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Breaking ground for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Elk City multi-million-dollar development

Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, July 22 an official signing of the PNC Loan Closure for the Elk City, Okla. development project was held at the Oklahoma City Convention Center in conjunction with the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association (OIGA) Conference.

In attendance for the signing of the documents were Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana and Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham, along with Lucky Star CEO Charlie Welbourne, Lucky Star COO Andy Rednose, Lucky Star CFO Stephanie Black, Arapaho District 4 Legislator Rector Candy, Cheyenne District 4 Legislator Mariah Youngbull and Doug Barcy with PNC Bank.

“The papers we signed today were for the PNC Bank, the loan for the Elk City project and it’s the first loan that the tribe has gotten to do a sizeable project, so we’re very excited, we’re happy that we could get

See ELK CITY PROJECT pg. 5



Gov. Reggie Wassana signs the official bank papers for the Elk City entertainment venue during the Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association conference in Oklahoma City. Pictured l-r: Arapaho District 4 Legislator Rector Candy, Cheyenne District 4 Legislator Mariah Youngbull, Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham, Gov. Reggie Wassana, Lucky Star CFO Stephanie Black, Lucky Star COO Andy Rednose, CEO Charlie Welbourne, and Doug Barcy with PNC Bank. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

UNITY returns to OKC for 50th annual National Conference

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Over 60 Cheyenne and Arapaho Youth Council members attend UNITY

(OKLAHOMA CITY) The sounds of drumming, singing and thousands of young voices filled the Oklahoma City Convention Center as Native youth from across the United States, and as far away as Canada, came together for a week dedicated to leadership, culture and opportunity. More than 3,000 representatives of Tribal Nations and Native organizations gathered July 10-14 for the 50th annual United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY) Conference, a youth-led event focused on empowering the next generation of Native leaders.

Over the course of the National UNITY Conference, workshops, networking opportunities, leadership development activities, keynotes and cultural education, as well as many other fun filled activities were packed into the five-day event. Over 60 tribal youth with the



Cheyenne and Arapaho Youth Council participated, leading and participating in workshops, as well as cultural nights and wanting to become more aware of other tribes’ cultures.

Jerilyn Longknife, youth council coordinator and advisor for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, said the group of youth participating in this year’s UNITY conference is a good mixture of youth from different communities. She

said the youth have all worked hard throughout the year to attend the conference by going to meetings and doing all of the requirements, which included participating in community service, cultural presentations, working on public speaking and being involved in their communities and taking on leadership activities.

“I’m glad we have a big group this

See UNITY pg. 6

Oklahoma physicians warn medicaid cuts could deepen rural health care crisis

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Oklahoma State Medical Association is warning that reductions in Medicaid funding could have lasting consequences for health care access across Oklahoma, particularly in rural and tribal communities that already face physician shortages and limited medical services.

Association leaders say approximately 14,000 Oklahoma children have already lost health coverage following Medicaid eligibility changes that took effect last year. They caution that the most significant effects on SoonerCare

and SoonerSelect are still ahead, with deeper funding reductions expected to begin in January 2027.

“The deepest reductions to SoonerCare and SoonerSelect won’t really hit until January of 2027,” said Dr. Sumit Nanda, an ophthalmologist and member of the Oklahoma State Medical Association. “So the real impact will be felt next year.”

Physicians say rural hospitals, many of which operate on profit margins of just 2% to 3%, are especially vulnerable. Even modest reductions in Medicaid reimbursement could push strug-

gling facilities into bankruptcy, forcing them to close.

“The margins are very thin,” Nanda said. “This can tip them over into bankruptcy and force many of these hospitals to close their doors, which would be devastating to patients that live in these small communities because then they have a health care desert effectively.”

The concern is especially significant in southeastern Oklahoma, where many communities already face shortages of physicians and other health care providers. Nanda said hospital closures often

See MEDICAID CUTS pg. 7



Construction continues on the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ affordable housing development in Concho. Crews with Narcomey Construction have framed several of the nine duplexes included in Phase I of the project, which will provide housing for tribal elders and families. The development is funded through a \$6 million Indian Housing Competitive Block Grant awarded to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority (Photos / Rosemary Stephens)

Housing project takes shape in Concho

(CONCHO, Okla.) Construction is making steady progress on the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ new affordable housing development in Concho, where crews are framing and enclosing the first phase of a long-term housing initiative for tribal elders and families.

The tribes broke ground on the project in April 2026 on land east of the Concho Food Pantry off Black Kettle Road. Since then, construction has advanced rapidly, with several duplexes now framed and roofed as work continues across the site.

