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Getting in the family spirit with Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Family Spirit Program

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Developed for Indigenous communities, family spirit is an evidence-based home visiting program now being optimized by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

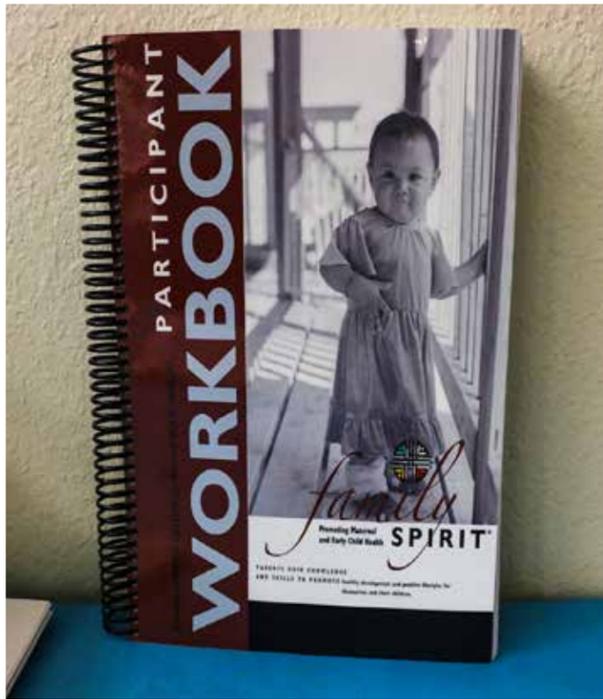
The newly formed Family Spirit Program is an evidence-based curriculum for pregnant mothers and caregivers with children up to 3 years of age. The curriculum covers lessons over prenatal care, infant care, child development, toddler care, life skill building, school readiness, maternal health and positive parenting practices.

"We can also service caregivers, grandparents, fathers, uncles, aunts, foster care parents, we can help them with anything

as long as they have a child that's under age 3. It is a home-based outreach so right now we're doing just group classes to get the information out and then we'll be doing the home outreaches starting after August," Christina Sharp said. Sharp is the health education coordinator for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

The initiative began last year when the program was reviewing their action plan, goals and objectives. Sharp said they tried to find things other programs weren't already doing as they felt Health Education was duplicating services.

FAMILY SPIRIT pg. 5



Building Stronger Futures for Communities Through Energy Sovereignty

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

(EL RENO, Okla.) Bringing together a celebration of opportunity and community investment for energy efficiency, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Housing Energy Project held a ribbon cutting ceremony as a part of a new solar housing initiative advancing energy sovereignty providing affordability and workforce development for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. A collaborative grant in the total of \$459,280, the project was supported in part by Google, who funded \$460,000 towards the project and implemented in partnership with Tribal Energy Alternatives (TEA).

Targeting 13 tribally owned Cheyenne and Arapaho homes within the service area, the project aimed to offset the high cost of traditional utility costs for tribal citizens as well as implementing workforce development of solar energy, training housing authority and tribal citizens to be solar energy technicians.

The first home installation of solar panels was the residence of tribal citizen Georgia McGee in El Reno, Okla.

Beginning the ceremony with invocation, chairperson and board of commissioners Wanda Whiteman provided an opening prayer. Damon Dunbar, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Housing Authority executive director led introductions for the ceremony.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham spoke first, discussing how imperative change is needed with solar.

"This is something that I think has been needed for a long time, not only in our community but everywhere, less dependent that anybody can be on the grid, the more we're better off, that we're going to be in the long run and I hope this is the first of many to come and with anything there's always change," Gorham said.

Jan Scott, TEA construction, welcomed and thanked everyone for their presence and participation in the project.

"We're honored to stand with you and celebrate this milestone with the com-



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Housing Solar Energy Project holds ribbon cutting ceremony with Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana and Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham and project partners Google and Tribal Energy Alternatives at the residence of tribal citizen Georgia McGee. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

munity, we also want to extend our deepest gratitude to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe for your continued commitment to energy sovereignty, the housing stability and longterm stability for your citizens, this is a really cool project and getting to know Georgia was really fun," Scott said.

Scott continued to share how proud TEA is to contribute funding supporting the project and workforce training.

"This initiative reflects our shared belief that clean energy investments should benefit both homes and the community," Scott said.

With the funding from Google, the project will install the grid-tied systems ranging between four to 12 kW systems, designed to offset up to 40% to 90% of utility bills for recipients of solar.

"This effort will serve an estimated 13 homes in the Cheyenne and Arapaho community, totaling approximately 82 kW of solar capacity with potential to add more projects in the future, we're especially proud of our workforce development component of this project, which supports four of the local trainees from the housing authority and from the surrounding community," Scott said.

