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June 1, 2026-Vol. 22, Issue 11

# Tribal Language Programs Blend Tradition, Technology and Cultural Identity

Kimberly Burk, Tribal Tribune Correspondent

When she studies the Cheyenne language, Rainey Faris says, "you feel the goodness of it. It gives you a whole different perspective on life."

Faris, the Cheyenne language and culture coordinator for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, said she fell in love with the language after making a commitment to study it with her children.

"I wanted my kids to know our ways, our ceremonies," said Faris, whose son and daughter attend Darlington School.

James Sleeper, coordinator

for the Arapaho language and culture program, said the language "holds all of our identity, whether it's the perspective, cultural understanding, or whether it's your cultural identity."

Both programs offer a variety of ways tribal citizens can study their languages, such as Zoom and in-person classes, practice during working hours and the use of applications on the Cheyenne and Arapaho Education App.

Of all the reasons language



Rainey Faris, coordinator for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Language and Culture Program speaks at the recent Hymn class held in Concho, Okla.

LANGUAGES pg. 4

# Cheyenne and Arapaho Youth Graduate Top of Their Class as Valedictorians

Latoya Lonelodge  
Senior Reporter

Achieving top of their class success and attaining the highest ranked academics out of their graduating classes, Cheyenne and Arapaho youth Cayden Little Coyote, 18, and LaKylah Black, 18, are the 2026 valedictorians of their graduating class.

With both full of ambitious hopes for the future and dedication to their academics, it came as no surprise when they learned they were both named as valedictorians of their respective classes at their schools. Each one having their own unique way of maintaining their grades throughout the school year.

By definition, valedictorian is a student having the highest academic achievements of the class who delivers the valedictory at a graduation ceremony.

Born in Lawrence, Kansas and raised in Seiling, Okla., Little Coyote has attended Seiling Public Schools all throughout her school years from pre-k to 12<sup>th</sup> grade.

As co-valedictorian of her senior class, she graduated with a 4.0 GPA and as part of her duties, she gave a valedictory speech at the Seiling High School graduation ceremony. In her speech, Little Coyote spoke about gratitude towards others, for her family, friends and classmates that have supported her throughout school, high school and elementary school.

Seiling High School's graduating class of 2026 was 38 students. As one of her graduating classes' valedictorians, Little Coyote felt honored and accomplished.

"I worked very hard to maintain all my grades that I even had to re-take a class because I got a B in it, I wanted an A, so I retook the class so I could get an A in it, that way I could have a 4.0," Little Coyote said.

Achieving valedictorian of her class wasn't always a goal for Little Coyote, as she just always wanted to prioritize a 4.0 GPA.

"I knew that was the highest GPA that you could get so I wanted

to have that and valedictorian just fell into my lap and I just took it," Little Coyote said.

Maintaining good grades, Little Coyote would stay consistent and study a lot, even doing extra credit when she didn't have to. She stayed on top of her work due to school activities and missing school for softball and academic team.

"I just had a bunch of excused absences for school activities and I had to stay caught up with my work and find time to do everything," Little Coyote said.

Prioritizing her academics was important for Little Coyote because she wanted to be a representation for others.

"To prove that Native Americans can make a difference in the classroom and I wanted to be a representation in the classroom of all the younger native kids that they can do it, that it is possible," Little Coyote said.

Throughout high school, Little Coyote said her mother, Hannah Sissom has been most influential to her and that's whom she wants to make proud.

"Like really that's all I do everything for to make my mom proud and make her feel like she did a good job, raising me and my little siblings, she deserves the world," Little Coyote said.

Although Little Coyote's favorite part of high school were the friends she's made along the way, it will also be the part she will miss the most, which is missing her friends from school. As she's enjoyed learning, she's enjoyed the friends that also stood by her side and made it possible just by-



Above: Riverside Indian School Valedictorian, senior LaKylah Black (center) poses for a photo with Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana and Dept. of Education Executive Director Dr. Carrie Whitlow.

Right: Seiling High School senior Cayden Little Coyote is the 2026 Valedictorian. (Courtesy photos)

supporting her, such as in study groups and that's been the best part of school for her.

Little Coyote believes Seiling High School has prepared her the most for college by taking the honors program.

"I had to take an extra science class, extra math class and like a computer or foreign language and I'm going to go into a STEM major and so that really just prepared me for what to look forward to in college," Little Coyote said.

After graduation, Little Coyote plans to attend college at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kan., where she plans to double major in public health

VALEDICTORIANS pg. 5



# Cheyenne and Arapaho Head Start Graduations Celebrate the Power of Early Education

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

The sound of tiny footsteps crossing graduation stages this spring carried a much larger message for the future of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people: education begins early, and every child deserves encouragement, opportunity, and pride in their achievements.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Head Start Centers in Canton, Clinton, and Concho, Okla., recently celebrated the graduation of their youngest students, honoring children who completed an important first step in their educational journeys. Families, teachers, tribal leaders, and community members gathered to recognize the accomplishments of students who are preparing to enter kindergarten with confidence, curiosity, and a strong foundation for lifelong learning.

While Head Start graduations may appear simple on the surface, children in caps and gowns smiling proudly beside their families, educators say the ceremonies carry deep meaning for both students and communities. These early celebrations help children understand that edu-

cation is valuable, achievement should be recognized, and learning is something to be proud of.

For many tribal families, the moment represents more than a classroom milestone. It symbolizes hope, resilience, and the continued investment in future generations of Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens.

Research consistently shows that children who receive quality early childhood education are more likely to succeed academically, develop stronger social skills, graduate from high school, and pursue higher education or career training later in life.

Head Start programs were created to provide comprehensive early learning opportunities for children while also supporting families through educational resources, nutrition programs, health services, and emotional development. Within tribal communities, these programs often carry an additional responsibility: helping preserve language, culture, identity, and community connection from an early age.



Wyoma Maldonado accepts her Head Start diploma from the Concho Head Start Center. (Photos / Adriel Clements)

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Head Start Centers work to create environments where children feel safe, encouraged, and supported while learning essential academic and social skills. Teachers focus not only on reading readiness, numbers, and classroom routines, but also on confidence-building, communication, teamwork, and positive behavior.

Educators say those lessons become the building blocks for future success.

"Children learn best when they feel valued and encouraged," many early childhood experts emphasize. Celebrating accomplishments, even at a young age, reinforces the idea that hard work matters and education is something worth pursuing.

That encouragement is especially important during the earliest years of development, when children begin forming attitudes about school, learning, and their

own abilities.

Studies in child development have shown that positive reinforcement plays a major role in educational success. Recognizing milestones such as Head Start graduations can increase a child's motivation to continue learning and achieving goals throughout life.

Graduation ceremonies help children experience pride in completing something meaningful. That emotional connection often strengthens self-esteem and creates excitement about continuing their education.

For many students, walking across the stage in front of cheering parents and relatives becomes one of their first memories of academic achievement.

Those moments matter.

When families celebrate educational accomplishments early, children begin associating learning with encouragement

**HEAD START GRADUATIONS** pg. 5



Canton Head Start graduate Jayden Redhat accepts his diploma during the Canton Head Start graduation ceremony in Canton, Okla.