Phase I includes the construction of nine duplexes, four designated for tribal elders and five for tribal families. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority secured \$6 million through the Indian Housing Competitive Block Grant (IHCBG) program to fund the development.

The elder duplexes will

feature two-bedroom homes of approximately 1,070 square feet and will be located east of the Concho Food Pantry. The family duplexes will offer three-bedroom units on the north end of the Concho campus. Each home will include a FEMA-approved safe room to provide added protection during severe weather.

The development is intended to provide quality, affordable housing for households earning 80 percent or less of the area median income. Monthly rent is expected to range from approximately \$100 to \$450, based on household income.

Narcomey Construction is serving as the general contractor for the project, with work continuing toward completion of the first phase of the tribes’ broader vision to increase safe, affordable housing opportunities for Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens.

Century old cultural treasures return home to Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Over 100-year-old artifacts return to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, including three beaded necklaces, two beaded silver chains, a quill necklace, two beaded pins, a bracelet, beaded purse and three pairs of children’s moccasins. Each artifact displaying the old beading techniques of ancestral ways, with each cultural item full of rich history and stories.

On July 20, the beaded items along with other culturally significant items were returned to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Concho, Okla., where a signing ceremony was held and the repatriation of the items was documented.

Of the items put out on display, the most compelling were the tiny set of moccasins. Photographs and a ledger book full of Arapaho words were also donated along with the cultural items.

Dept. of Language and Culture acting Executive Director Gordon Yellowman said it’s important to get the photographs digitized and to share with the community, in hopes of identifying possible relatives in the photographs.

Dating back to the late 1800s, there was a lot of missionary work through Arapahos around the Canton, Watonga and then Colony, Okla., communities. That is how Mamie (Mary Ellen) Pearce King (1871-1916) comes into the story.

Yellowman said it was believed at the time the moccasins were part of the mission work that started at Mohonk Lodge. Mohonk Lodge was originally located in Colony, Okla., but was moved from Colony to Clinton, Okla., where the named changed to Mohawk Lodge.

Some of the Arapaho children at the time had fallen ill and were taken to the missionary and were given white man’s medicine, in which they were cured. Yellowman said after they got well and as payment, the children gave the missionaries the moccasins as gifts.

“Here’s for your service, I don’t have no money but here’s for your service, so that was kind of the uniqueness of that, our people, they utilized their culture items to trade, but also to gift and

make payments for services provided by missionaries and so that’s part of that story and she gave us also an Arapaho dictionary,” Yellowman said.

It is believed the beaded items may have been purchased at the Mohonk Lodge between 1898 and around 1920 or were gifts to the children of Rev. Frank Lincoln King (1867-1944) and Mamie, who were Baptist missionaries to the Cheyenne, Arapaho and Kiowa Tribes from 1898-1941 in Watonga, Geary, or Rainy Mountain region. The cultural items were passed down from family member to family member until eventually coming into the hands of Wendy Thompson, who is the great-granddaughter of Mamie (Mary Ellen) Pearce and Rev. Frank Lincoln King.

“We’re going to scan a lot of this and share it with everybody that we feel is connected and I think it’s real important, these types of personal collections come back to our tribes, a lot of this information’s important for history, for genealogy, for knowing your family, most of all language, the linguistic way of writing how they wrote as missionaries to learn how to speak Arapaho,” Yellowman said.

In the Arapaho ledger book were the spelling of words in Arapaho and written linguistics styles and then phonetics style in English, along with the meaning of what the word was. Yellowman said this was important work to be shared with the language program.

“This is important because this is southern Arapaho language, she wrote a lot of the names in there, Arapaho names, it was her ledger, keeping track, what we want to do is scan this, so we can keep Arapaho names of each family member that they worked with during the missionary time and then utilize that with Arapaho language program,” Yellowman said.

Feeling a spiritual calling to return the cultural items back to their tribal lands, Wendy Thompson, residing in the Pacific Northwest in Oregon, said her grandmother and great aunt had the items from their childhood.

“My mother inherited all the materials, including the moccasins, and the jewelry, and everything and they were sitting in her cedar chest for years and years until my dad passed away two years ago, we were cleaning out the house and came across these items, as well as all of my grandmother’s genealogy material. And I just said these need to go back,” Thompson said.

Through the collection of photographs that Thompson came across is a picture of Amanda RomanNose, with the name written on the back of the photo.

“And so, I knew the name RomanNose, but that’s about all I’ve known and I was doing as much investigation as I could and much research and not finding out a lot,” Thompson said.