Trainees were put in a solar basics training and underwent first aid CPR certifica-

SOLAR ENERGY pg. 4

Seeds of Seven Generations Gala

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Development and Advancement is honored to host the first Seeds of Seven Generations Gala on Saturday, March 14 at the First Americans Museum, 659 First Americans Boulevard in Oklahoma City. VIP reception to be held from 5-6 p.m. with main event being held from 6-9 p.m.

opportunities for our children, strengthens our cultural roots and supports the long-term growth of our Tribal Nations. Every gift helps plant seeds that will continue to grow for generations.

Your support of this gala is a meaningful way to give back, uplift our youth and be part of something will carry forward for the next seven generations. We are grateful for your partnership as we build a brighter future together.

Please scan QR Code for more information and different levels of sponsorship.

We invite you to join us as a community sponsor in support of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Education Endowment Fund.

This event is about coming together to care for our future. The endowment helps create



You Are Invited To

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
OFFICE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

Seeds of Seven Generations Gala

“We unite to envision and enable the future. We are building a philanthropic foundation for the next seven generations, one endowment at a time.”

Save The Date

Saturday, March 14, 2026

VIP Hour starts at 5:00 PM
Main Event begins at 6:00 PM

First Americans Museum
659 First Americans Boulevard
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73129



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APPLY

Due to network outage
Date Change:
JAN 9, 2026!

SCAN ME!



SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

OPEN RECRUITMENT:

- 8- Weeks
- June 8 - July 31
- Paid Work Experience
- Work Readiness Training

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Age 14-24 by June 1, 2026
- Enrolled in a Federal Recognized Tribe
- Reside in Service Area



YOUTH DOCUMENTS:

- CDIB
- Birth Certificate
- Utility Bill
- Proof of Income
- Grades, Transcript, or Diploma.
- Custody Documents (if applicable)

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 3/31/2026 5:00 PM

CONTACT DREAMS @

-  405-422-7662
-  Visit Our Website cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov
-  dreamsgroup@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov



Eating Healthy, Feeding the Community

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe's Diabetes Wellness Program is planting seeds to promote healthy foods and healthy wallets. With the cost of groceries continuing to rise, and more information about the detrimental health factors of processed foods, a community-based volunteer garden is just what the doctor ordered.

Located on the lands of Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes at the headquarters in Concho, Oklahoma, the community garden will be located behind the historic building referred to as 'Building One.'

Coming together to form a committee to oversee the project are Chieko Buffalo, director of EPA, who will serve as project coordinator, Amy Cain, office manager for Planning & Development, who will serve as site manager and Raven Bramlett, Diabetes Wellness Program's healthy lifestyle specialist, who will serve as treasurer/fundraising.

Wanting to put the idea into action, Planning & Development Program employees decided they would hold a staff development working to build the fencing that will surround the garden.

"Our department had our staff development, our boss (Daniel Tallbear) told me that we should have a "team building" experience. Him and I were talking and I have talked about having a garden at work for years. I told him I would love to see the community garden that they keep talking about, actually happen. He looked at me and said let's get it moving," Cain said.

The community garden will be a volunteer project, from tilling the soil, planting the seeds, maintaining the growth all the way to harvesting the vegetables. The goal is to involve as many tribal citizens and youth as possible to learn about growing their own food.

"Our community garden is more than a garden ... it's a place for families, culture, learning and wellness," Buffalo said.

Daniel Tallbear, director of Planning & Development, said he would like to see his children who attend Darlington Public School, as well as all the students play an active role in growing the garden.

"When I went to pick up my kids at Darlington, I talked to them about the garden and we are going to see about incorporating that into some of their summer school activities. I think teaching the kids about horticulture is something they will really enjoy," Tallbear said.

Bramlett secured a grant called, 'Good Health & Wellness in Indian Country,' to fund the community garden and said it has been a long term strategic goal of Diabetes Wellness for many years.

"We are working with OSU Extension and will be meeting with Travis Andrews who works for Native Farming Solutions to go over our plan and infrastructure to ensure we meet our goals of a successful community garden," Bramlett said.

After many years of talking about the community garden Bramlett said what it took was getting the right people together at the right time who were invested and excited to make the community garden a reality and including everyone who wishes to volunteer to make the garden what it can be.

"Our long-term goal is to have community gardens established in all of our communities, perhaps next to all of our ERCs, and once we establish this one in Concho, that is our long-term goal," Bramlett said.

Cain said if everyone volunteered an hour here and an hour there, those hours would add up to building a sustainable community garden everyone can be a part of from the smallest child to the elderly.

"I have had a garden in my backyard for over 30 years and my grandson who is in pre-K just loves to plant and help me in our garden, so I am hoping the kids will get involved and learn how to grow their own food," Cain said.

After all, the more we can eat from our own locally grown gardens, the healthier we all become.