## MENTAL HEALTH Awareness



**Five Fast Facts to Know About Prevalence and Impact of Mental Health in the Workplace**

1. More than 1 in 5 U.S. adults live with a mental health condition.
2. Mental health illness is the single greatest cause of worker disability worldwide.
3. 42% of surveyed working adults reported experiencing burnout ("a state of emotional, mental, and often physical exhaustion brought on by prolonged or repeated stress") and 48% said that they "always" or "sometimes" struggle to get away from their work at the end of the day.
4. 58% of recently surveyed employees have considered quitting their jobs as a result of their mental health.
5. Mental health issues such as anxiety, depression, and burnout cost the global economy an estimated US \$1 trillion annually in lost productivity.


### SIGNS YOU MAY NEED A BREAK

- Feeling overwhelmed or emotionally drained
- Trouble concentrating
- Increased stress or irritability
- Difficulty sleeping
- Loss of motivation or energy

You are not alone, and support is available



## MENTAL HEALTH Telehealth Support



**Confidential Mental Health Support is Available Through Telehealth Services**

*What is telehealth?*

Telehealth allows individuals to access mental health services virtually using a phone, tablet, or computer. Services may include counseling, wellness support, behavioral health screenings and follow-up care.

**Benefits of Telehealth**


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- Reduces travel barriers
- Access support from home or work
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For additional information and resources, please contact the Department of Health at [DOH@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:DOH@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov)  
405-967-3349



# Preserving cultural skills through Willow Warriors workshop

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

As birds chirped and calming cool winds brushed against the willows and trees, tribal youth took the opportunity to connect with nature's surroundings by learning about plants and the traditional teachings of what it means to connect to the earth's land.

A Cultural Skills Workshop, entitled "Willow Warriors" was held May 20 in Concho, Okla., where tribal youth ages 8-22 years old were invited to participate to connect with their culture. The event was held in conjunction with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Tradition Not Addiction program and the Dept. of Health programs, with assistance from other tribal programs as well within the tribes. The workshop was led by Chris Tallbear, Robert Whiteshield and Marcos Baros.

The four main areas of learning focused on plant identification and harvesting, safety and tool mastery, identifying vector-borne diseases and the hidden risks and learning about extreme heat and climate resilience.

The Willow Warriors was an initiative that was initially brought up by Chris Tallbear, who was a former health board member.

"It was an idea that he had last year, in order for tribal members and our youth to compare themselves and learn about the different ways our Cheyenne and Arapaho people prepare for ceremonies and Sundance," Zachary Blackowl, coordinator for Tradition Not Addiction program said.

Due to funding cuts and staff turnover, the event was unable to get off the ground within the last year. Bringing it back to the table as an important discussion, Blackowl said everyone was all for it and they were able to bring it together as a collaborative effort between tribal programs.

"The whole concept of this workshop is that it is led by our Headsmen and our Societies, so Chris Tallbear, Robert Whiteshield, Marcos Baros, all these people are familiar

with tribal programs and they know how we work and operate," Blackowl said.

Learning firsthand knowledge while out in nature, 17 youth showed up early for the event and were transported to the cabin area of Concho's reservation to identify plant life and connect with culture.

"This is just an opportunity for our youth to come and learn from some of our traditional knowledge keepers and our Headsmen, that's what the whole event was about," Blackowl said.

Tribal youth were shown different types of plants and how to identify them, including bad plants such as poison ivy. Other activities for the day included harvesting, where youth were encouraged to go out and seek the plants they learned about and identify them, such as willow and wood, or poison ivy and when to stay away from it.

The Cheyenne Language program was also in attendance to assist youth with pronouncing words in the Cheyenne language associated with plants and the activities they were doing throughout the event.

"We see a lot of our people who are disconnected from the culture or not involved, or there's families who want to be involved and they don't know how and I think the best way to address that is to just get yourself involved through initiatives like this," Blackowl said.

Giving the youth an opportunity to engage and connect with their culture, Blackowl said allows them to have an introduction to the topic and knowledge to be able to take home.

"They're going to start asking their parents about it and then the parents are going to be motivated, I want to do this for my kids and that's kind of where we're trying to start with this, is in the homes and the families, that way we can get our child reconnected back to the culture, back to our ceremonies," Blackowl said.



Marcos Baros, representative for the Elk Scrapper Society shows youth how to identify willow and other plants. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)

Tallbear, Southern Cheyenne, who brought the idea forward for the event said the initiative started a few years back with Brian Keith, "Bob the builder" working with the young people at Seiling ceremonies and his persistence and teaching them to be young leaders.

"This workshop, cultural skills workshop, is named after what he called them, Willow Warriors, and it's from that idea that there's a lot of

Chris Tallbear talks to youth about the significance of the willow warrior and cultural teachings.



Chris Tallbear talks to youth about the significance of the willow warrior and cultural teachings.

WORKSHOP pg. 6

# From Concho to the Capitol: A Story of Advocacy, Loss and Legislative Change

By LaRenda Morgan

Growing up as a young girl in Concho on tribal land, I never imagined the journey my life would take me on. My childhood was filled with simple joys like playing on hay bales, fishing at Concho Lake where I caught my first perch, teasing tarantulas, climbing trees, and running from snakes. I remember walking to the BIA white building to buy a Coke or a candy bar. At that time, the world felt safe. I had never heard of anyone missing or murdered.

That changed years later. In 1987, my family moved to El Reno, Okla., into town. Our neighbors were Rocky and Charlotte Pennington. Charlotte was Cheyenne and Arapaho and my mother knew her. They were kind, welcoming people. Rocky was a painter, and my sisters and I would often talk with him about his work.

One night, everything shifted. As I lay in bed, I heard screaming and crying coming from next door. I ran to my mother, frightened. She listened for a moment and told me, "That's Charlotte crying for her daughters."

Many nights, throughout the years, the crying continued. Wailing and grief from

Charlotte, left fear in my heart.

Eventually, my mother explained that Charlotte's daughters had been killed. But as a child, I didn't fully understand what had happened. It wasn't until much later that I learned the full truth, that they had been kidnapped and murdered during the Oklahoma State Fair.

That memory never left me.

In March 2022, I founded the Cheyenne and Arapaho Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons (MMIP) Chapter. At the time, we had no local chapter, and I knew our communities needed one. I had been serving as an independent advocate for many years, but I knew this would take much more than just me to address our tribal needs.

My motivation came from my own family. My cousin, Ida Beard, went missing in 2015 from El Reno, and her case saw little progress. Through advocating for her, I gained knowledge and this knowledge I knew other tribal families desperately needed.

With the support of a former political opponent who became a trusted ally, Rep. Mickey Dollens and I

worked together to create and pass Ida's Law in Oklahoma. This legislation established an MMIP liaison within the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI), creating a pathway for cases that had been overlooked or inadequately investigated including data collection and training. Ida's Law has been model legislation for other states like South Dakota and North Dakota.

