natural aspect of oil and gas wells. Bolton said he believed it would benefit the tribes to get rid of the stripper well status allocation.

"It's not a big monetary value but it could become of some significant amount of money if you allow all these wells to become stripper well status," Bolton said.

As an example, Bolton said some stripper wells that current people have would generate \$30 to \$50 a month and isn't a big bottom dollar issue but if accumulated to more wells, it could become significant.

"All we're trying to do here is protect the future financial basis for the tribe, this is a minor issue, we just

need to get off the books in comparison to other tribes, I've looked at the Comanche, Apache, Kiowas, Citizen Potawatomi's, they do not have it in their tax code, I just feel like it'll be a good move for the tribe to let's just get rid of it, not mess with it, so that's what this is for," Bolton said.

As stated in the resolution, as of February 1, 2026 the section of "Stripper Well Exemption" would be stricken from the General Taxation Act.

Item number two passed unanimously with a vote of 7 yes.

A resolution to amend resolution No. 10L-SS-2024-0208-005 – a resolution to authorize Governor Wassana to execute certain contracts.

Gov. Reggie Wassana

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ICE

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If ICE comes to your home:

Do not open the door unless ICE presents a valid judicial warrant signed by a judge. Most ICE warrants are administrative and do not allow them to enter your home without permission.

- A valid judicial warrant: 1. Names a person in your residence and/or what specific areas are to be searched at your residence and 2. Is signed by a judge (must be a judge that is not an immigration judge)

- An administrative warrant is: signed by an ICE officer

- (If you need help determining what is a valid judicial warrant you can review this resource: <https://www.nilc.org/resources/know-your-rights-warrants/>)

- Ask ICE to slide the warrant under the door for you to review. Do not open the door to receive the warrant.

- If an ICE agent enters your home without your permission or a valid judicial warrant, do not physically resist as that could subject you to potential criminal charges. But make it clear that you did not provide consent.

- If ICE begins to search your home, make it clear that you do not consent to the search.

- You do have a right to remain silent or state clearly: "I am exercising my right to remain silent."

- If you do not remain silent, do not lie to ICE agents as that may impact you in the future.

- Record the interaction if it is safe to do so or ask someone else to record it. If you record, do not interfere with the ICE operation.

If Detained or Arrested:

Remain silent. Clearly state, "I am exercising my right to remain silent. I want to speak with an attorney."

- You can tell ICE you have medical issues or need to arrange for childcare.

- If you are being detained, you must show a form of identification.

- You should say: "I am a U.S. Citizen" and ask why you are being detained.

- You can use your non-expired state-issued ID or Tribal ID to show your United States citizenship.

- If an ICE agent does not accept your Tribal ID, request to speak with their supervisor. Not all ICE agents are aware that a Tribal ID is a legal form of identification in the United States.

- Do not say anything, sign anything, or make any decisions without consulting a lawyer.

- Once detained, you have the right to make phone calls to family, friends, or a lawyer.

- If you are in detention, you can receive visitors including family, friends, and lawyers, depending on specific deten-



Oglala Sioux citizen Chase Iron Eyes visits ICE detention center attempting to locate four tribal citizens who were detained by ICE and transported to a detention facility. (Courtesy photo)

tion facility rules.

- You can request a list of free or low-cost legal service providers to seek representation.

- Tribal members who believe ICE violated their rights, please contact the Office of Tribal Attorney at 405-422-7618 or you can also contact the Native American Rights Fund.

Find more information at www.narf.org/ice-resources-2026.

If you believe you are at risk for Detainment:

If you believe you may be at risk for an ICE detainment it may be helpful to create a safety plan. A safety plan should include:

- Identifying your emergency contacts and memorizing their phone numbers.

- Providing your child's school or day care with an emergency contact to pick up your child.

- Keeping your important papers, like birth certificates, medical records, children's medical records, in a safe place and telling a loved one where you put those papers. (It may be helpful to keep a copy/photo of your birth certificate or proof of citizenship with you.)

- Written authorization for an emergency contact to make

medical and legal decisions for your child.

The growing presence of ICE in the country and our surrounding area has created a lot of concern and fear, but I assure you that my administration is intent on finding the best solutions for our tribal government and for all tribal members.

If you have lost or misplaced your tribal ID then please contact the Department of Enrollment at 405-422-7600 so that you are able to replace it as soon as possible. Enrollment provides free tribal IDs to all enrolled minors to prevent any misidentification."

Our Responsibility Moving Forward

This moment demands awareness, unity, and advocacy. Tribal citizens are urged to know their rights, support one another, and remain informed. Tribal sovereignty does not end at reservation boundaries, and Native people must not be treated as collateral damage in federal enforcement actions.

Indian Country has endured centuries of forced removals, broken promises, and government overreach. We know what it means to survive, and we know the importance of standing together when history threatens to repeat itself.

Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises launches mobile gaming app

(TULSA, Okla.) – Leaders of the Muscogee Nation and Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises (MNGE) announced the launch of a Class II mobile gaming application, allowing eligible players to participate in electronic bingo-style games from any location within the historic boundaries of the Muscogee Nation Reservation. The app is now available in the Apple App Store for iPhone users and in the Google Play Store for Android phone users.

The Muscogee Nation's mobile Class II gaming app marks a new era of access, innovation and technological advancement for the Nation and sets a precedent for mobile gaming across Indian Lands.

"This launch represents a major step forward for the Muscogee Nation," said Principal Chief David Hill. "We are investing in technology that strengthens sovereignty and expands opportunity for our citizens. Leading the nation with the first reservation-wide Class II mobile gaming platform reflects our commitment to innovation and responsible governance."