Planning & Development Program staff volunteer to build the community garden fencing as part of their staff development. Pictured l-r: Daniel Tallbear, Christine Morton, Amy Cain, Hannah Prairie Chief and Theresa Faris. (Submitted photo)



Amy Cain has grown her own garden for many years, offering her experience to help the community garden succeed.

SOLAR ENERGY

continued from pg. 1

tions as well as OSHA-10 training. Tribal Energy Alternatives construction team was also onsite to help assist trainees with installation.

“Our tribal construction team is honored to be onsite working alongside the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority and the trainees, ensuring the systems are installed safely, efficiently and with the care for the community, this project is a powerful example of what is possible when tribal leaderships, community investment, workforce development and strong partnerships come together,” Scott said.

Raul Figueroa, senior manager of Data Center Operations Facilities in Oklahoma spoke on behalf of Google, whom supported \$460,000 toward the project.

“I’m representing Google, more importantly to stand along you folks, the Cheyenne and Arapaho community. At Google we believe that the most impactful climate work doesn’t just happen in a lab, or in a data center, like where I work, it happens on the ground led by the people like you guys and the original stewards of this land since time immemorial,” Figueroa said.

Figueroa said the vision was much more than electricity, it’s about energy sovereignty.

“We aren’t just here to talk about a project, we’re here to celebrate the Cheyenne and Arapaho people as they pave a path toward sustainability across Oklahoma,” Figueroa said.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana said he was glad to see the project come to fruition for elders on fixed incomes that couldn’t afford high utility costs.

“These are projects that we like to continue and make sure they work the way they’re supposed to and like I said, it’s not just sovereignty energy independence, but it’s also a financial independence for our older people who are on fixed incomes so it’s a great viable project, we’re glad to see it come to fruition,” Wassana said.

Ending the ceremony, McGee offered closing remarks, thanking leadership and participants of the projects for the installa-

tion of solar energy on her residence.

“It’s just incredible what we can accomplish when we all come together, thank you so much for considering us, thank you for all the collaborative effort and I’m just thankful the tribes chose me,” McGee said.

By using solar power, McGee said it will lessen the carbon footprint.

“We as a people are known for our Creator, we’re guardians of this earth and I think that by using solar power helps to lessen that carbon footprint, that stepping so hard on our earth right now and it really touched my heart, my spirit, my soul, when me and Jan were going over it and she showed me my actual carbon footprint,” McGee said.

By going solar, McGee said she would save around 133,000 barrels of oil.

“It’s just so incredible and I’m just so thankful to be just a small part of it and I’m thankful to Creator for bringing us all together and not only is this helping me, but it’s also helping our people to get educated so we can stay on top of the game with solar energy,” McGee said.

Other remarks were made by A2 legislator Kendrick Sleeper and C2 legislator Thomas Trout, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Labor Executive Director Erwin Pahmahmie and TERO Director Kathleen Tallbear and Mark Clark, with Electric Solutions.

Andres Lonebear, energy coordinator at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority said what qualified location sites for the project were prioritizing low income, single family and elder homes.

“In the beginning, it was hard to get people to apply because I think people didn’t know a whole lot about it,” Lonebear said.

Lonebear said over time more and more people continued to call and ask questions, which they were happy to answer. They are also starting a reserves list for people that want to apply for solar, whenever the project gets more funding.

“This isn’t going to be the only project we go after, we’re going to try to do more, we’re trying to have it available for all of our tribal citizens who privately own their



Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority trainees are checking measurements, marking the roof and prepping for drilling on the installation of solar panels on the first residence of the housing solar energy project. Housing trainees include Elrond Burns, Robert Cometevah and Jackson Panana, and Truman Whiteshield, TERO. (Submitted photo)

homes and then we’re also trying to continue to do it on our program homes as well,” Lonebear said.

The solar panels have a warranty life of 25 years and could last longer, with little to no upkeep.

“Once they’re installed, all they have to do is be monitored to make sure they’re actually producing to the fullest capacity that they can, then we’ll be doing quarterly inspections on these things just making sure that they’re running the best they can, we’ll be able to monitor everything off of a computer,” Lonebear said.

As an affiliate of GRID alternatives, Tribal Energy Alternatives, a 501C3 non-profit, specializes in helping tribes and tribal organizations we well as tribal individuals achieve their sustainable and renewable energy goals. They have a variety of programs and grant opportunities. By bringing in their solar construction team and helping fund the project, the collaborative effort toward sustainability was successful, as TEA recognizes and supports sovereignty efforts.

“Tribal Energy Alternatives recognizes and supports our tribes through their tribal sovereignty efforts, that goes into energy sovereignty, food sovereignty, environment, sovereignty, data sovereignty. There’s all of these different aspects and energy sovereignty is a big one,” John Keller, TEA communications and outreach director said.