From the creation of the MMIP Chapter, the work expanded. We began identifying other cases within our tribal community. Among them were the names I never forgot from my childhood, Lisa Pennington and Cheryl Genzer, Rocky and Charlotte's daughters.

By then, both of their parents had passed away without answers.

I began searching for family members but initially could not get in contact with anyone. Then, in May 2024, I came across Dorian Guillen, who was circulating a petition about the case. I reached out and offered our MMIP Chapter support.

**Building a Path to Reform**

In 2025, Ms. Guillen contacted me seeking guidance. After reviewing the case, I

realized there were few direct actions available. But I knew something could still be done, like with my cousin Ida's case, and it was policy change.

I suggested pursuing legislation, just as we had done with Ida's Law. Together, we reached out to Senator Carri Hicks.

An existing Georgia state cold case model legislation was identified, Georgia's Coleman-Baker Act (2023), which created a formal process for reviewing cold cases. With OSBI input and support, this became the foundation for Oklahoma Senate Bill 1636 (SB 1636).

Senator Hicks requested an interim study in 2025 titled:

"Justice Delayed: Strengthening Oklahoma's Response to Cold Cases and Unsolved Violent Crimes."

The study highlighted systemic challenges and emphasized real cases, including:

- The Oklahoma State Fair Murders (1987) Cheryl Genzer and Lisa Pennington
- The Kirsten Hatfield Case (1997) later solved using DNA evidence
- Multiple OSBI cold cases utilizing emerging forensic tools



LaRenda Morgan speaks at the annual Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes MMIP Awareness Day and Parade event held in Concho, Okla. Morgan is the chairwoman of the Cheyenne and Arapaho MMIP Chapter. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

may not have been available decades ago. We have many Cheyenne Arapaho MMIP cases that could benefit as well as MMIP cases across the state. This made me feel even more determined that this bill could help the tribes.

The interim study identified that Oklahoma's system needed modernization, accountability, and structure. Many cold cases including MMIP cases needed to be reviewed with updated technology and resources that

SB1636 pg. 6

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# LANGUAGES

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preservation is essential, perhaps the most important is that the preamble of the Constitution of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes calls for "sustaining and promoting" the tribes' culture, languages, religious rights and way of life, says Gordon Yellowman, acting executive director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Dept. of Language and Culture.

"We have to comply with our constitutional values," Yellowman said. "That is part of our identity."

Yellowman said he sees language training as more of a refresher course, because "language has always been imbedded in your DNA."

The master apprentice program is a primary component of language training, says Sleeper, who spent about eight years as a language apprentice.

Northern Arapaho elders on the Wind River Reservation in Wyoming who are fluent speakers have been of immense help to the program in Oklahoma, Sleeper said. Apprentices study with the elders via Zoom and travel to Wyoming once or twice a year to work with them in person.

"They focus on the language in a conversational manner, so they make it topic-oriented," Sleeper said. "They use a method called circling where they ask each other questions about the same subject for a period of time."

One former apprentice, Jeff Black, now teaches Arapaho 1 and Arapaho 2 at El Reno High School. That's a district where one of the largest percentages of Cheyenne and Arapaho students is enrolled, but the class is also popular with non-Native students, Sleeper said.

Black took college classes during his tribal apprenticeship to become certified to teach at a public school, Sleeper said, and during summer breaks he re-joins the apprentice program.

High school students do not focus as much on reading and writing, Sleeper said, "because we have found through the years that when they do that, it's harder to reach a high level of speaking conversationally."

Yellowman said the dwindling number of fluent speakers "is a critical concern right now."

Rainey agreed.

"When it comes to first-language speakers, that's what we consider fluent, we have fewer than 10," Rainey said. "We are thankful for our elders who were able to hold on to their language."

In addition to the fluent speakers, "There are others who can understand it but can't speak it, and some who can pray in Cheyenne or know a lot of words but can't hold a long conversation," Rainey said.

The language, Rainey said, "is who we are as a Cheyenne people. I don't really like differentiating culture and language because you can't have one without the other."

One of Yellowman's goals is to implement more cultural activities into the program. That can be done by taking children on field trips to learn the names of plants and how they are used for medicine, ritual and prayer, for example.

Storytelling, oral history, songs and legends are all cultural components that can be part of language training, said Yellowman, who was fortunate to grow up with a father who spoke Cheyenne and a mother who spoke Arapaho.

Every morning just before dawn, Yellowman said, "my father would sit at the kitchen table and pray for an hour in Cheyenne. He was greeting the sun and asking for blessings not just for himself but for the entire tribe."

Faris relies on Zoom to teach weekly language classes to children and adults.

"Technology has been a tremendous help to reach more people," Faris said.

Sleeper said about 10 people typically attend the weekly community class his department teaches via Zoom. There's also an employee language hour from 4 to 5 p.m. Lead apprentice Shayna Walker travels to tribal worksites to teach the class.

A Zoom class for children is offered twice a month, and Sleeper teaches an in-person class every week.

Yellowman said the apprentices are paid, as are language speakers in the community who help with the program. The tribes pay half the cost of the Arapaho



James Sleeper, coordinator for the Arapaho Language and Culture Program speaks at the recent Hymn class held in Concho, Okla.

program at El Reno High School. The Indian Education Program covers the rest.

"When we get more funding, we will make more positions available," Yellowman said. "We need to really invest in it. Right now, we are really concentrating on making the language programs more convenient for everybody to have access to. It's a matter of improving the resources to make them more user-friendly."

Faris also hopes to expand the master apprentice program. Her overarching goal, she said, is "how do we create more speakers, and how do we support the speakers that we do have."

# Office of Tribal Council Coordinator Highlights community engagement and services

Albert Old Crow, Tribal Council Coordinator

As the spring rains continue to bring renewal across our homelands, the Office of the Tribal Council coordinator remains focused on keeping tribal citizens informed, connected, and engaged in the work of our Nation. Over the past several weeks, many important conversations, community activities, and planning efforts have taken place that reflect both the challenges and strengths of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

One of the most encouraging efforts this spring has been the Tribal Strategic Planning Sessions held at the Watonga Convention Center. Representatives from departments including Education, Enrollment, Housing, Language & Culture, Parks & Recreation, Social Services, and Judicial Services presented their accomplishments, goals, challenges, and proposed solutions for the future. These sessions provided an opportunity to better understand the work being done throughout tribal government and the services available to our people. Staff members were recognized for their dedication and professionalism in serving the tribes.

Particular attention was given to the Enrollment Department's recent audit presentation. The audit team reviewed and researched more than 20,000 enrollment files dating back to 1967 and completed a comprehensive review of records through August 2024. Tribal member files have now been entered into the Progeny electronic database system to improve organization and preservation of records. Recommendations from the audit included strengthening confidentiality protections, preserving historical base rolls, improving fire and

flood protection for records, and creating a formal Enrollment Ordinance through the Legislature.

Some statistics presented during the audit were deeply concerning. The median age at death among tribal citizens was reported at 61.44 years old, while the median tribal citizen age was 32.74. These numbers remind us that the health and well-being of our people must remain a priority for future generations.