A serendipitous moment for Thompson occurred when she came across Renee RomanNose in an Oregon Humanities magazine, not knowing if there was a possible connection or relation in the names. So Thompson googled Renee and she just so happened to work in the same organization as Thompson’s brother. Thompson asked her brother if he knew her and he said yes, introducing the two.

“He introduced us, and then she said, ‘I would love to return these items to the tribes.’ So that’s pretty much how the story happened,” Thompson said.

Keeping the items safe until she could figure out what to do with them, Thompson knew she wanted to return them to the tribes, but wasn’t sure how to do so. Making contact with Renee and being introduced to her was spirit calling, Thompson said.

Knowing the items have made their way back to the tribes, Thompson said it has brought her relief and actual tears to her eyes.

“I feel a very strong connection, a feeling of relief, that those items are back home and that other families might be able to begin to find some more connection with their ancestors,” Thompson said.

Renee RomanNose, Native American student suc-

cess coordinator with the office of Indian Education at Oregon State University and Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen helped assist in the return of the artifacts to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

While frequently in meetings with other state partners as well as internal partners, during one of her meetings she was approached and reached out to by one of the family members of Thompson.

They felt that they should be returned to a tribal citizen and they should return them to the tribes and RomanNose felt honored to do so.

“I met with this gentleman’s sister, Wendy Thompson and she was delightful and just so open and warm and generous, she said the same thing, our mother is elderly, she doesn’t want to take deep responsibility for these items. We think that they should be returned to a tribal citizen, I reiterated they needed to go back to the tribe itself, not to an individual, because well, that’s what’s appropriate,” RomanNose said.

RomanNose was trained as a postural anthropologist with her education as she has a master’s degree in interdisciplinary studies. Her main focus was anthropology, language and cultural preservation.

Meeting the family and helping assist with the repatriation of the cultural items back to the tribes as a tribal citizen, RomanNose felt humbled to be entrusted with the artifacts, the stories and the language.

“These people, their great grandparents were missionaries ... I am going to say that I’m delighted that their grandparents had the foresight to take notes, to take photos, to write down people’s names, because a lot of times people historically took pictures of us and they credited the photographer instead of sharing, who are the people that you’re photographing? Where is it? What is the purpose? What is the intent? What was the moment?” RomanNose said.

Being able to see through the items, the ancestors, family members, RomanNose



Renée Roman Nose shares cultural items with Gordon Yellowman. She was entrusted to return the items from Wendy Thompson's family. (Submitted photos)



A photo of Amanda RomanNose, taken in 1900 at the mission near Geary, Okla.

said it’s exciting to bring them home.

“What an honor it is.”

Seeing the picture of Amanda RomanNose in the collection of photographs, Renee felt moved as she is related to Amanda.

“I picture Amanda somewhere and she’s like, ‘yeah,

See CULTURAL TREASURES pg. 4

Financial Literacy 101 Courses offered free of charge

Cheyenne and Arapaho Community Development Corporation (CACDC) invites you to attend Financial Literacy 101. Courses brought to you by CACDC and taught by Tinker Federal Credit Union (TFCU). Two dates and locations are available but spots are limited. Two-day course will be offered in Oklahoma City at the Tribal Services Center on August 11th and 12th, 2026 and in Concho at the Social Services Building on August 24th and 25th, 2026. Registration and Continental Breakfast provided at 8:30 a.m.. Classes start at 9 a.m. and run until 2 p.m. Lunch will be provided at 11 a.m. Topics covered: DAY ONE Goals, Growth, and Confidence	Financial Wellness Checkup Psychology of Money Focus on Finance DAY TWO Debt Management Made Simple Credit Scores and Reports From Crisis to Confidence: Taking Control of Your Money Again Small Business Startup Essentials Content will be same for both OKC and Concho classes; registration and attendance for one location is all that is necessary. Door prizes will be drawn each day! Please see fliers, with Oklahoma City location in blue and Concho location in brown. Use the URL or QR code to register. Class is limited to 30 per site, register before the spots fill up!
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08:30 AM – 2:00 PM

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 **Concho Social Services**
120 E Black Kettle Blvd. Concho, OK 73022
August 24th & 25th 2026
08:30 AM – 2:00 PM

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or use QR Code above

Cheyenne and Arapaho legislator addresses United Nations on Indigenous Rights

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

(GENEVA, Switzerland) Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Arapaho District 3 Legislator Travis Ruiz presented on the international stage July 16, becoming the first elected official from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to address the United Nations during the 18th Session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EM-RIP).