Class II gaming, defined under federal law, includes bingo and bingo-style electronic games where outcomes are generated by a central bingo system. These differ from Class III games such as traditional slot machines, table games and sports betting, which require a separate state compact. The Muscogee Nation mobile app offers only Class II games and does not include sports betting or any Class III gaming features.

"Our organization is committed to meeting the needs of modern players while upholding the highest standards of security," said Pat Crofts, CEO of Muscogee Nation Gaming Enterprises. "There is a growing audience that prefers mobile entertainment, and this app allows us to meet that demand with a secure, modern experience based entirely on Class II gaming. Our offering includes 20 electronic bingo-style games that mirror the familiar titles available at our nine casino locations, and we are excited to make this technology accessible on personal devices."

The Muscogee Nation's Class II Mobile Gaming App was developed by Everi, an IGT brand and global leader in financial technology, gaming content and compliance solutions for the casino industry.

"Our collaboration with the Muscogee Nation brings together cutting-edge mobile technology and a shared commitment to integrity, security and player trust," said Hector Fernandez, IGT Incoming CEO. "We are proud to support this first-of-its-kind launch in Indian Lands and to deliver a platform that reflects the future of digital Class II gaming."

The platform includes encrypted data protection, secure identity verification and continuous monitoring to prevent unauthorized activity. If the app becomes inactive for a period of time, the session automatically suspends and requires the player to reenter their credentials. A lost

or stolen device cannot be used to access a player's account without proper authentication.

Players must be at least 21 years old and physically located within the Muscogee Nation Reservation to participate. New players and individuals with an active Muscogee Nation Player's Card may sign up remotely. To create an account, players complete a secure digital enrollment process that requires capturing a real-time facial image and scanning a government-issued photo identification. This verification step confirms identity, activates the mobile gaming account and ensures compliance with federal and tribal regulations.

The app's identity verification tools prevent underage use and support strong responsible gaming practices. Players who are banned statewide, banned from MNGE properties or who self-exclude cannot access the platform.

The app uses advanced geolocation technology to ensure gaming occurs only within the Muscogee Nation

Reservation. This territory includes parts or all of 11 counties: Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa and Wagoner. If a player moves outside the authorized area or disables location services, gaming features will not function. This requirement ensures full compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

"Security and compliance guided every step of this project," said MNGE COO Andy Langston. "From geofencing and identity verification to payout procedures and responsible gaming safeguards, this platform meets or exceeds all federal and tribal requirements with the most rigorous standards in the industry."

Players may deposit funds and withdraw verified winnings through secure digital methods, and all financial transactions are encrypted. Players can also view their win history within the app. For a first jackpot, an in-person verification is required at one of the 10 Muscogee Nation casino locations. After that initial verification, jackpot winnings are processed automatically, although larger jackpots may require an additional in-person verification.



Congratulations to Darlington Lady Chiefs - The Great 8 Conference Champs for the ORES All West Division



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Family Spirit

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Dept. of Health Program is excited to announce that we will be implementing a new program called Family Spirit.

We will work with pregnant mothers and caregivers with children up until the age of 3. Our goal is to promote Indigenous traditions in parenting and childrearing, increase parenting knowledge and skills, link families to community services, promote optimal physical, cognitive, social/emotional development for children from 0 to 3 and so much more.

We are starting with group classes, we will take the first 20 families who sign up. The classes will be held at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Department of Health building, 1950 S. Shepard Avenue in El Reno, Okla., on the third Wednesday of each month from 6-8 p.m. The first class will be held on February 18. Scan the QR code to sign up.

For more information or if you have any questions, please email FSP@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov



Family Spirit
Family Spirit is an evidence-based home visiting program developed for and with Native American communities. Developed by the Johns Hopkins Center for Indigenous Health in partnership with tribal communities, Family Spirit optimizes local cultural assets and resources.

Family Spirit effectively promotes child development, school readiness, maternal health, and positive parenting practices.

Participants

Family Spirit serves Native American caregivers and children from pregnancy through age 3. The curriculum is being expanded to serve up to age 5.

A message from the SORNA Office
For the upcoming event (lunch and learn). 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.

E-mail Address: FSP@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Family Spirit Program



Group classes are for pregnant mothers and caregivers with children up to 3 years of age.

Classes will be held on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 pm to 8 pm.

The first class will start on February 18th

*Maximum of 20 families

Location:

Department of Health Building
1950 S. Shepard Ave.
El Reno, OK 73036

Scan the QR Code to register for the group classes

For further information, please contact:

Melinda Sutton
405 570-2899
or email at:

FSP@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov



DREAMS PROGRAMS

JOIN OUR TEAM!



Summer Youth Employment Program

Join us for an open conversation about our Summer Youth Employment Program, learn how to apply, what to expect, and get all your questions answered.

This is your chance to see what's possible this summer!

Meet us in the Library @ Weatherford High School



February 3rd, 2026
During the Advisory Panel Meeting

Contact Us:
dreamsgroup@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

Visit our website
<https://dreamsprogram.my.canva.site/syep>

SPECIAL SESSION

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said the resolution is for certain small purchases made by the tribes and is part of a renewal process brought forth every year.

"The legislators have the right to waive up to \$100,000 of sovereign immunity, anything beyond that would have to go to Tribal Council and get a sovereign immunity waiver, I can't enter into a contract, where we're waiving sovereign immunity over \$100,000 and it's basically contracts and all we ever waive is the right for a vendor to sue us in court outside of the tribal courts," Wassana said.

Because of sovereign immunity, waivers would give entities the right to sue outside of the tribal court.

"If you take us to tribal court our judges might say no they're sovereign you can't take it, that's basically all it's ever been about, giving that vendor the right to collect their equipment, judgement against us to make those payments," Wassana said.