Teller said energy sovereignty is talked about, they want to help tribes be more sustainable and help them achieve their goals. Whether it be through their grant programs, workforce and training programs, or helping them provide the construction, policy and advocacy.

“All our different resources and programs that we have available, we want to help tribes succeed, we realize that our connectedness with the earth, with mother

nature, we as native people were the original stewards of this land and it’s just doing our service, doing our duty and working with tribes, having that connectedness with mother nature,” Teller said.

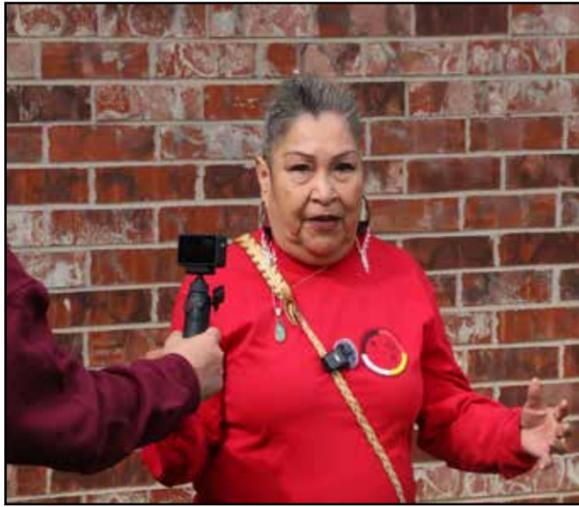
Teller said TEA gave away \$4.2 million in funding through their grant programs in 2025 to 26 tribes.

“We gave upwards of half a million in workforce development and education opportunities last year alone, so there were some really wonderful things that we did and that we would like to continue to do as we move into 2026 and beyond,” Teller said.

Moving on to the next solar installation of tribal homes, Lonebear said what he looks forward to the most is spreading knowledge and reducing the carbon footprint and bringing cleaner solar energy.

“Letting people know that this is hugely beneficial to the people, just trying to get it out there and help reduce our carbon footprint overall, trying to help bring cleaner energy. Oklahoma being predominantly gas and oil, as far as energy sources, I want to show that there are other sources out there that can be cheaper, cleaner, and just overall, reduce that carbon footprint on everything,” Lonebear said.

Lonebear hopes to see the program take off and to continue helping more people.



Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal citizen, Georgia McGee shares remarks and thanks participants of the Housing Solar Energy Project. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)



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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@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

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Every Child needs a Family

FAMILY SPIRIT

continued from pg. 1

"The Department of Health currently does not have any kind of pregnancy or maternal program and Southern Plains reached out to us and we were like yes something that Health Education can do that's new and different and just health education," Sharp said.

Sharp said it was a big need as there are not a lot of OBGYNs in western Oklahoma.

"More and more we see pregnant parents not going and not getting any kind of services until they're later in their pregnancy, so we wanted to make sure they're getting services and identifying those families quickly," Sharp said.

Starting group classes, they will be held on the third Wednesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Sharp said Family Spirit is the only evidence-based home visiting program and is also a Native American culturally based program.

"We partnered with Southern Plains to do the training portion and we're working to get the MIECHV grant which is Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting Program and that would allow us to hire another home visitor and give us more money for incentives and prevention and things like that," Sharp said.

Sharp said the program is aiming to gather data to apply for the grant in 2027, which would award \$150,000 for five years.

Beginning the program with group classes will include discussing different topics with families such as nutrition, goal setting, budgeting, baby proofing the home and classes will be held once a month for six months.

"Our goal is to do one set of group classes, go through all six and then in the fall, starting in August we'll do



Melinda Sutton, health education specialist, explains details about the Family Spirit Program classes. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

another round of group classes. We're hoping to start another group class in Clinton as well and then another one will be here again and then in the fall we're wanting to do home visiting, so one on one sessions," Melinda Sutton, health education specialist said.

The program will be partnering with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Dept. of Health programs and the CHR Program will be helping with transporting. Family Spirit will also be partnering with Indian Health Services public health nurses, who will do home visits and who have agreed to refer pregnant patients and young mothers to get services as well. Sharp said they are hoping to get more training to reach ages 3 to 5 in the future.

"Our goal is to just continue to provide for as many families and kids as possible through the trainings," Sharp said.

With the incorporating of the program, Sutton said she hopes to see the program benefit new mothers as there are a lot of things to learn.

"We see moms that are expecting and even if you have children under the age of 3, we'll still be able to see

those clients, I think it would just be really helpful to mothers, families, just to learn about different topics that they could use resources," Sutton said.

As a teen mom herself, Sharp believes the program would benefit the whole community because, from her first-hand experience, starting early prevention, giving support, and getting connected to resources is beneficial to all families.

"I was a teen mom, I got pregnant at 16 and I went through the state's children's program and I don't think I would be as successful as a mom if I didn't have all the support, not just the lessons but the emotional support, the social support, getting connected to resources," Sharp said.