Community safety and awareness have also remained important topics this month. Tribal citizens were encouraged to remain vigilant against financial scams and fraud after Tribal Council Coordinator Albert Old Crow shared a personal experience involving a fraudulent \$4,000 check that was caught only because bank text notifications had been enabled. Members were urged to consider setting up banking alerts to help protect themselves and their families from similar incidents.

The office also shared important public safety information regarding temporary disruptions to BIA Law Enforcement dispatch phone lines and encouraged members to use local sheriff and municipal emergency resources until service was restored. Emergency Management notices were also distributed for tribal citizens impacted by spring tornadoes in the Enid area, with tribal resources made available to assist affected families.

Several programs and services for tribal citizens were highlighted throughout the month. Information was provided regarding tribal burial assistance funded through net gaming revenues, including support for funeral meals, transportation

expenses, burial costs, and headstone assistance for eligible families. Citizens were reminded to carefully select delegates responsible for handling burial assistance funds and to communicate their wishes clearly with family members.

Programs focused on wellness and healing also continue to expand throughout the tribes. Diabetes workshops, Men's Mental Health Night, and support for clients at the George Hawkins Treatment Center reflected ongoing efforts to address both physical and emotional health in our communities. The George Hawkins staff received special recognition for their commitment to helping individuals and families begin new journeys toward sobriety and healing.

Cultural preservation remains a vital part of tribal life. Upcoming Cultural Skills Workshops for future "Willow Warriors" will teach plant identification, respectful harvesting, and traditional environmental knowledge while also addressing climate preparedness and safety. In addition, Arapaho youth will have the opportunity to participate in the Northern & Southern Arapaho Reunion in Boulder, Colo., later this summer.

The office also continues encouraging civic engagement and communication between tribal government and tribal citizens. Listening sessions, educational opportunities, and future learning sessions focused on tribal government, checks and balances, resolutions, and tribal budgets remain part of the ongoing commitment to transparency and accountability first outlined at the beginning of this administration.

As always, recognition

will be requested at the mid-year budget assessment. As last year, our annual budget covers only one Tribal Council meeting per year. When there is a special Tribal Council meeting held, we are required to get additional funds appropriated by the Legislature. The costs for the April 7 special Tribal Council meeting were as follows:

The costs for the special Tribal Council meeting held on April 7, 2026, in Elk City

will be requested at the mid-year budget assessment. As last year, our annual budget covers only one Tribal Council meeting per year. When there is a special Tribal Council meeting held, we are required to get additional funds appropriated by the Legislature. The costs for the April 7 special Tribal Council meeting were as follows:

Meal	3,000
Travel	171
Indirect Costs	2,958
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$16,956</b>

The Office of the Tribal Council coordinator encourages all tribal citizens to continue staying informed, involved, and supportive of one another as we move through the spring season together.

## Moses Starr Jr. Honored Elder Award

The Moses Starr Jr. Honored Elder Award is presented to a nominated Cheyenne or Arapaho elder for their outstanding achievement in one of the three areas:

- Advocacy in Health
- Tribal Engagement
- Addressing Health Disparities

The elder will be presented with the award at the annual Elder's Conference in November.

Please email [CAHED@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:CAHED@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov) pictures, attachments, or links to newsletters, newspaper articles, websites, etc. to support the nominated elder's accomplishments. Additional references may be requested to verify accomplishments.

Please scan the QR code to fill out form.  
Incomplete applications will not be accepted.  
**Applications are due by September 1, 2026**

## VALEDICTORIANS

continued from pg. 1

and natural sciences for an associate degree. Little Coyote hopes to further her education and attend a four-year university or get her bachelors degree as a pre-med major and become an OBGYN.

Little Coyote's advice to underclassmen, "to just stay consistent and read everything and never to give up, just do your work."

LaKylah Black

Graduating with an estimated class size of over 60 students, Black, graduated from Riverside Indian School, a boarding school located in Anadarko, Okla.

Born in Lawton, Okla., and raised in El Reno, Okla., Black has been attending Riverside since the eighth grade all through her high school years. And up until her graduating year, she found out she was named valedictorian of her graduating class as she maintained a 3.8 GPA.

"You have to achieve like balance mainly, it's about attendance and you have to be there and discipline and you have to stay on your school work and stay up with your grades and keep track of it," Black said.

As valedictorian, Black gave a speech to her senior class at the graduation ceremony, where she reflected on the school years.

"I've been there since eighth grade and then I gave a short quote, basically my message was we still have time to figure ourselves out, we don't have to do it right now," Black said.

To be named as valedictorian, Black said it made her happy, as it's always been a secret goal of hers that she's had since freshman year of high school.

"It feels good because like I said, it was like a goal I wanted to achieve for awhile and it made me happy because I knew my family would be proud," Black said.

Black was able to maintain her good grades throughout the school year by disciplining herself and putting her grades first before anything else.

"I was in sports too and that was motivating me, like you had to have good grades to play, I played basketball freshmen through junior year and I did cross country, but didn't do it sophomore year," Black said.

The most influential person in Black's life throughout high school has been her mom, Lena Russell, who has supported her since she's attended Riverside in eighth grade.

"She hasn't really like told me I couldn't do



LaKylah Black gives the valedictory speech at the graduation ceremony on May 15 at Riverside Indian School.

something, like she always supports my decisions and she hasn't told me I shouldn't or couldn't do something," Black said.

Black's favorite part about high school was making friends as part of the boarding school experience and living close to her friends and friends will be what she'll miss the most after graduation, as they all live far apart.

"We don't get to see each other very often after we graduate," Black said.

Living on campus at Riverside Indian School, Black said has prepared her the most for independence.

"It's made me independent really because at school, it's like you're not with your family but and you have to take care of yourself somewhat," Black said.

Black plans to attend college at Fort Lewis in Durango, Colo., to study multimedia and journalism and what she looks forward to the most at college is freedom.

Prioritizing her academics, Black said has been most important to her because it will get you to where you want to go. The advice she gives to underclassmen is to stay disciplined.

"Keep trying to achieve your goals," Black said.



As co-valedictorian for Seiling High School, Cayden Little Coyote gives her speech during the graduation ceremony.

## HEAD START GRADUATIONS

continued from pg. 2

and support rather than fear or pressure. Educators say this creates a stronger desire to attend school, participate in classroom activities, and pursue future academic goals.

The ceremonies also strengthen family involvement in education, which is another key factor linked to student success. Parents and guardians who participate in school events are more likely to remain engaged throughout a child's educational journey.

At the Cheyenne and Arapaho Head Start Centers, graduations are designed not only to honor students, but also to recognize the important role families play in helping children succeed.

Within tribal communities, education has long been viewed as a pathway toward stronger futures, self-determination, and leadership development.

For generations, Indigenous people fought to preserve their cultures, languages, and identities while continuing to pursue educational opportunities for future generations. Today, tribal education programs remain central to community growth and nation-building efforts.

By investing in early childhood education, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are helping prepare young citizens for future opportunities while strengthening the Nation as a whole.

Head Start programs help children enter kindergarten prepared academically and socially, reducing learning gaps and increasing long-term success rates. They also provide families with support systems that can improve household stability, health awareness, and educational engagement.