As stated in the resolution, the tribes operating numerous enterprises in addition to carrying out government functions, the governor is required to negotiate contracts for routine goods and services and litigation settlements that are beneficial to the tribes.

The resolution authorizes the governor to execute certain classes of contracts without further intervention of the legislature. The amendment stated in the resolution authorizes the governor full authority to executive contracts or agreements that comply with restrictions, including an agreement of products and services incorporated within the approved annual budget, provided the agreement does not exceed the budgeted amount or \$250,000.

Item number three passed unanimously with a vote of 7 yes.

The meeting adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

Group Classes

Goal Setting - Working towards a better you, define goals and set goals for the future



Budgeting

- Track your expenses, set goals, prioritize expenses



Immunization

- How immunizations work, records and resources



Home Safety

- Baby proofing and safety inside and outside the home



Nutrition

- Feeding your baby, create new habits and healthy routines for your family



Cultural

- How to connect culture with you and your baby, following family traditions



A message from the SORNA Office
For the upcoming event (group classes). 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.

Native federal judges to headline Sovereignty Symposium

OKLAHOMA CITY — A historic assembly of five Native American U.S. District Court judges will headline the Sovereignty Symposium, convening in Oklahoma City in June for a groundbreaking examination of ethical leadership and the protection of sovereignty through the federal bench.

The Oklahoma City University School of Law is hosting the 38th annual symposium under the theme “250 Years Later: Sovereignty, Survival, and Self-Determination” on June 15 and 16 at the OKANA Resort.

This year’s event will be highlighted by a keynote panel discussion titled “Ethical Leadership: Honoring Sovereignty from the Bench.” The session

will bring together a distinguished group of Native American federal judges to discuss the intersection of judicial ethics, leadership and tribal sovereignty.

“The Sovereignty Symposium was founded to bridge the gaps between tribal, state and federal legal systems, and this year’s keynote embodies that mission perfectly,” said Emily Eleftherakis, executive director of OCU’s Tribal Sovereignty Institute. “By exploring ethical leadership through the lens of these distinguished jurists, we are offering attendees a rare glimpse into how sovereignty is not just debated, but also honored and upheld from the bench.”

The panelists will include:

Sara E. Hill (Cherokee), U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma



Ada Brown



Diane Humetewa



Lauren King



Sara Hill



Sunshine Sykes

Ada Brown (Choctaw), U.S. District Court judge for the Northern District of Texas

Lauren King (Muscogee (Creek)), U.S. District Court judge for the Western District of Washington

Diane J. Humetewa (Hopi), U.S. District Court judge for the District of Arizona

Sunshine S. Sykes (Navajo), U.S. District Court judge for the Central District of California

Founded in 1988 by Oklahoma Supreme Court Justice Yvonne Kaiger and hosted by OCU Law since 2023, the Sovereignty Symposium serves as a scholarly, non-adversarial setting for the consideration of legal and policy

issues facing tribal communities. It acts as a vital platform for the celebration of tribal sovereignty in all its forms — legal, artistic, cultural and economic.

In addition to the keynote panel, the two-day event will feature discussions between tribal leaders, state officials, legal experts and policymakers. Topics will cover the landscape of Indian Country, including economic development, health care, cultural preservation, environmental policy, self-determination and jurisdictional challenges.

The symposium is also accepting proposals for panel presentations through Jan. 31 and submissions to its academic competitions through March 27. Guidelines, submission forms and event details are available online at thesovereignsymposium.com.

OBITUARIES

Armor David Brown II

Armor David Brown II, beloved husband, father, and grandfather, entered into God's eternal care on Dec. 8, 2025, at the age of 72. It is with profound love and deep sadness that we honor the life of Armor, whose distinguished military career and generous spirit left an indelible mark on soldiers, students, colleagues, and friends. He was also deeply proud of his Arapaho heritage, carrying it with him throughout his life with honor and gratitude.

Armor was born on Aug. 5, 1953, in Colorado Springs, Colo., to Armor J. and Erma Jean Brown. Armor grew up with a strong sense of purpose that would guide his life of service. After graduating from the University of Kansas, he enlisted in the United States Army and began his career with the Military Police. Following Officer Candidate School, Armor was commissioned as a second lieutenant Armor officer, serving faithfully for 23 years and retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Achieving Ranger was a highlight of his career, and he shared many stories from his challenging training course. His leadership, integrity, and dedication were evident in every duty station and role he held.

Among his many assignments, one of Armor's most cherished was serving as the Professor of Military Science at Stephen F. Austin State

University. He delighted in mentoring students, helping shape their character, and preparing future leaders for service. After retiring from active duty, he continued his commitment to developing young people as an ROTC instructor at Edison High School in Alexandria, VA. Armor later continued to support national defense through government contracts and eventually through civilian service with the Department of Defense at the Pentagon.

In retirement, Armor continued to live a life of service, volunteering as a Meals on Wheels driver for the Hood County Senior Center. He found great fulfillment in helping others and giving back to his community in meaningful, personal ways.

Armor's greatest joy, however, was his family. In 1996, he married the love of his life, Janet. Their union created a

beautiful and blended family of seven children, Courtney (Clayton) Vanland-

gendorck, Gwendolyn (Christian) Fricke, Sarah (Zach) Brown, Drew (Magdalena) Loertcher, Armor David III (Olive) Brown, Alexander (Maureen) Brown, and Catherine (Mena Patrone) Brown. He is survived by his beloved mother, Erma Jean Brown, brothers Robert Brown, Mark Brown, sister Sonja Frye, his children, and 19 cherished grandchildren, each of whom brought him immense pride and happiness.

Funeral services were held Dec. 30, 2025 at the Wiley Funeral Home in Granbury, Texas. May he rest in peace, remembered always for his quick wit, kindness, and the legacy of leadership he leaves behind.