"I would not be where I am today without that type of program," Sharp said.

Working in the schools, Sharp sees the struggles of teens and teen parents and hopes to change the stigma.

"Teen parents struggle with the stigma and then we have a lot of parents, families we can even serve families and caregivers, grandparents, how they raise their children isn't necessarily what's acceptable today, things change so we want to make sure we're helping everybody and get the kids as much support as possible," Sharp said.

Overall, the program aims to promote Indigenous strengths and traditions in parenting knowledge and skills, preparing children for early school success and linking families to communities services to address specific needs as well as many other resources.

"I'm excited to see what the families will learn and watching their little ones grow, I think it's going to be helpful for them to get a better start for their child, getting them to start off young in age, providing them education and helping them feel more confident," Sutton said.

For more information about the Family Spirit Program contact FSP@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov



SEEKING EMPLOYERS FOR THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

The DREAMS Program connects employers with PAID entry-level youth workers for 6-weeks, from June 15 - July 31, 2026. Join us in shaping the future workforce by sending us a DREAMS SYEP Job Request Form.

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- We will introduce the youth employee at the worksite on June 15, 2026.

WORK SCHEDULE

BETWEEN 7:00AM - 7:00PM
MAX Work Hours: 8HS PER DAY
FROM SUNDAY - SATURDAY
MAX 40HS PER WEEK

HOW TO QUALIFY

- Employer completes a DREAMS Job Request form.
- Employers must commit to the full 6-week duration.
- Employers must be located within the DREAMS 12-county service area.

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VETERANSERVICES@CHEYENNEANDARAPAHO-NSN.GOV

MESSAGE FROM THE SORNA OFFICE:
For the upcoming events:
If you are a registered sex offender planning to attend, please reach out to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes SORNA office at (405) 422-7456 or visit in person at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Justice Center, located at 120 E. Black Kettle Blvd., Concho, OK. You can also contact (405) 422-7667 for assistance. Contacts:
• Estelban Juarez, SORNA Technical Assistant Phone: 405-422-7456 Email: EJUAREZ@CHEYENNEANDARAPAHO-NSN.GOV
• Richard Pedro, Court Bailiff / Work Cell # 405-953-6557 Email: RPEDRO@CHEYENNEANDARAPAHO-NSN.GOV

2026

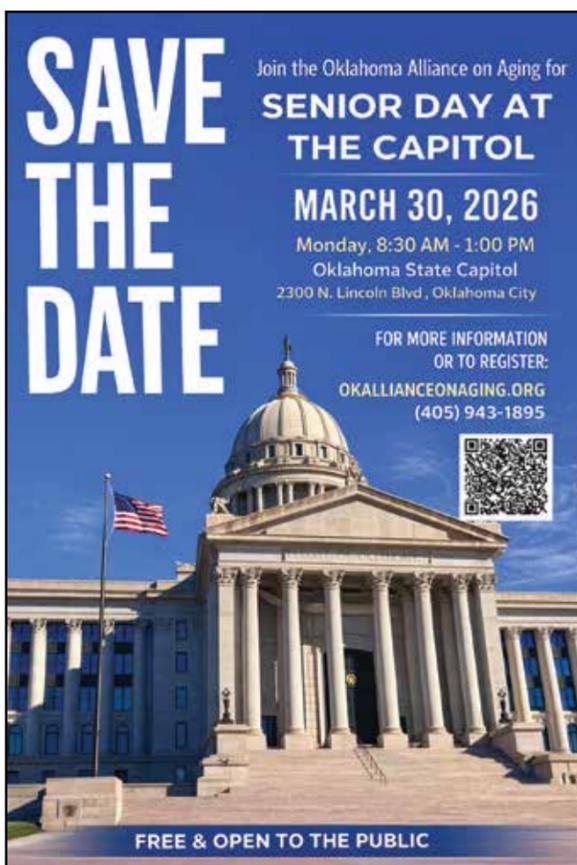
Senior Day at the Capitol to be held March 30, 2026

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Oklahoma senior citizens, caregivers, and others interested in issues affecting aging Oklahomans are invited to the State Capitol for Senior Day at the Capitol on Monday, March 30, 2026, from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., at the Oklahoma State Capitol, 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd., Oklahoma City.

Senior Day offers participants the opportunity to share ideas, needs, and concerns with their state lawmakers; learn about current legislation affecting older Oklahomans; and connect with nonprofit organizations and state agencies that provide programs and services for older adults and family caregivers.

Attendees may arrive beginning at 8:30 a.m. and sign in at the second-floor rotunda of the

Capitol. Volunteers and signage will be available to assist participants. The formal Senior Day program will begin at 10:00 a.m. in the House Chamber on the fourth floor with guest speakers. The event will conclude at 1:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. Individuals and groups planning to attend are encouraged, but not required, to register in advance through the Oklahoma Alliance on Aging website's Events page. Nonprofit organizations and government programs interested in reserving an exhibit table, as well as potential sponsors, may also use the registration link to apply.