Tribal leaders and educators often stress that education is not limited to

classroom instruction alone. It includes cultural identity, respect for elders, language preservation, and community values that help shape future generations.

Through Head Start, students begin learning in environments where tribal identity and cultural pride can be incorporated into daily experiences alongside academic instruction.

Celebrating the Next Generation

As graduates from the Canton, Clinton, and Concho Head Start Centers proudly accepted certificates and posed for photographs with loved ones, the celebrations reflected more than the completion of a school year.

They represented the beginning of a journey.

Each student stepping forward into kindergarten carries the hopes of family members, teachers, and tribal communities who believe in the importance of education and opportunity. Those small caps and gowns symbolize encouragement, perseverance, and the belief that every child has the ability to succeed.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' continued support of Head Start programs demonstrates a commitment to investing in children from the very beginning, ensuring that future generations are equipped not only with academic skills, but also with confidence, cultural identity, and community support.

As families applauded their graduates this spring, one message stood clear throughout each celebration: when children are encouraged early, supported consistently, and celebrated often, they are more likely to grow into lifelong learners prepared to achieve their goals and strengthen their communities for generations to come.



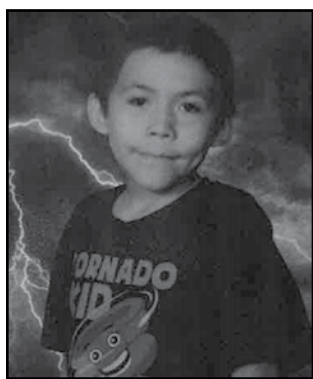
Cheyenne and Arapaho Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham presents first year Head Start student Lovelynn Powell with her diploma from Concho Head Start Center in Concho, Okla. (Courtesy photo)



Clinton Head Start graduate Aliyah Carter accepts her diploma in Clinton, Okla.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY

# Calendar of Events



Happy 19th Birthday May 27th and Congratulations "Senior 2026"



Danika Dean Bull Coming

It seems like you were just a baby yesterday, now here you are a beautiful young lady. It has been such a pleasure and an amazing journey to watch you through your years of school. I know you have been through so much from the time you stepped into Jr. High up until the present. You have overcome so much and still today you shine. Continue to be kind, caring and the amazing young lady I know you are. Sometimes in life things are not fair, you have to learn to go on and let things roll off your back even tho it's hard. Try not to dwell on the negative. Stay strong and focused on your future and just know that you were so deserving of so many things you were not recognized for. Remember where you come from and be humble, and don't ever try to be someone your not, be YOU! You are "My sunshine", "My sharp shooter" and "My MVP!" You are a blessing and you have so much to be thankful for. Always keep Jesus in your everyday life and in your heart and remember "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or discouraged the Lord is with you wherever you go"

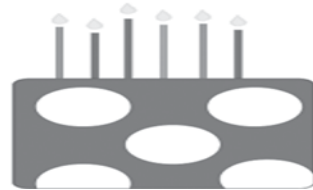
Joshua 1:9

"YOU GOT THIS"

I know things might feel heavy right now, but I want you to remember this- You've made it through every hard day before, and you'll make it through this one too. You are stronger than you realize, and even when life feels overwhelming, you still show up, that's resilience. It's okay to rest. It's okay to not have it all figured out. You don't have to do everything perfectly- you just have to keep going, one small step at a time, every bit of progress count's, even the quiet moments. You are loved, you are enough, you are doing your best- and that's something to be proud of. Hang tough! We love you and are super proud of you. Love Grams, Gramps and your Family!

Happy 4th Birthday Baby Thor  
OMG-how time flies, hard to believe you are turning 4. You are such a joy to be around, you keep gma and gpa on our toes. So much energy and full of life. We love you so much - have a blast on your special day  
Love grandma, grandpa, mom, sisters and Tris

Happy 7th Birthday DJ  
Our future storm chaser  
May 24  
You are such an awesome kid, so curious, yet so smart! Have a super fun birthday! We love you so very much.  
Love grandma, grandpa and the Bull Coming clan



**Good News Clinton!**  
Join us for a Summer Time Revival at The Avenue, located at the corner of Custer Ave & 17th St in Clinton.  
June 10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM each evening  
Come be inspired by a powerful message from Pastor Will Brown of First Americans Baptist Church in Hobart, OK, as he shares God's Word.  
Enjoy fellowship and refreshments following each service.  
For more information, contact Brother Ron Starr at 580-500-7786.  
All are welcome—bring your family and friends!



**Native American All State Benefit Dance**  
Thursday, June 4, 2026 at the Jenks Annex in El Reno, Okla. Supper at 5 p.m., with dance to follow. Vendors welcome call 405-788-0703.  
MC Isaac Rhoads, HS Timothy Fletcher Jr., HTB Felix Nibbs, HTG Adriana Benton, Co-Host All Nations Rezcov-ery.

**Graduation & Sobriety Birthday Dance for Tay-Wisty Edmonds**  
July 25, 2026 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. 3 p.m. Gourd Dance and 5 p.m. supper. Sponosred by Leanna Thomas, Eric Thomas and Darien Chebahatah. For more information call 405-239-0671 or 405-219-9479.

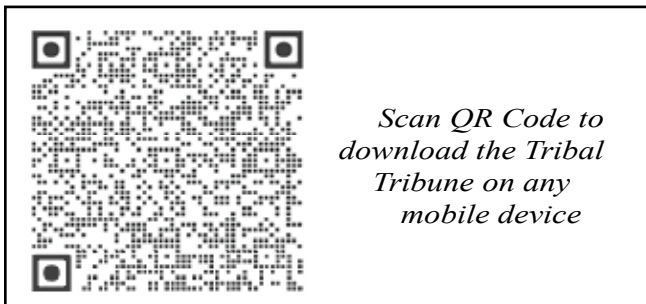
MC Isaac Rhoads, HS Amick Birdshead, HM Earl Plumley, HL Melinda Sutton, HTG Rosemary Sleeper, HTB Sergio Pineda Jr., Honored Chief Bruce Whiteman, Honored Veteran Kyle Gilbert, Honored Family Lynn Littlehawk Family, AD Brian Felder, Co-Host All Nations Rezcov-ery.

**36th annual Oklahoma Indian Nation Powwow**  
July 31 - Aug. 2, 2026 at the Concho Powwow Grounds in Concho, Okla. More information will be forthcoming.

**Third annual Overdose Memorial & Cirrhosis Awareness Dance-All Nations Rezcov-ery Benefit Dance**

Aug. 15, 2026 at the Watonga Emergency Response Center in Watonga, Okla. 2 p.m. Gourd dance, 5 p.m. supper. If you would like to submit a photo of a loved one lost to overdose/cirrhosis please email them to info@rezcov-ery.org.

MC Isaac Rhoads, HS Creg Hart, HM Kenny Williams, HL Janaya McIntosh, Miss Indian Oklahoma, HTB Dyson Ellis, HTG Amber Beard, AD Matias Waters, Co-Host Comanche Nation Prevention & Recovery. Vendors welcome, contact Carmello Reveles at 405-788-0703.