The session, held July 14–18 in Geneva, Switzerland, brought together Indigenous leaders, government representatives and delegates from around the world to discuss issues affecting Indigenous Peoples. Ruiz attended the session after applying as an elected tribal official and completing the United Nations accreditation process. His request to speak during Agenda Item 9, *Enhancing the Participation of Indigenous Peoples in the United Nations*, was accepted by the Secretariat.

Opening his remarks in his Indigenous language, Ruiz addressed the chair, and delegates before emphasizing that Indigenous participation within the United Nations must extend beyond symbolic representation.

“Enhancing the participation of Indigenous peoples in United Nations dialogue is more than having a seat at the table,”Ruiz said. “It means Indigenous Peoples are empowered to speak where human rights are the topic of discussion. Every effort to represent strength-



Arapaho District 3 Legislator Travis Ruiz represents the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes alongside fellow Canadian Indigenous delegate Kim Wakeford, associate director for Centre for Indigenous Policy and Research, and her staff following their address before the United Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. (Submitted photos)

ens our right to self-determination and ensures that future generations inherit not only our words, but our way of life.”

Ruiz also highlighted the importance of preserving Indigenous languages, noting they carry the history, laws and identity of sovereign tribal nations. He encouraged member states and the United Nations to continue supporting Indigenous-led language revitalization efforts during the International Decade of Indigenous Languages.

During his address, Ruiz called attention to the ongoing Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) crisis by honoring the memories of Regina Marie Curtis, Leah Mahseet, Ida Beard and Chaz Bear Shield.

“Their stories reinforce why Indigenous voices must be present where decisions are made,” Ruiz said, urging continued support for Indigenous-led initiatives addressing the crisis.

See UNITED NATIONS pg. 7

Cheyenne and Arapaho TOR Program leads the way in recovery through Talking Circles

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

For generations, Native communities have understood that healing does not happen alone. It happens in circles, where every voice matters, every story is respected and every person is welcomed without judgment. Today, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Office of Recovery (TOR) Program is building on those traditional values to create a comprehensive and community-driven recovery efforts in Cheyenne and Arapaho Country.

At a time when opioid addiction, alcohol abuse, and substance use continue to impact families across Oklahoma and the nation, the TOR Program has responded with an aggressive, compassionate approach centered on culture, connection and accountability. Rather than waiting for people to seek help, the program brings recovery directly into communities through weekly Talking Circles and specialized support groups that provide safe spaces for healing.

The weekly schedule reflects the program’s commitment to making recovery accessible across western

Oklahoma.

Every Monday, Talking Circles are held at noon in Clinton and again at 7 p.m. in El Reno, allowing participants multiple opportunities to connect with peers and recovery leaders. Tuesday evenings feature a Women’s Group in El Reno, offering women a supportive environment to discuss the unique challenges they face in recovery. Wednesday’s Talking Circle meets in Oklahoma City at noon, expanding services to urban Native community members, while Thursday evening returns to El Reno for another Talking Circle. The week concludes Friday evening with a Men’s Meeting in El Reno, providing a space where men can openly discuss recovery, family and personal growth.

These meetings are much more than support groups. They are places where participants find encouragement, accountability, and hope. Every circle represents an opportunity to break isolation, celebrate sobriety milestones, process setbacks without shame, and strengthen the bonds that make lasting recovery possible.

The TOR Program recognizes that addiction affects not only individuals but entire families and communities. Recovery, therefore, must also involve rebuilding relationships, restoring trust and reconnecting people with their culture and identity. Traditional values of respect, listening and shared responsibility are woven into every Talking Circle, creating an environment where participants know they are not facing recovery alone.

Program leaders believe that true healing happens when people feel heard and supported. Whether someone is taking their first steps toward sobriety or has maintained recovery for years, each meeting welcomes participants with dignity and understanding. The consistency of weekly gatherings helps establish healthy routines while creating a network of peers who continue encouraging one another outside the meetings.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have demonstrated that recovery is strongest when it combines evidence-based approaches with Indigenous traditions.

Through its expanding network of Talking Circles, women’s groups, and men’s meetings, the TOR Program continues to set a high standard for community-based recovery efforts, proving that lasting change begins by bringing people together.