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Alliesbakingboutique@gmail.com
www.Alliesbakingboutique.com

DREAMS DREAMS PROGRAMS CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

JOIN OUR TEAM!

Summer Youth Employment Program

Join us for an open conversation about our Summer Youth Employment Program, learn how to apply, what to expect, and get all your questions answered.

This is your chance to see what's possible this summer!



Meet us in the Commons area @ Clinton High School February 4th, 2026 During First & Second Lunch

Contact Us: dreamsgroup@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

Visit our website <https://dreamsprogram.my.carva.site/syep>

DEAN'S
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www.deanspawn.com
405.239.2774
"OKC's Oldest Pawn Shop"

February 24 & 25, 2026 Workshop
Tuesday: 11:00 AM - 7:30 PM
Wednesday: 8:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Sponsored by: Post 401 & Cheyenne & Arapaho Health Board



brandlogixwatonga.com/2025/12/30/traumaworkshop

NATIVE AMERICAN GENERATIONAL TRAUMA WORKSHOP
Hosted at Lucky Star Casino & Conference Center Watonga Oklahoma

LEGAL NOTICES

CIV-2025-0080

CHEYENNE & ARAPAGO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 13 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA PAGE
P.O. BOX 102 FILM IMAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 COURT CLERK
Deputy

In the Matter of the Application of:

N.P.S.) Case No. CIV-2025-0080

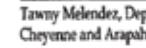
Minor Child,
To Change His/Her Names
By Next of Kin, Aaron Sleeper

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ALANNA STONE
UNKNOWN ADDRESS
AND
ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

TAKE NOTICE that AARON SLEEPER, has filed in this Court for Petition For Name Change for a Minor, as follows, to wit; from N.P.S. to N.P.S., and that the same will be heard by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 West Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, 73022, on the 4th day of MARCH, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., and any written protest may be filed in the case, prior to the date set for the hearing.

Issued this 13th day of JANUARY, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2025-0084

CHEYENNE & ARAPAGO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 20 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA PAGE
P.O. BOX 102 FILM IMAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 COURT CLERK
Deputy

In the Matter of:

ASPIEN HANDLEY) Case No. CIV-2025-0084

VS.

TREVOR HIGGINS) Respondent,

NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: NATHANIAL GRIFFITH
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th day of FEBRUARY 2026, at 10:00 A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMvMn5QRXeTdIQT09> or <https://zoom.us/join>
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 20th day of January, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2018-0052

CHEYENNE & ARAPAGO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 20 2020
IN THE TRIAL COURT IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA PAGE
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
Deputy

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

M.L.M.) Case No. PG-2018-0052

Minor Child,

NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION

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

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 11th day of February 2026, at 10:00 A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMvMn5QRXeTdIQT09> or <https://zoom.us/join>
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 20th day of January, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2025-0083

CIV-2025-0083

CHEYENNE & ARAPAGO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 13 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA DOCKET PAGE
P.O. BOX 102 FILM IMAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 COURT CLERK
Deputy

In the Matter of the Application of:

M.S.J.J.) Case No. CIV-2025-0083

Minor Child,
To Change His/Her Names
By Next of Kin, Madison SandyCIVIL SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES TO: MATT JIMMIE
Address Unknown

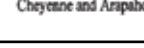
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO FILE A FORMAL WRITTEN ANSWER to the Petition which is filed in the Office of the above-named Court. A copy of the Petition is available through the Court Clerk's office and to file your Answer with the above-named Court within twenty (20) days of service of this summons, exclusive 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.

Dated this 13th day of January, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2025-0070

CHEYENNE & ARAPAGO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 20 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA DOCKET PAGE
P.O. BOX 102 FILM IMAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 COURT CLERK
Deputy

In the Matter of:

SHILOH REDHAT) Petitioner,) Case No. CIV-2025-0070
VS.))
NATHANIAL GRIFFITH) Respondent,)NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATIONThe Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: NATHANIAL GRIFFITH
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th day of FEBRUARY 2026, at 10:00 A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. You have the option to appear in person or through

Zoom. To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or smartphone. Your smart device will need a camera, microphone, and a stable internet connection. If you do not have access to a smart device, you can use a non-smartphone or traditional telephone.

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMvMn5QRXeTdIQT09> or <https://zoom.us/join>
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 20th day of January, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2025-0088

CIV-2025-0088

CHEYENNE & ARAPAGO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 20 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA DOCKET PAGE
P.O. BOX 102 FILM IMAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 COURT CLERK
Deputy

In the Matter of the Application of:

C.P.) Case No. CIV-2025-0088

Minor Child,
To Change His/Her Names
By Next of Kin, Damon Dunbar

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

TAKE NOTICE that DAMON DUNBAR, has filed in this Court for Petition For Name Change for a Minor, as follows, to wit; from C.P. to D.N.B. III, and that the same will be heard by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 West Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, 73022, on the 4th day of MARCH, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., and any written protest may be filed in the case, prior to the date set for the hearing.

Issued this 20th day of JANUARY, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2018-0001

PG-2026-0001

CHEYENNE & ARAPAGO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 21 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAGO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA DOCKET PAGE
P.O. BOX 102 FILM IMAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 COURT CLERK
Deputy

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

G.C.T.) Case No. PG-2026-0001

L.A.T.

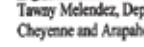
Minor Children,

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: DYLAN SWEENEY
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

You are hereby notified that Karen Manz has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of G.C.T. & L.A.T., Minor Children, on the 20th day of JANUARY, 2026, and that said Petition is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard in the Courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 4th day of MARCH, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you shall appear on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court.

Dated this 21st day of JANUARY, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

February

GED CLASS & WORK EXPERIENCE

What We will work on

- GED CLASS
- Mathematics
- Language Arts
- Social Studies
- Science

Pre-Testing, Scheduling Official Test & Tutoring as well.