## SB1636

continued from pg. 3

As SB 1636 moved forward in the 2026 legislative session, advocacy became critical.

At one point, the bill stalled and it was not being placed on the Senate floor agenda, and deadlines were rapidly approaching. I was told by Senator Hicks we might have to try again the following year.

Waiting was not an option I was happy with.

I reached out to tribal leaders across Oklahoma, as well as Attorney General Gentner Drummond. Alongside tribal government relations professionals like Jill Daugherty (Chickasaw Nation) and Logan Lewis (Cherokee Nation), we acted quickly.

With Tribal leaders from across the state and tribal government relations, we elevated the urgency of the bill.

Shortly thereafter, SB 1636 was heard and it passed the Senate.

This moment demonstrated something powerful that I have seen and know, tribal advocacy works.

For years, tribal leaders and advocates have built relationships, coordinated efforts, and supported one another across jurisdictions. This broad network made it possible to

create real pressure for reform, not just for tribal citizens, but for all Oklahomans.

When SB 1636 moved to the House of Representatives, the clock was once again against us.

Representative Ross Ford worked diligently to advance the bill, but placement on the House agenda remained uncertain.

Once again, I contacted tribal leaders, the Attorney General, and key legislators, including Representatives Anthony Moore and Nick Archer, who represent the Cheyenne and Arapaho jurisdiction. I also met with Representative Scott Fetgatter, who was preparing to honor our MMIP Chapter at the Capitol on May 5th with an MMIP Citation for the National Day of Awareness.

Meanwhile, our MMIP Board members wrote letters, met with lawmakers, and showed up in person.

### A Day of Recognition and Change

On May 5th, we gathered at the Oklahoma State Capitol.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Legislative Speaker Kendrick Sleeper, along with MMIP Board members Tracey Hawk, Amanda Williams, and myself, attended an

Oklahoma House of Representatives citation ceremony recognizing National Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Day.

As we stood on the House floor, Representatives Moore and Archer asked us to stay after the citation.

Behind the scenes, they were coordinating something significant.

That same day, SB 1636, the OSBI Cold Case Bill was brought to the floor and voted on and passed unanimously (81-0).

Outside, on the south steps of the Capitol, hundreds gathered for the MMIP Awareness event. Families, advocates, tribal nations, law enforcement agencies, and community members stood united.

Inside, policy was moving.

Outside, people were demanding change.

On May, 6, 2026, I sent an email to Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt to kindly ask him to sign the legislation and shared my story about my neighbors Rocky and Charlotte and their plight for justice for their daughters. Governor Kevin Stitt signed it into law May 7, 2026.

SB 1636 is more than legislation.

It represents a shift toward accountability,

toward transparency, and toward giving families a voice in cases that have gone silent for far too long.

What began with a childhood memory of a grieving mother next door. It grew into advocacy along with my own cousins missing person case and the numerous cases in our tribes of relatives, friends and neighbors. There is an understanding of grief and empathy for MMIP and a need for voices for the voiceless. It is a movement to ensure that no family is left without answers.

Because behind every case is a name.

Behind every name is a family.

And behind every family is a story that deserves to be heard.

*LaRenda Morgan is the author of Ida's Law (2021) and helped establish an MMIP Taskforce Working Group within the State of Oklahoma Attorney General Agency in (2025) to address law enforcement and MMIP investigations. She has helped other tribes establish MMIP groups by using the Cheyenne Arapaho MMIP Chapter model. She currently serves as Chair of the Chapter.*

## WORKSHOP

continued from pg. 3

young people out there, there's a lot of families, a lot of bloodlines that have went away from our people, either through adoption or other hard decisions, choices, and they're looking for a way to come back to their people and this is an opportunity for them, no judgment, to come back," Tallbear said.

Helping youth connect with their culture and to move forward into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, Tallbear along with Whiteshield and Baros volunteered their time to help assist and lead youth with the Willow Warriors workshop and cultural teachings.

Whiteshield said the significance behind the teachings of the workshop is the reverence of the traditional ways.

"The procedure and protocol of why we do it and how we do it, you know, as opposed to just doing it. So, there's a strict protocol on how we do things and why we do things," Whiteshield said.

Tallbear said assisting with the youth is for the love of their people.

"We're looking for our next leaders, we want to make a road for them, we want to nurture them and get them prepared, so they take care of us one day," Tallbear said.

While Whiteshield added, "We protect these ways and carry them on in a good way."

Some of the plant life that were shown to youth included sage, willow, dogwood, cedar

and sumac and how they are to be used respectfully and for cultural significance. Tallbear said it's about explaining the cultural aspects of what makes their people unique.

"Some of the elements that are present and how they're used, why they're used and how we procure them respectfully and harvest them, so that they'll continue to be here for us, the next time, or maybe when their kids need it," Tallbear said.

With positive outlooks for the event with youth participation, Whiteshield said he believes the outcome will trickle down over time.

"If we don't start doing it now, it's already diluting down and we're losing it faster than we even realized. So now, if we start just trying to inject it a little bit here and a little bit there, maybe we can get it strengthened back to where it needs to be," Whiteshield said.

Baros, diabetes wellness program director and a representative for Elk Scraper Society, walked youth through the different types of plants and how to identify them, showing youth the willow plants.

"The willow has the brightest shade of green, it's easier to spot willow and then on the other side of where that willow was, was poison ivy so I was telling them that's what you want to stay away from, things like that," Baros said.

Interacting with the youth and showing them firsthand how to connect with culture, Baros said it all ties everything back into ceremonies.

"Why we are Cheyenne and Arapaho, pretty much tying it all back to why we started," Baros said.

Baros said while there's a lot of work involved, he wants youth to understand there's purpose and meaning behind learning and the procedures for ceremonies associated with the workshop teachings.

"What we do to harvest ceremonies, our procedures for that, to get them to understand it's work but it can also be fun and there's purpose and there's meaning behind all of it, so then with that too, know what we're looking for because at some point they could be asked to run for somebody and if we give them a little bit of a head start to knowing what that is, it's even better for them," Baros said.

The event ended with youth learning about chainsaw safety and how to cut down a tree and cut down parts of a tree, such as when



Isiah Walker, 9, Serena Morton-Longknife, 12, and Issac Mixon, 11, attend the Willow Warriors Workshop to learn about plant life and cultural teachings.

stripping trees for lodges.

With the first of its kind workshop a success for youth and society coming together, Blackowl said the sight was beautiful.

"I think that's the beautiful thing about it, is just trying to find a way our tribal programs can work with our society headsmen because that's essentially how we see how we're going to address and help our people. They have a big role to play and we're just trying to give an opportunity to share their knowledge and their history and what they know with our people," Blackowl said.