Weekly Recovery Meetings

- Mondays**
Talking Circle – 12 p.m.
1999 Dogpatch Road, Clinton, Okla.
Talking Circle – 7 p.m.
1950 S. Shepard, El Reno, Okla.
- Tuesdays**
Women’s Group – 7 p.m.
1950 S. Shepard, El Reno, Okla.
- Wednesdays**
Talking Circle – 12 p.m.
4400 SW 21st Street, Oklahoma City
- Thursdays**
Talking Circle – 7 p.m.
1950 S. Shepard, El Reno, Okla.
- Fridays**
Men’s Meeting – 7 p.m.
1950 S. Shepard, El Reno, Okla.

For more information, contact the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ TOR Program at 405-295-1769.

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MONDAYS	TALKING CIRCLE 1950 S SHEPARD EL RENO, OK 73036 7:00PM
TUESDAYS	WOMEN'S GROUP 1950 S SHEPARD EL RENO, OK 73036 7:00PM
WEDNESDAYS	TALKING CIRCLE 4400 SW 21 st ST OKC, OK 73108 12:00pm
THURSDAYS	TALKING CIRCLE 1950 S SHEPARD EL RENO, OK 73036 7:00PM
FRIDAYS	MEN'S MEETING 1950 S SHEPARD EL RENO, OK 73036 7:00PM

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Interior launches electronic probate system to modernize Trust Estate Services for American Indian and Alaska Native families

WASHINGTON — The Dept. of the Interior announced the launch of the Electronic Probate System, a secure digital platform that modernizes how probate cases are managed for American Indian and Alaska Native families across Indian Country.

For the first time, beneficiaries can engage directly with the federal government on a probate case through a secure, two-way digital platform. It replaces paper-based processing with a secure, end-to-end electronic workflow designed to improve efficiency, transparency, customer service, and government-to-government collaboration while reducing delays in the probate process.

“The Trump administration is committed to delivering a government that works for everyone, especially for families navigating the difficult loss of a loved one,” Secretary of the Interior Doug Burgum said. “The Electronic Probate System is a historic modernization of trust services that will end unacceptable delays and bring real transparency to Indian Country.”

The new system modernizes the federal probate process by providing a secure online experience for families and Bureau of Indian Affairs probate staff. Through a public-facing Family Portal, individuals can report a death, upload supporting documents, provide family history information, and track the status of their probate case. A companion Specialist Portal guides Bureau of Indian Affairs probate staff through each stage of case review, document validation, file preparation, and submission to the Office of Hearings and Appeals.

The Electronic Probate System also standardizes probate through clearly defined case stages and applies assisted tools that extract, organize, and validate information submitted

through the portals. These capabilities reduce administrative burden while preserving full human oversight and decision-making authority. With fewer manual tasks, probate specialists can devote more time to assisting families, answering questions, and providing support during one of life’s most difficult moments.

“Every family deserves a probate process that is efficient, transparent, and worthy of the trust placed in the federal government,” Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Billy Kirkland said. “The Electronic Probate System modernizes a critical service by reducing unnecessary paperwork, improving accountability, and helping us process cases more quickly while maintaining the careful human review that these important decisions require. This investment reflects our commitment to better serving American Indian and Alaska Native families.”

During a time of grief, families should not have to wonder where a case stands or who to contact. The Electronic Probate System enables secure, real-time engagement, reduces uncertainty, and gives beneficiaries clear visibility into the status of a loved one’s estate. The result is a more compassionate, transparent, and accessible experience.

The launch of this system supports Interior’s broader effort to modernize trust services and strengthen the delivery of essential programs to tribal communities. By digitizing probate workflows, Interior expects to reduce processing delays, improve data quality, and address longstanding case backlogs.

Additional enhancements to the eNative-Trust platform will be introduced in future phases as the Department continues to modernize trust management services.

CULTURAL TREASURERS

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that’s my picture, it went home. Now my people can see how beautiful and strong, and just how real’ she is in that photo. I’m reminded of the strength and beauty and resilience of not just our people, but our women, our women carry the future of the world within us,” RomanNose said.

I think that our ancestors want to come home, RomanNose said as she believes there needs to be an avenue for the work to be done to bring more artifacts home.

“And if they’re coming home as photographs, coming home as stories and songs and language, we need to prepare for that, we need to build a facility that will encompass that and encompass the stories that we have right now, for the faces yet to come, we need to show them where they come from and that way, they’ll be able to find their path forward,” RomanNose said.

The items that have been returned to the tribes will be properly stored, Yellowman said and will be preserved the proper way as they have a museum board member that does curator work by profession that can help assist.

“We want to photograph them, so they can become part of the digital exhibition on the website where people can look at them on the website, rather than having a virtual exhibition, we want to photograph these and then eventually put them on display for a month, maybe put them at the casino in a glass case



that people can see these collections coming back, those are potential opportunities,” Yellowman said.