Location & Contact info

NAC building
Concho, OK 73022
Phone # : 405-422-7662
Email: Dreams@cheyenneandarapaho-nan.gov

Class Dates

- FEBRUARY 23 - 26
- 10 AM - 2 PM
- CLASSES WILL BE Mon-Thurs

Reminders

- LITE REFRESHMENTS-
- TO BE DETERMINED DUE TO COMPUTER AVAILABILITY-
- Transportation must be requested at least 24hrs before event-



CIV-2025-0070

CIV-2025-0070

JOHN TSOODLE

Owner

1313 Van Kirk

Mtn. View, OK

73062

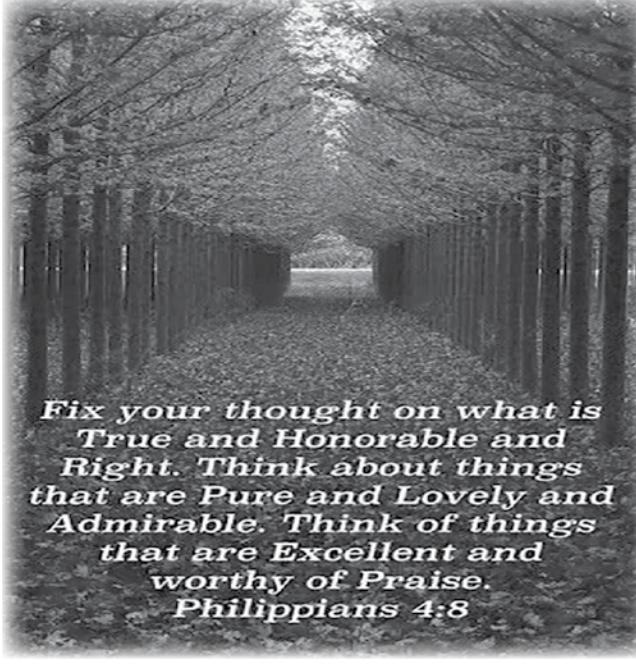
tel. (580) 375-9602

tel. (580) 375-9766

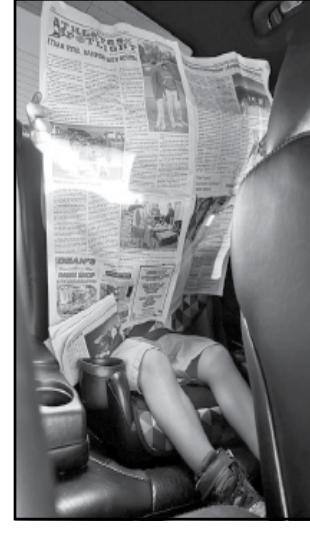
redtipiplumbing@yahoo.com



Happy 6th Birthday my beautiful, sweet, strong lil independent babygirl LaRayne Sara-Gene Warledo!! Love, Valkyria, Caiden and momma. Love you so so much!



Fix your thought on what is True and Honorable and Right. Think about things that are Pure and Lovely and Admirable. Think of things that are Excellent and worthy of Praise.
Philippians 4:8



Scan QR Code to download Feb. 1, 2026 Tribal Tribune on any mobile device

Notice of Holiday Closure
All tribal offices will be closed on Monday Feb. 16, 2026 in observance of the President's Day holiday. Offices will reopen 8 a.m. Tuesday Feb. 17, 2026.

NYCP PROGRAM

continued from pg. 2

"Let them know it's about what they will receive, the benefits and the opportunities that they have, not just with the internship program but with NYCP too," Elkshoulder said.

As part of the goals for the upcoming summer bridge camp, strong early literacy is essential for late academic success, Goljenboom said.

"Our literacy camp will provide that 90 hours of support out of the school which is something that a lot of our children don't see and this will help children build foundational reading skills before they fall behind," Goljenboom said.

While focusing on early literacy, Goljenboom said across the service area more than half of K-3rd grade students require remediation. If the pattern continues as they go into older grades, the project will aim to intervene before students fall behind.

"We want to get them excited about reading, wanting to read and I'll always come back to learning a language, if you're learning a language you need to also do it when you're at home too," Goljenboom said.

The project will also aim to provide reading kits for students to take home for parents to help assist in reading.

As a Tribal Education Department (TED), Goljenboom said they are striving to build the capacity for a charter school, to know what it looks like and whether the school needs support. With the need for indigenous representation to teach the curriculum, Goljenboom said the school would need indigenous teachers instead of having other people teach the children.

"It's us that's teaching our children it's not someone you have to teach them what that means, hopefully they'll already have an understanding because they're Cheyenne and Arapaho," Goljenboom said.

With a combined number of 133 students at all three head start locations of Concho, Clinton and Canton, what Rishel looks forward to is seeing confidence bloom in the children.

"I think just helping the kids getting a jump start before they start going to school and having that confidence, building that confidence in them already with reading and what area they start at," Rishel said.