The Oklahoma Alliance on Aging encourages attendees to visit www.oklegislature.gov prior to the event to identify their legislators and locate office information. Appointments with lawmakers are not required, and volunteers will be available on site to assist attendees in locating offices and answering questions.

The Oklahoma Alliance on Aging organizes Senior Day in partnership with the Oklahoma Silver Haired Legislature Alumni Association, AARP Oklahoma, and the Oklahoma Department of Human Services Community Living, Aging and Protective Services Di-

vision. For more information, call (405) 943-1895 or email info@okallianceonaging.org.

About the Oklahoma Alliance on Aging

The Alliance works to make Oklahoma a place where people can age with dignity, security, and choice. As a nonprofit, non-partisan 501(c)(3) organization, we advocate for smart public policy, protect older adults and family caregivers, and make sure real-world experience shapes decisions at the Capitol. We focus on practical solutions that improve everyday life for older Oklahomans.

Cheyenne and Arapaho American Indian Vocational Rehabilitation
ANNUAL POLICY REVIEW

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
 Vocational Rehabilitation Program

WHEN: MARCH 19TH
WHERE: NAC Building Concho, Ok
TIME: 10:AM-12:PM

To request a copy of the current CAAIVR policy for review, please email tyeahquo@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov and one will be emailed to you for review. Please bring suggestions, questions, and concerns to Review Day. There will be open discussion.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED

CONTACT To RSVP please email response to CAAIVR@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov Thank you

CAIVR Program
 Federal Grant:H250Q240026

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Reggie Wassana Governor
 Hershel Gorham Lieutenant Governor

DATE: Wednesday, January 28, 2026

TO: Arapaho Chiefs, Cheyenne Chiefs, Headsmen

FROM: Reggie Wassana, Governor

In Accordance with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes constitution, Article VI, titled Sessions, Section 6 (c).

"A Special Session of the Legislature shall be held annually in March. The purpose of the Special Session shall be to meet and counsel with Chiefs and Headsmen regarding the needs and welfare of the Tribes and our members. Each Chief and Headsmen shall receive an invitation to the Special Session"

You are invited to the Special Session meeting with the Governor and Lt. Governor to be held Friday, March 13, 2026, at the Watonga Lucky Star Casino and Convention Center.

Chiefs and Headsmen will meet at 10 am. Light breakfast and traditional meal will be served.

100 RED MOON CIRCLE, P.O. BOX 167, CONCHO, OK 73022 • (405) 422-7734

Congratulations to Ruth Bearshield who celebrated 26 years of sobriety on Feb. 26, 2026
 Happy Sobriety Birthday!
 We're proud of you and we love you so much.
 Ron and Jonathon

CIV-2025-0083

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 CHEYENNE-ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
 P.O. BOX 102
 CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of the Application of: MSJJ. Case No. CIV-2025-0083

Minor Child To Change His/Her Name By Next of Kin, Madison Sandy

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TAKE NOTICE, that MADISON SANDY has filed in this Court for Petition for Name Change of Minor Child, MSJJ., as follows, to wit; from MSJJ. to MJS. and that the same will be heard by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 West Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, 73022, on the 7th day of APRIL, 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 19th day of FEBRUARY, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court

JFD-2025-0032

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
 FILED FEB 23 2026
 IN THE TRIAL COURT
 CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
 P.O. BOX 102
 CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of the Dissolution of Marriage of: CINDY MAY CARTER and JASON VERNON CARTER. Case No. JFD-2025-0032

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: JASON VERNON CARTER UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 7th day of APRIL 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/3524251494?pwd=5ZRCotUWVhOEMhMjQ3Rkx0TjR0T099> 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: 85484251

Dated at the Trial Court this 23rd day of February, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0005

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
 FILED FEB 11 2026
 IN THE TRIAL COURT
 CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
 P.O. BOX 102
 CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: MARSHA FLYING COYOTE DOB: 09/10/1951. Case No. PG-2026-0005

An Alleged Incapacitated Person.

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

TAKE NOTICE that Jennifer Vera and Cara Levario, have 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 11th day of MARCH, 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.

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 - 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 11th day of February, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Sandra Lynn Bearbow

Sandra Lynn Bearbow, age 65, was born March 8, 1960, in Clinton, Okla., to Calvin and Cordelia (Morton) Bearbow. She passed away Feb. 18, 2026, in Oklahoma City, surrounded by her loving family.

Sandra was raised in the Arapaho area and graduated from Arapaho High School. On June 12, 1982, she married the love of her life, Clifford Sam Jr., and together they built a life centered around faith, family, and tradition. Sandra was a devoted and loving housewife who took great pride in caring for her home and those she loved.