Remembering a saying his father once said to him, Yellowman’s father commented that all the lost items would eventually return back to the tribes. Yellowman never really understood what he meant by that saying.

“This is a good example what he meant, all these things that were lost, will come back home to us and this is the reality of it, it’s coming back home.”

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2026 CADC Community Needs Survey

Community Action Development Corporation, is a non-profit organization proudly serving Canadian County with programs such as Transit and Food delivery for recipients of the Advantage Waiver Program through DHS. We are new to Canadian County and we’re asking for your help by completing our Community Needs Assessment Survey. In order for us to obtain proper resources, we need to get a fair representation from the county to let us know where we can best assist with the current needs. We know it’s a little lengthy, but every question helps us better understand the real needs in the community so we can continue bringing important services, resources, and funding to the people who need them most. Your feedback truly makes a difference, and your voice helps shape the future of our community. Thank you for taking the time to help us serve you better!

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UNITY

continued from pg. 1

year, we’re able to bring a lot of kids since we’re here in Oklahoma City and we’re able to host multiple activities for the conference. The kids have been looking forward to it and been excited about it all year,” Longknife said.

Longknife said the last time the conference was held in Oklahoma they weren’t as involved on the planning side but they still brought a large group.

“Our youth council is still one of the biggest youth council groups from the whole organization. So, ours is still one of the largest and most active, I believe,” Longknife said.

This year, Longknife said the youth council were able to showcase their culture by hosting a powwow. Longknife was also actively involved as one of the planners on the planning committee as co-chair.

“We wanted to do a powwow here and provide a gourd dance for our kids because a lot of our kids are dancers and we’ve got a few princesses in our group, they like to powwow and they just really want to share what we do here. Since we have such a large group, we don’t always get to do everything that we want to do in the culture exchange nights, I told the kids the powwow, that’s our culture night, that’s us presenting to everyone and sharing,” Longknife said.

Wanting to get the youth involved as head staff as well as tribal citizens to help run it, the powwow was deemed successful with many participants and dancers joining their powwow circle, sharing the Cheyenne and Arapaho culture.

“A lot of our kids danced and we also hosted the basketball and the volleyball tournaments,” Longknife said.

Volleyball was a new addition this year to UNITY and was popular among the youth, in addition to basketball to include more people as another optional activity.

Youth council members also sponsored workshops, including hand games, where youth were excited to learn and play.

For cultural night day two, Longknife said the youth council signed up for two spots where they would present the buffalo dance and snake dance, as well as an exhibition dance, saying the youth were eager to showcase their dancing skills.

Celebrating its 50th year in Oklahoma City, bringing UNITY back to its founding city, Executive Director of UNITY, Mary Kim Titla said this year’s conference was special as it was a great milestone for enjoying the reunion of many UNITY alumni.

“UNITY’s mission and purpose is reaching to far ends of the world, which is amazing. We’re excited to be back in Oklahoma City for this milestone because this is where UNITY was founded. The founder, J.R. Cook, who is Cherokee, founded UNITY here in this great state, so it was meant for us to be back during this celebration,” Titla said.

Having enjoyed hosting the many youths at UNITY, Titla said youth have been excited to participate, share their culture, hear the keynote speakers, conduct workshops, and a lot of youth have been heavily involved in that by design.

“Our youth are asked to take charge and own this conference, and they have done just that, and they’ve done a great job,” Titla said.

As Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal youth attended various workshops and participated in activities throughout the conference, many learned the values of culture and leadership roles and what it truly means to be in unity with other tribal nations and tribal youth.

In her third year attending UNITY, Nina Keeto, 14, has been participating in youth council because it’s been encouraging to her seeing the opportunities she gets to

have while attending UNITY.

Keeto said she felt lucky to have the opportunity to attend UNITY in her own state.

“It feels great to be in our own town, we’re just right here and we can just tell them how we do things around here, it’s really good to do it in our own town and we can tell other people how we do things, how fascinated they are about it and they do it with us, like for example the potato dance, the snake dance, and we all do it,” Keeto said.

Selena Hoffman, 16, returned for her second year at UNITY and said the experience has been inspiring as she’s learned about other tribes, such as the Taiwan tribe and how to reach out to others and speak up for herself.

“I think people who are thinking about going with the Youth Council should, because they get to meet new people, learn new things and it’s fun,” Selena said.

Wanting to meet new people and get out of her comfort zone, Michelle Hoffman, 14, was ready to participate at the conference, as she had previously attended the UNITY conference in Oregon. Believing in the impact UNITY has had on her, Michelle carries that belief forward into her community.