Gina Aranda
(580)302-0752

Email

Ink4hire2424@gmail.com

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Weatherford,
Oklahoma

In Loving Memory Shannon Duke Blackwolf December 26, 1982 - January 23, 2007

Dear Son, I missed your birthday tribute in December. I just want to acknowledge your day. I am so thankful Grandpa is there with you these past two years to celebrate you Son. When I lost you, it was hard then there was your daughter and then daddy. But I wanted to let you know I did remember you on the day God blessed me with your Precious Soul Son. I remember all of your nicknames puts a smile on my face. My little Athletic who was gifted in soccer, and football and had that arm in Baseball. The tears flow for you Son, from all of us that you left behind. You were 24 when you were taken and you would have turned 43 last month. We miss you, watch over us and give dad and sister Jessica and baby girl Keira a hug for us. Love mom Vida, dad Donovan, Rachel, Joe, Kevin, Jarrod, Derrick, Mel, Rumel



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

PUBLIC NOTICE EPA Brownfield Cleanup Funding

ABCA Filed:

ABCA for Asbestos Contamination at the Concho School Boys Dormitory Building 138

Grantee:

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
100 Red Moon Circle
P.O. Box 169
Concho, OK 73022

Property/Facility Information:

Name: Concho School Boys Dormitory Building 138

Street Address: 451 North White Antelope Road, Concho, Oklahoma

Latitude & Longitude: 35.611605, -97.990960

Proposed Remedial option:

Wet-Demolition

Location where the ABCA and any amendments can be reviewed during normal business hours:

1. Locally at: 100 Red Moon Circle Concho, Oklahoma 73022

2. DEQ's Central Records office: DEQ's Central Records office 707 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, 73102

Review and Comment Period:

The public comment period dates will be included with the publication.
(30 working days from the date of publication – speak with the project manager for the date)

A brownfield is an abandoned, idled or underused industrial or commercial facility or other real property at which the expansion or redevelopment of the real property is complicated by environmental contamination caused by pollution.

The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that through EPA funding, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have performed site characterization, risk evaluation and will perform remediation on the site as follows:

The site is owned by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and is the former boy's dormitory, constructed in 1967 and used until approximated 1981. During the demolition planning for the project, asbestos-containing materials were identified throughout the structure. A wet demolition will be performed to abate the asbestos associated with the building materials. The property will be available for Tribal reuse once the building is removed.

This project was funded by EPA, but the content does not necessarily reflect EPA's views or policies and EPA does not endorse specific products or commercial services selected for this project. The public may review and submit comments regarding the ABCA and any amendments to the Grantee contact listed below and may request a public forum during the above specified public comment period. Written comments should be submitted to Kasie Stambaugh at the address below.

For more information contact:

For Grantee: Chicko Buffalo
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
100 Red Moon Circle
P.O. Box 169
Concho, OK 73022
405.422.7469
cbuffalo@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

For DEQ: Kasie Stambaugh
707 N. Robinson, P. O. Box 1677
Oklahoma City, OK 73101-1677
(405) 702-5123
Kasie.Stambaugh@deq.ok.gov

OBITUARIES

Alberta Addison

Alberta Addison, 76, passed away on Jan. 14, 2026. She was born on Oct. 31, 1948, to Herman and Agnes (Hoof) Addison.

Alberta was born and raised in Eagle City and grew up alongside her many brothers and sisters. She attended school in Fay, Okla., and later continued her education at Concho Boarding School.

At a very young age, Alberta survived a remarkable event that became a part of her family's story, a tornado struck Canton, Okla., and she was found the next morning in a tree without any injuries, a testament to the resilience that would characterize her

life.

She later married Buck Twobabies, and together they had one son, Troy Twobabies, who brought great joy to her life. Alberta eventually moved to Kingfisher, Okla., where she became a resident of Cimarron Nursing Home. She was known by all who met her for her cheerful spirit and warm personality. Alberta loved visiting with everyone and brought light and kindness wherever she went. She will be lovingly remembered for her strength, her kindness and her ever present smile.

A visitation was held January 21 at Sanders Funeral



Home in Kingfisher. Funeral services were held January 22 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla., followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Sanders Funeral Home.

Eleanor Lefthand Bianchi

Eleanor Lefthand Bianchi was born to Pearl Lefthand, on November 28, 1944 in Clinton, Okla. She was raised by her grandparents Rudolph and Lizzie Lefthand from an early age. I recall her talking about being in the cotton fields with them. She was a very loving matriarch and life mate. Her faith in Christ was her anchor. She was amazing with the little children. She will be so missed by all her loved ones. After a long battle with cancer Eleanor passed away October 26, 2025 at her granddaughter's house in Henderson, Nev., at 80 years of age.

Eleanor owned and operated "A Gallery of Nations

"online store, selling Native

American art, jewelry, fetish carvings all by Native artists. Eleanor loved to sit by a stream watching it flow with the smell of lilacs in the air. Her favorite thing to do was sitting drawing and coloring with her 6 year old grandson Mason. Eleanor's granddaughter Brittany, great-granddaughters, Isabella, Sophia, Kallie Mae and grandson Mason, were so much a part of granny's life for many years, her passing has left a huge void in their young lives.

Eleanor's son, Messian Windfield Bianchi preceded her in death.

Eleanor is survived by her daughter Marie Prewitt, her two sons, Jesse and Dami-



on Bianchi, her two granddaughters, Brittany Severson and Charlene Bianchi, her four grandsons, Joseph, Dylan and Mason Bianchi and David Prewitt. Plus, six great-grandkids and her husband Christopher Bianchi.

"Rest in Peace my love."

Wilma Ruth Antelope Jackson

Wilma Ruth Antelope Jackson was born on Sept. 17, 1947 in Concho, Okla. She passed away Jan. 2, 2026, in Oklahoma City at 78 years of age.

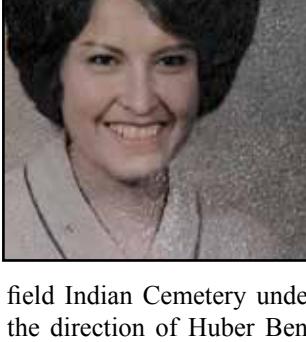
Wilma resided in El Reno and was a member of the Church of Christ. Wilma's passion in life was helping others.

Wilma is survived by her sons, David Wayne Deere of Glenpool, Carson Antelope of Denver, Colo., and Edmond Antelope of Lexington, three grandchildren,

Chad Deere, Brandee Beaver and Katrina Beaver and nine great-grandchildren.