**OBITUARIES**

**OBITUARIES**

**Joella Kay Tabor-Hamm**

Joella Kay Tabor-Hamm was born Dec. 8, 1955, in Clinton, Okla., to Lucille Tabor. She passed away May 18, 2026 at the age of 70. Joella was raised in the Greenfield area and attended Greenfield schools. Following high school, she lovingly helped care for her younger brothers and sisters, always placing family at the center of her life. She later started her own family and made homes in Calumet, El Reno, and for a short time, Texas. Joella worked many years providing for her family. She worked for 10 years at Hobby Lobby, and also at Firestone Tires. She later retired from Lucky Star Casino after a 10-year stint, where she worked as a Players Club clerk. Joella was a wonderful cook and a talented seamstress. She especially enjoyed sewing Halloween costumes for her children when they were young. Joella loved dancing,

singing, and spending time in the comfort of her home surrounded by family. Her warm spirit and loving heart will be deeply missed by all who knew her.

Joella is survived by her children, Michael Oscar Hamm of Oklahoma City, Micky Lee Sassano of Choctaw, Camille Alexis Martinez of El Reno, and Francisco Javier Martinez III of Oklahoma City; her grandchildren Brayden Hamm of Oklahoma City, Payton Sassano of Ohio, Francisco Javier Martinez IV of Calumet, Milli Sassano of Choctaw, Amarah Morton of Calumet, Steven Warner of Lawton, Emma Warner of Lawton, Jocelyn Martinez-Morton of El Reno, Ialina Martinez of El Reno, Luca Martinez of El Reno, Ruby Morton of Calumet, and Levi Morton of Calumet; one brother, Joe Todd of Oklahoma City; and one aunt, Peggy Sue Tabor



of Oklahoma City.

She was preceded in death by her mother Lucille Tabor-Todd, one daughter, Vassilia Renee Tabor and her husband Francisco Javier Martinez Sr., siblings, David Todd, Robert Todd, Jaquita Todd Warner, Roger Todd, James Todd.

A viewing was held May 21 at Turner Funeral Home in Geary, Okla. Funeral services were held May 22 at the Concho Community Center in Concho, Okla., under the direction of Turner Funeral Home.

**Margaret Rose Hardage**

Margaret Rose was born on Aug. 12, 1961, in Clinton, Okla., to Lorenzo Goodsell and Arrellia Naranjo, and passed away on May 19, 2026, at OU Medical Center.

At the age of 4, she was lovingly adopted by Richard T. and Anne (Cotton) Anderson, who raised her as their own.

Margaret attended Phillips University, where her father was a professor. During her years there, she and Bea shared countless unforgettable adventures and made lifelong memories with dear friends, especially Heidi Drennan and Steve Conrady. It was also during this time that Margaret developed her love of travel, journeying to Sweden and throughout Europe.

Margaret was truly a lady, sophisticated, intelligent, kind, talented, and deeply endearing. She had a gentle and gracious spirit that drew people to her, and she was adored by everyone who knew her. Proud of her Native American heritage, Margaret especially loved powwows, where she delighted in keeping time with the steady beat of the drums. Margaret married Miles

Hardage, and together they were blessed with four sons. Miles and Margaret were a perfect match, sharing a deep bond and a life centered on family. They especially enjoyed taking family vacations, often delighting in keeping everyone guessing about where they would go next.

Margaret was a master gardener who filled her world with beautifully tended flowers, reflecting both her skill and her eye for beauty. She was also a gifted artist with exquisite taste and many creative talents. Above all, she was the kind of person others naturally turned to for comfort and understanding, a compassionate friend and a truly attentive listener.

Margaret struggled with poor health from childhood. Over the years, she underwent three kidney transplants and later faced a diagnosis of pancreatic cancer. Through it all, she met each challenge with grace and quiet strength.

Margaret was a Christian and she is with her Lord and Savior and loved ones who have preceded her.

Margaret is preceded in



death by her husband Miles, biological parents; adoptive parents; nephew Joshua Hammond (like a son); one brother Manual; one sister Lillie Jo; brother-in-law Bill W. Hardage Jr.; father-in-law, Bill W. Hardage Sr.; two aunts, Bernice and Sarah.

She is survived by four sons, Christopher, Joseph, Charles, and Richard; sisters Beatrice, LaRinda; nieces Emily Bueno, Ashlee Ellison; one nephew Brandon (Katie) Hardage; in-laws, Merlin and Linda Hardage Ransom; sister-in-law, Debbie Hardage Martin; and many beloved cousins.

A celebration of life ceremony was held May 27 at the Ladusau-Evans Chapel with Rev. Vernon Lee officiating.

**Edward Paul Wilson**

Edward Paul Wilson was born in 1943 in Clinton, Okla., and raised in Thomas, Okla., where he was a proud Thomas Terrier. During his school years, he played football and was proud to be a part of a state championship team.

From 1967 to 1969, Edward served his country in Vietnam with the 173rd Airborne Brigade as a combat medic. His service reflected the kind of man he was — courageous, selfless, and committed to helping others.

In 1977, Edward married his lifelong partner, Jennifer, beginning a journey together that would span 49 years. Edward also served two terms as Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Chairman, signing the tribes first gaming compact.

Later in life Edward became a strong advocate for helping fellow veterans. His dedication led him to help establish the Cheyenne and Arapaho American Legion Post 401. He also fought tirelessly for the creation of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Veterans Monument in Concho, Okla., ensuring that the service and sacrifice of tribal veterans would be honored and remembered for generations to come.

Edward served as a board

member for the Office of Cheyenne and Arapaho Veterans Affairs (OVA) and remained a loyal member of the OVA until his passing.

Edward's grandchildren were a central part of his life and brought him great joy. He was lovingly known as "Papa," and everyone loved going to Papa's house, where there was always warmth, laughter, and belonging. He also enjoyed simple routines like trips to Walmart, often using them as chances to pick up something special to cook or spoil his grandkids.

Edward is survived by his wife Jennifer, his children, Dana Wilson and wife Shyanne of Ponca City, Okla., Leslie Robinson and husband Carlos of Norman, Okla., Kathy Welbourne-Williams of Tulsa, Okla., Michael Welbourne of Dallas, Texas and Chris Welbourne and wife Jami of Norman, and sisters, Janice Wilson and Linda Beartrack.

He is also survived by his grandchildren, Chandler Welbourne and his wife Elise, Andy Welbourne, Luke Realrider, Genie Welbourne, Klay Realrider, Adele Williams, Lane Realrider, Derek Wilson, and Kristina Wilson.

He is also survived by his great-grandchildren, Russell



Welbourne, Emmy Wilson, and Jack Wheeler.

He is preceded in death by his son Mike Wilson and daughter-in-law Iva. Parents Woodrow and Mary (Blackwolf) Wilson and siblings Robert Wilson, Carol Rice and William Wilson.

Today we remember his life, honor his legacy, and give thanks for the time we shared with him. Though he will be greatly missed, his memory and the impact he made will remain with us always.

Wake services were held May 20 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held May 21, at the same venue, officiated by Albert Old Crow, followed by an interment at the Mound Valley Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.