“It’s a really good impact, it helped me make a better community where I’m from and meet new people ... it helps with better mental health and helps youth help out to make a better community,” Michelle said.

Participating in her second year at UNITY, Cayli Pedro, 14, wanted to learn about new cultures and make new friends.

“It’s pretty fun. I made a lot of new friends, I met people from Sacramento, California, Washington and Idaho,” Pedro said.

Attending UNITY was important for Pedro, as she said it’s been impactful for her to learn about new cul-



As part of the planning committee and co-chair Jerilyn Longknife, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Youth Council coordinator and advisor was honored during the 50th annual National UNITY conference, as well as Nancy Mason, co-chair local planning committee. Pictured l-r: Mary Kim Titla, executive director of UNITY, Nancy Mason and Jerilyn Longknife. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

tures.

“So, you can meet new people, learn their cultures and go to workshops,” Pedro said.

Many in attendance agreed that gala night and culture night was their favorite part of UNITY, Maelee Whiteman Morton, 15, said learning the culture and seeing the different dances was what she enjoyed the most.

“I learned about other people’s cultures and how it’s different ... the cultural night, we got to see people’s different dances and everything,” Whiteman Morton said.

Opening her mind up to how many more tribes there are across the nations, Dezarae Sevenstar, 18, attended UNITY for the experience as she previously attended UNITY in Oregon and California and enjoyed the experience and meeting new people.

“I think this year’s conference, there’s definitely a different vibe to it and I think it’s very exciting to be here,” Sevenstar said.

For Sevenstar, attending conferences such as UNITY

and connecting with other native youth is important because it helps her connect with other tribes.

“I think it’s good to come to these kinds of conferences because it helps you feel like you’re a part of a community, especially if you’re having really bad mental health. It’s a great place to come and hear other cultures and see other people,” Sevenstar said.

In her third year attending UNITY, Erica Beard, 16, has liked meeting new people and making long time friendship through the UNITY trips and learning more about her culture as she’s also learned how to make her own regalia.

“I’m still working on my regalia, but you learn so many things just from coming to Unity,” Beard said.

As the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and youth council co-hosted the powwow at UNITY, Beard said it was good to see everyone come together for the event as she also danced in her regalia for the powwow.

“It was really fun. I dressed up in my regalia

and we were dancing. We co-hosted it, so it was good to see everyone unite because of us and it made me feel good because we’re one of the reasons why the powwow was hosted and that a lot of people came together and it just makes me feel more involved in my culture when I’m around other native people, like we’re all the same,” Beard said.

Ever since Beard started attending UNITY and being more involved in youth council, she said she feels more connected with her ancestors and with her culture and that’s what the impact of UNITY has had on her.

“I’m connected to my ancestors, it doesn’t matter how many native relatives you have, because some people don’t have elders that they can look up to and learn from them, but once you have connections in your community, you just ask people in your community if they could help you or try to teach you something, and they’ll teach you and you have a lot of people to look up to and help you with stuff,” Beard said.

See UNITY pg. 7



Photography Credits:
Adriel Clements
Latoya Lonelodge
Graphic Design:
Rosemary Stephens

MEDICAID CUTS

continued from pg. 1

trigger a chain reaction that makes recruiting and retaining doctors even more difficult.

“Part of the reason why these areas have no physician, no hospital, is that it starts with cuts to Medicaid such that small hospitals and rural hospitals are not able to keep their doors open,” he said. “They lay off staff, services get scaled back and then physicians have nowhere to admit their patients.”

Without access to primary and preventive care, patients often delay treatment until medical conditions become emergencies, placing greater strain on hospital emergency departments while increas-

ing overall health care costs.

“Patients should have access to us and to hospitals, and that is not happening,” Nanda said. “It’s getting worse, not better. Emergency room care is much more expensive than preventive care.”

Nanda said Medicaid funding should be viewed as a long-term investment in Oklahoma’s future rather than simply a government expense. Early access to health care, particularly for children, can improve educational outcomes, workforce participation and long-term economic stability.

“If I can help a child see, that can pay dividends for many, many years in terms

of that child being an adult, working, being able to hold down a job and contribute to the tax base for 40 or 50 years,” he said.

Health care access also plays an important role in economic development, Nanda added. Communities without reliable hospitals, physicians and medical services often struggle to attract families, businesses and workers.

“Rural Oklahoma needs good health care,” he said. “It needs education and health care. Otherwise, it’s very hard to attract people to come live there.”