She was baptized at Glorietta Baptist Church and carried her faith with her throughout her life. Sandra loved attending powwows, watching her favorite television shows, and creating

beautiful Native American beadwork. She enjoyed traveling and especially cherished the time she spent with her family. Sandra was well known for giving her friends and family special nicknames, and her quick wit and sarcastic sense of humor will be fondly remembered by all who knew her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Calvin and Cordelia Bearbow; three brothers, Ronald Bearbow, Steven Bearbow, and Calvin "Jeff" Bearbow Jr.; and one sister LuAnn Bearbow.

Sandra is survived by her husband Clifford Sam Jr., of the home in Oklahoma City; her sons, Jeryme Sam and Wendell Tongkeamah, both of Oklahoma City; and her daughters, Cedar Sam, Hunter Medicine Woman Sam, and Haa-nah Nashon Sierra Brook-Sam, all of Oklahoma



City. She also leaves behind numerous extended family members and dear friends who will miss her deeply.

Wake services were held February 22 at the Swappingback Baptist Church in Geary, Okla. Funeral services were held February 23, at the same venue, with Gerald Panana officiating, followed by an interment at the Swappingback Cemetery under the direction of Lee Home-Town Funeral Home.

Kemah Kosine Charcoal

Kemah Kosine Charcoal passed Feb. 15, 2026, at his home in Oklahoma City. Kemah was born in Ada, Okla., on Jan. 29, 1990, and was raised in the Evening Shade Community in Sequoyah County. He was a graduate of Sequoyah High School in Tahlequah where he excelled in baseball and football. Following graduation, Kemah attended Haskell Indian Nation University. He was a sports fan and enjoyed playing video games. Kemah was a jack of all trades, from construction to cleet certified club security, and everything in between.

He is survived by his daughter, Kimimila (Mila) Charcoal of Tahlequah, sons,

Royal Charcoal and Ohi-tika (Kane) Charcoal both of Evening Shade, mother Quahlahtah Chuleewah Charcoal, brothers, Yadeka Charcoal of Norman and Myhavv Locust of Evening Shade and sisters, Kahheetah (Kiyah) Charcoal and Yanasa Charcoal are both from Norman, aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews, and many others who claimed him as a brother and friend. His GQ smile and signature laugh will be truly missed. Never a dull moment.

He was preceded in death by his grandmother Jorene Charcoal-Combs and his father Larry Dean Charcoal.

A wake service was held February 20 at the Concho



Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held February 21, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Norman Lynn Littleman

Norman Lynn Littleman, age 68, of Tulsa, Okla., passed away on Feb. 19, 2026, at Hillcrest Hospital in Tulsa.

Norman was born on March 31, 1957, in Clinton, Okla., to Alice Black Littleman and Freddie Littleman. He spent his early years in Oklahoma and later attended Seiling Elementary School and Seiling High School. He continued his education at Northwestern College, where he attended in 1974.

Norman worked hard throughout his life, spending many years in the oil field as a derrick hand, and working as a ranch hand for Brownie and Kenneth Cook. He was known for his strong work ethic and willingness to do whatever needed to be done.

In 1979, Norman married Sophia Garcia in Seiling. Together they made their home in several communities, including Seiling,

(1980-1992), Woodward, Okla. (1992-2008), and later Tulsa, where he lived until his passing.

Norman was a devoted father to his daughters Bobbie Mayes, Monica Ortega and Cassandra Yost, all of Tulsa. He was a proud grandfather to 11 grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, all of whom he adored. He was like a father figure to all of his grandkids and was lovingly known as 'Papa'. He was deeply loved by everyone who knew him.

Norman enjoyed hard work, doing Native beadwork, playing sports, and spending time with his family. Above all, he loved caring for his girls and his grandbabies. His legacy of love, strength, and dedication will live on through his family.

He is survived by his brother Robert OneBear of Lawrence, Kansas, his sister Naomi Partida of Johnson,



Kansas, and many nieces and nephews.

Norman was preceded in death by his parents, Alice and Freddie Littleman, his siblings Ruth Ann Buchanan, Milton Littleman, Elizabeth Littleman, Kathy Ricketts, and Freddie Littleman Jr.

A wake service was held February 22 at the Seiling Emergency Response Center in Seiling, Okla. Funeral services were held February 23, at the same venue under the direction of Redinger Funeral Home.

Office of Veterans Affairs

OKC TRIBAL OFFICE
TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS
8AM-5PM
DELENA NIBBS
VSO/CASEWORKER
405-317-7308

CONCHO TRIBAL OFFICE
MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
8AM-5PM
ELIZABETH KERNS
VSO/CASEWORKER
405-422-7724

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Riding Lawn Mower shown is representative and not actual prize. Valued at approximately \$4,000.00. Winner must be present to win and may only win once per promotional period. Promotions valid during Players Club hours only. Management reserves all rights to cancel or modify any or all promotions without prior notice. See Players Club for full details on this promotion. ©2026 Lucky Star.