**Brandi Cheyenne Pawnee**

Brandi Cheyenne Pawnee was born on Feb. 13, 1997, in Shawnee, Okla. She enjoyed working on the computer, playing video games, crafting, making dream catchers and being outside gardening and helping with the lawn. She passed away May 15, 2026, at OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Brandi is survived by her father and stepmother, Robert Pawnee and Shirley Adamson, stepparents, Christopher and Teresa Potius, life partner David Kuhn, brothers, Robert Kerbo and Emmit Sleeper Jr., sisters, Candice White and husband

Anthony White, Christina Potius, Sue Marley, Reda Pawnee, Josie Sleeper, Michelle Yellowman, Pam Sleeper and Rebecca Sleeper, and nieces, Carlie Hawk and husband Matt Jarman, Amelia White, Tona Snodgrass and Grace Marley.

She was preceded in death by her mother Paula Allen, brother Joshua Lytle, grandparents, William Pawnee and Esther Madbull, aunts, Mariel Pawnee and Jane Pawnee and uncle William L. Pawnee.

An all-night wake service was held May 17 at the Concho Emergency Response



Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held May 18, 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

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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE KINDERGARTEN GRADUATES**

Congratulations to Nokomis Ellaree Magpie graduating Kindergarten from Childress ISD. We are super proud of you. Love your family

Congratulations J.L. Bear Kindergarten Graduate Sunset Hill Elementary-Mustang, Okla.

**CIV-2025-0057**

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

In The Matter of:  
EMILY HAWK )  
Petitioner, ) Case No. CIV-2026-0041  
VS. )  
TREVOR BELL )  
Respondent, )

**CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES TO: **TREVOR BELL**  
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

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.

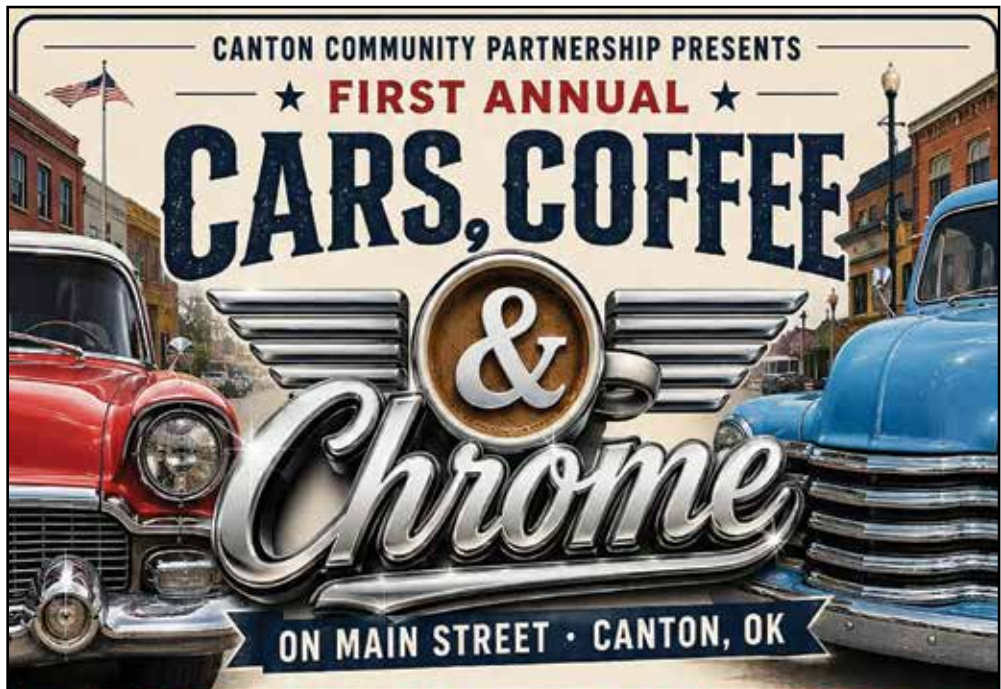
AFTER THE TWENTY (20) days, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court shall set a date for hearing of this case, and you will be notified of the time and date.

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 21<sup>st</sup> day of May, 2026.

*Lairiga Whitecrow*  
Lairiga Whitecrow, Chief Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court



★ SATURDAY, JUNE 6TH ★

in combination with the MARKET EXTRAVAGANZA!

**ALL VEHICLES WELCOME!**  
FROM SHOW QUALITY TO DAILY DRIVER

**REGISTRATION: FREE**  
PRE-REGISTRATION IS APPRECIATED BUT REGISTRATION CAN BE DONE THE MORNING OF.

**REGISTER AT:**  
MERCANTILE ON MAIN  
113 NORTH MAIN STREET, CANTON, OK

**REGISTRATION BEGINS: 9:15 AM**

**CAR SHOW: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

**AWARDS CEREMONY:**  
2:00 PM ON MAIN STREET

**CARS**      **BIKES**      **ANTIQUE TRACTORS**

★ **PRIZES & TROPHIES** ★  
FOR EACH CATEGORY!

★ STAY AFTER THE SHOW FOR A **FREE Movie!** ★

**3:00 PM** AT THE **GRAND THEATRE**

**FORD v FERRARI**

Bring your family, bring your friends, grab some coffee, AND CELEBRATE COMMUNITY ON MAIN STREET!

Tribal Transit Calendar  
June & July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
14	15 June All Transit Available	16 All Transit Available	17 All Transit Available	18 All Transit Available	19 JUNETEENTH No Transports	20
21	22 All Transit Available	23 All Transit Available	24 All Transit Available	25 LITTLE BIG HORN DAY No Transports	26 FIXED ROUTE ONLY NO ON DEMANDS	27
28	29 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	30 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	1 July Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	2 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	3 4th OF JULY HOLIDAY No Transports	4
5	6 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	7 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	8 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	9 All Transit Available	10 All Transit Available	11
12	13 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	14 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	15 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	16 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	17 Fixed Route ONLY No On Demands	18
19	20 All Transit Available	21 All Transit Available	22 All Transit Available	23 All Transit Available	24 All Transit Available	25
26	27 All Transit Available	28 All Transit Available	29 All Transit Available	30 All Transit Available	31 All Transit Available	August 1

**Canton**  
VENDOR MARKET  
Extravaganza

Located in Canton Oklahoma

**SATURDAY  
JUNE 6TH 2026  
10AM- 4PM**

Town wide event located along Main Street

**ANTIQUES FLEA MARKET  
HAND MADE GOODS  
BOUTIQUES AND MORE!**

**FREE ADMISSION!**

VENDORS CONTACT JONI AT  
CANTONCHAMBEREVENTS@GMAIL.COM  
FOR MORE INFO.

HOSTED BY THE CANTON CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**CASH KICKSTART**

**ROUTE 66**

**LUCKY STAR CASINO**

**CASH DRAWINGS SATURDAYS IN JUNE!**

WIN YOUR SHARE OF  
**\$130,000 IN CASH**

One (1) name will be drawn every hour from 7pm to 11pm for  
**\$1,000 in CASH**  
at Concho, Clinton, Canton, Watonga, Concho Travel Center and Hammon! Also, one (1) name will be drawn every hour from 7pm to 11pm for **\$500 in CASH** at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Travel Center.

**5x FRIDAY**      **EARN ENTRIES STARTING MONDAY, JUNE 1ST!**      **Ten (10) Points Equals One Entry**

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

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