Her parents, William Antelope and Amanda Ruby (Hail) Antelope, brother Terry Antelope and grandson Derrick Craig Deere, preceded her in death.

Wake services were held January 9 at the Huber Benson Funeral Home in El Reno. Funeral services were held January 10 at the Geary Emergency Response Center in Geary, Okla., followed by an interment at the Green-



field Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Gordon Nelson Lamebull

Gordon Nelson Lamebull was born on April 23, 1989, in Kingfisher Okla., to Ella Lamebull and Thomas Jackson. He departed this life on Jan. 20, 2026, in Oklahoma City.

Gordon grew up and lived all his life in Northwest Oklahoma City. Gordon attended Northwest Classen and graduated from there in 2008. He also attended the Tulsa Welding school earning his welding license.

Gordon worked security all through Oklahoma City where he developed many friendships. Gordon enjoyed playing basketball, football, shooting darts and pool. He also loved attending Hard-Core shows with his little brothers, and friends where

he developed deep friendships that turned into a large supportive family. The family is thankful for them and their support at this time.

Gordon is survived by his mother Ella Lamebull, sister Jennifer RedBird and brothers, Ethan RedBird, Brandon Walker and Marcello Baldeon, great-uncle Gordon Lamebull, nephew Snow RedBird, uncle Michael and aunt Sara Lamebull, cousins, Virgil, Sage, Thomas, Markus, Blake and Serena Lamebull.

He is preceded in death by his brother Phillip Keith RedBird, uncle Gilbert "Sonny" Lamebull III, grandparents Gilbert and Sandra Lamebull and father Thomas Jackson.



Wake services were held January 26 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held January 27, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

deepest sympathies
during this hard time of loss
may memories give strength
may the love of your dear ones
help you through the days ahead

OBITUARIES

Clarence Dale Akeen

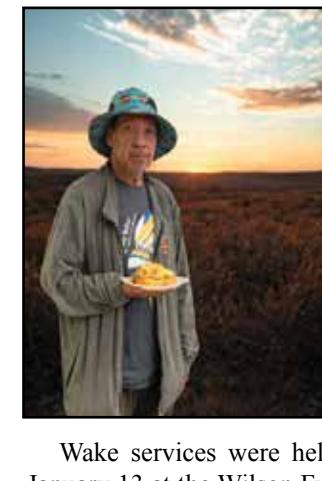
Clarence Dale Akeen was born Nov. 20, 1968, to Josephine Black and George Akeen Jr in Clinton, Okla. He passed away Jan. 7, 2026, at the age of 57. He grew up in Gracemont, Okla., but he resided in El Reno, Okla., most of his adult life. He went to school at Gracemont and Riverside Indian School. Clarence was a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and also a descendant of the Wichita Tribe.

He loved all sports. Especially Softball and OU football. He was a huge OU Fan. He enjoyed cooking, going to powwows, and gourd dances. He loved his family dearly, especially all his nieces and nephews. He was never short

on his love and affection for them. He liked to have a good laugh. He made the best burgers. He was a man of many talents. Some of us he helped raise, and he will always be remembered by what he taught us.

He is survived by his siblings Jeannie Black, Anthony Akeen, Ella (Click) Akeen, Alan Akeen, all of El Reno, Samantha (Creek Britt) Akeen of Shawnee, Okla., Joanna (Martinez) Akeen of Tama, Iowa and one adopted sister, Jody Rivera of El Reno.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Josephine and George, his grandparents, Ella and George Sr, and sister Patricia.



Wake services were held January 13 at the Wilson Funeral Home in El Reno. Funeral services were held January 14, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

Monica Leigh Curtis

Monica Leigh Curtis was born July 1, 1980, to Gilbert Richard Curtis and Inez Marie Curtis (White Buffalo) in Clinton, Okla.

Monica grew up in Clinton, Ardmore, El Reno, Oklahoma City and Lame Deer, Mont.

Monica was the best at everything she did. She had a heart of gold. She was the most positive, thoughtful, loving, caring, person to everyone she met. She was the most creative person in our family. Monica accomplished so much in her time here on earth. She enjoyed beading, cooking and spending time with her family and friends.

Monica was a loving mother, sister, aunt, and grandma. Monica had many beautiful children, Alicia Curtis, Bridgette Curtis,

Breanna Buffalomeat, Fred Washee Jr., Patrick Washee, Christopher Washee, Regina, Kylee, Dylan, Daryl, Duyen and Kingston Curtis.

Monica was preceded in death by her parents, her grandparents, John White Buffalo, Phoebe White Buffalo (White Horse) Richard Curtis, Lena Belle Tenorio (Gould), her baby sister Regina Marie Curtis, her son Patrick Washee and daughter Bridgette Curtis.

She is survived by her siblings, Andrea Curtis, Cameron Curtis, Virgil Curtis, Guss Curtis, Erica Curtis, Gilbert Curtis Jr., and her aunts, LaFreda White Buffalo and Samie Curtis.



friends who will cherish her beautiful soul and spirit.

Wake service was held January 21 at the Seiling Emergency Response Center in Seiling, Okla. Funeral services were held January 22 at the Redinger Funeral Home Chapel, followed by an interment at the Cantonment Cemetery under the direction of Redinger Funeral Home.

Murray Whiteshield

Murray Whiteshield passed from this life on Jan. 19, 2026, at the age of 73 years, 11 months, and 23 days. His earthly walk began on Jan. 27, 1952, when his parents, Harry and Marie (White Horse) Whiteshield welcomed him into this world. Murray was born in Clinton, Okla., and spent his younger years in the Clinton area attending Clinton Public School during his grade school years. During his freshman and sophomore years, he attended the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School, he then attended the Santa Fe, New Mexico Institute of American Indian Arts for his junior year. Murray then attended Seiling High School and graduated with the class of 1971.