ATHLETES' SPOTLIGHT

By Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Kamdyn Hulse, Canton High School

(CANTON, Okla.) Breaking records and making a name for herself on the basketball court, Kamdyn Hulse, 18, a senior at Canton High School broke the record of surpassing 1500 points in school history.

Standing 5'6, Hulse plays point guard and shooting guard and hopes to surpass 2000 points for the season.

Born in Enid, Okla., Hulse was raised in the Longdale and Canton, Okla., communities, where her basketball journey began in the fifth grade.

"I was very uncoordinated, it was not looking too

promising," Hulse said.

Hulse was influenced by her brother and father who played a lot of basketball at the time.

"I have an older brother, he just turned 20, but him and my dad played a lot of basketball, and me and him were really close in age and so of course he's playing basketball, so I'm going to follow and I'm going to try and play basketball," Hulse said.

And what Hulse has come to love most about playing basketball is scoring. Playing the sport itself has become her biggest motivation.

"I love the sport so much. Just basketball itself motivates me. I love getting to play it," Hulse said.

In her senior year, what Hulse looked forward to the most is getting to play alongside her sister, who is a freshman this season on the team. And while this is Hulse's last season playing as a senior, other challenges Hulse faced earlier in the season was an ACL tear, causing her to wear a brace while playing. Hulse will have to face surgery post season.

"Instead of having surgery when I found out, I decided to play through the season because I wouldn't have been able to come back until late January, right before playoffs and so I was like, no, I'm going to hold that off so I can play with her," Hulse said.

Having an injury hasn't held Hulse back as she strives to surpass 2000 points for the season.

"I really want to hit my 2000 points. I'm the first one in school history to even hit 1500 so I'm trying to go out with a bang and then I really want to play in the state tournament," Hulse said.

Another goal Hulse has had since she's been in high school was to have a banner on the wall with her name on it. With this being her last year playing basketball in high school, Hulse hopes to continue playing basketball in college.

"I don't really know if I'm looking at it as it'll be the last time that I play, I will definitely be sad when my last game comes around because I love my teammates

and I wouldn't trade them for the world, but I'm also ready to start college," Hulse said.

Maintaining a 3.95 GPA, Hulse is ranked one out of 17 in her class at Canton High School as she juggles sports and academics.

"I need to have good grades to be able to play basketball and so I have to apply myself if I want to be able to continue to play basketball," Hulse said.

Through her years of playing basketball, Hulse believes she's grown the most because of her injury, but also in her role on the team as a leader.

"I had to step up and be the point guard because there's only two seniors on the team and I'm the guard and the other seniors are post, half of our team is freshmen, I wasn't going to throw off that responsibility to a freshman, so I had to grow, I had to be even more of a leader because I shared that role," Hulse said.

When she's in the gym practicing everyday, what Hulse is working on the most is her shooting, improving her technique for shooting three's.

"When I was little or I drove a lot, I wasn't strong enough to shoot a three and then as I've gotten older, me and the three-point line have gotten more acquainted, so I work on shooting a lot but also finishing because I'm a smaller guard, so getting to the goal is challenging sometimes," Hulse said.

The best way to improve her game is to be patient and to let results show and not get frustrated.



"If you go in the gym and you're missing a lot of shots, you're just going to have to keep putting them up because even if they're not going in, you're still putting the work in for it, so just working every day," Hulse said.

Hulse believes it's important to have a good attitude, to control your attitude and control how hard you work as those are the most important to control in basketball.

Ending her high school basketball career, Hulse hopes to be remembered as a player who did it all.

"Like my coach tells me to do something I'm going to go do it, like a player who got the job done whenever it was needed," Hulse said.

Overall, what basketball has taught Hulse is patience, especially in her senior year having to work with freshman.

"I've learned so much patience over the years because naturally basketball comes to me, but it doesn't come as natural to everybody else

and so I definitely have to be patient, it's brought me a family, I love my teammates, but the most it's taught me is patience, and having a good work ethic will probably get you farther," Hulse said.

Head Girls Basketball Coach at Canton High School, Jamie Davis said Hulse is the complete player on the team as she describes her as one of the best players in school history.

"Kamdyn is a very versatile player, she is steady, smart and savvy, she is a fierce competitor and is one of the toughest athletes I have ever coached, Kamdyn is explosive offensively with unlimited shooting range and can create her own shot," Davis said.

Hulse averaged 23.2 points per game with 4.4 rebounds, 3.4 assists, and 3.8 steals.

Kamdyn's parents are John and Kristin Hulse. Her siblings are Jaidyn and Kynzee Hulse.



CONGRATULATIONS

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