Murray began his service to his country in July of 1972. He was a member of the U.S. Navy where he at-

tained the rank of E-II while serving during the Vietnam conflict. He was awarded the National Defense Service Medal for his service during this time. After his discharge from the Navy, Murray went on to further his education by attending Southwestern Oklahoma University for two years and then he attended Wright Business College in Oklahoma City where he graduated in 1988. Murray was employed by Oilab from 1989 till 1999. Growing up, Murry attended the Indian Mennonite Church. Murray was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He held a deep love for his Lord and Savior, and his faith was a guiding light for him.

Murray was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Marie, brother Harry R.



Whiteshield, and sister Ardena Whiteshield.

Murray was a member of the U.S. Navy where he at-

ended Wright Business College in Oklahoma City where he graduated in 1988. Murray was employed by Oilab from 1989 till 1999. Growing up, Murry attended the Indian Mennonite Church. Murray was a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. He held a deep love for his Lord and Savior, and his faith was a guiding light for him.

Murray was preceded in death by his parents, Harry and Marie, brother Harry R.

Whiteshield, and sister Ardena Whiteshield.

Georgia (Rossiter) Lynch

Our beloved mother, Georgia (Rossiter) Lynch, of Bosque, N.M., passed away peacefully on Jan. 11, 2026, at the age of 92. She was a force of nature, a source of endless laughter, and the heart of our family.

her Cheyenne heritage, and lobbying for political issues she strongly believed in. Her home was always filled with the warmth of her kindness and the sound of children running amuck.

She will be profoundly missed by her children, Tony Lynch (Terri), Rhonda Law (Bruce) and Patrick Lynch (Barbie); her granddaughter, Tarla Hill (Lincoln); her great grandchildren, Michelle, Madison, Makenzie, Lincoln, Lilyana, and Nicholas; her great great-grandson, Liam; her sister, Mary Faye Malone, and a wide circle of family and friends who loved her dearly.

She was preceded in death by her parents, George and



Lucille Rossiter; her sisters, Lola Maier, Josephine Buckmaster, and Wanda Bleiker; her husband, Temple Lynch and her grandson Justin Law.

Funeral services were held January 24 at the Noblin Funeral Service Belen Chapel in Belen, N.M.

ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

By Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Edward Roman Nose, Lawrence High School

Knowing first hand what it means to have bad days and good days on the basketball court, Edward Roman Nose, 18, takes no days off in his senior year of high school basketball season.

Standing 6'3 tall, Roman Nose plays as a point guard and shooting guard for Lawrence High School in Lawrence, Kansas.



Born in Watonga, Okla., and raised in Lawrence, Roman Nose had always grew up around the sport of basketball from watching Kevin Durant play on the big screen to watching his dad play at open gym.

"As a kid I always seen KD on the Thunder, used to have his jersey and watch him and then my dad played at Haskell so I always used to see him play," Roman Nose said.

And from watching and replicating his own style on the basketball court, what Roman Nose enjoys the most in playing basketball is how the sport has shaped him into a better person.

"How it shapes you I think, mentally from playing basket-

ball it's making me a better person it makes me strong mentally," Roman Nose said.

Roman Nose's biggest motivation for continuing to play the sport he's grown to love is playing at the next level.

"To play collegiate basketball, just the fact my family on my dad's side has always played college basketball and just want to follow their steps," Roman Nose said.

In his senior year, what Roman Nose looked forward to the most in his last season in high school basketball was performing at his level.

"Having a standard set and just finishing it, finishing the season out strong and coming off my best senior year in high school," Roman Nose said.

Roman Nose's goals for the season include averaging 18 points a game and four steals and assists per game.

"Time went fast but I'm also very grateful for it," Roman Nose said looking back over his high school career.

Academically, Roman Nose has an estimated 3.5 GPA and thanks his older sister, Emma Roman Nose for setting a positive example for him to follow when juggling sports and academics.

"Growing up around my sister she always was really good in school and had sports so I managed it because of her, just looking at her, she helped me a lot and still does," Roman Nose said.

Throughout the years playing basketball, Roman Nose felt he's grown the most on the court since his freshman year, as he didn't expect to take basketball very seriously.

"I just didn't expect to take this type of journey," Roman Nose said.

And with basketball leading him into his final year of playing his high school season, Roman Nose prioritizes being in the gym or weight room.

"I'm in the weight room Monday, Wednesday, Friday, we have practice Monday through Saturday and I wake up and go to the gym in the morning or after school twice a week and over the weekend I workout by myself," Roman Nose said.

What Roman Nose hoped to improve on the most this season is his three-pointer and believes the best way to improve his game is staying consistent in the gym.

Having a good mindset and not giving up is what has become important to Roman Nose in his basketball journey.

"To have a really mental strong mentality when you're playing basketball because it can affect you very easily just from the slightest things and then not giving up, you join the



team, you're playing you just can't do that to your team, it's everybody instead of yourself," Roman Nose said.

What basketball has taught Roman Nose the most throughout his journey is that there will be good and bad days.

"You're going to have a really good day and you're going to have a really bad day but you just got to keep on going no matter the day," Roman Nose said.

Roman Nose hopes to be remembered as the person who set the tone for games, who always tried and always competed on the court.

"Playing makes me feel good, it's always been my life, it's always been a routine and just thankful to have basketball," Roman Nose said.

After graduation in the spring, Roman Nose plans to attend college and continue playing basketball, as he already has two college offers to play collegiate basketball.

Edward's parents are Milan Roman Nose and Christie Cooke, and his sister is Emma Roman Nose.



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