The Oklahoma State Medical Association is urging federal lawmakers to

protect Medicaid funding and preserve health coverage for children, people with disabilities and low-income families.

“Medicaid should not be considered an expendable program,” Nanda said. “It’s not expendable. Our patients are not expendable. Our people are not expendable. So we need to invest in our people.”

Association leaders say the effects of Medicaid reductions extend beyond health care, warning they could influence education, workforce development and the long-term viability of rural Oklahoma communities.

“Let’s not give up on our children,” Nanda said.

UNITY

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Making new friends after winning the first annual volleyball championship and performing in the talent show as Justin Bieber on stage at UNITY, Mya Levi, 18, has been actively involved throughout the conference.

What made Levi want to participate in this year’s conference, Levi said was seeing how engaged all the tribes are from all over in the state and Indian country.

“Seeing new people and being able to connect and always being able to participate in so many crazy and fun activities that make me learn about so much more about my community,” Levi said.

Being on stage for the talent show, getting the native youth up to beat and performing as Justin Bieber, Levi said was an incredible experience for her and was an idea that came out of nowhere to her in the middle of summer.

She had some extra money, bought a wig off Amazon and put in her form saying she was going to perform, where she sang and danced, getting everyone on their feet with the popular song Beauty and a Beat.

“I was able to uplift so many people and get up on their feet, we were all just jumping and dancing, singing Justin Bieber,” Levi said.

And in that moment at UNITY, Levi said she felt happy as it impacted her in a social way, being able to come out of her shell.

“It made me so happy. I didn’t think I would connect with so many people with just one song and it was so exciting, and I get to meet more people, which I love to do and be more social with these guys. It’s just amazing,” Levi said.

As male co-president on the youth council, Bryce Black, 18 has been active every other year at UNITY and it’s become traditional for him to be at UNITY as he loves representing his people.

“It’s been 50 years of Unity, obviously it’s a big milestone for everybody and I wish I did a little bit more this year, because I wanted to go up on stage again, go MC, welcome everybody, and do all that but it’s been fun so far,” Black said.

Last year, Black got to MC at UNITY, which he said gave him a lot more confidence in speaking as there were over 2,500 at UNITY in 2025.

Participating throughout the years at UNITY, Black

said he’s noticed growth as UNITY has given him a lot of skills he never thought he would gain, mainly in public speaking.

“I’ve noticed a lot of growth to myself just throughout every year. I was a little quiet kid, then over the years I was just growing, growing being a lot more confident in myself, speaking a little bit more then the past three years is where I noticed the most growth, just where I was speaking a lot more. I was emceeing and speaking in front of all these groups and hosting some of my own workshops and such,” Black said.

Encouraging other youth to join the youth council and to participate in UNITY, Black said native youth will have the opportunity to build connections that will last a lifetime.

“You’ll meet new people that’ll change your life, give you good advice and you’ll hear things, you’ll learn new stuff, learn about all these good things that’ll have a lasting effect on you for your rest of your life ... just give it a chance. You’ll never know that you’ll end up falling in love with it,” Black said.

Exceeding their goals with growth and participation at UNITY, Titla was pleased with the turnout as they hear every year how UNITY has changed lives, impacting the youth in one way or another.

“We know that Unity reaches native youth, where they’re at, meaning that sometimes, native youth are looking for a safe space that they can call their own and UNITY provides that, it is also great at just helping to network with each other. So a lot of youth have responded to our evaluation saying that they’ve enjoyed the workshops, they’ve enjoyed just meeting new people,” Titla said.

With over 100 youth that participate in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Youth Council on and off throughout the year, Longknife hopes UNITY will inspire youth council members to see what opportunities are out there.

“To travel the world and explore all these different opportunities that are available to them and meet different people, hopefully find their space and what they’re good at and what they want to learn, make connections, networking, to help them along the way to becoming our future leaders,” Longknife said.

UNITED NATIONS

continued from pg. 3

Ruiz concluded his remarks by reminding delegates that meaningful participation strengthens not only Indigenous communities but the international community as a whole.

“History is not made when one person is recognized. History is made when a Nation’s voice is heard where it has not been heard before,” he said. “On behalf of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, thank you for recognizing that our voices, our languages and our sovereignty matter.”

Following the session, Ruiz reflected on the significance of representing the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes before an international audience.

“It was an honor to represent the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and to bring our perspectives to an international forum alongside Indigenous leaders from around the world,” Ruiz said.

Ruiz also expressed gratitude to the Creator, his family, mentors, elders, friends and community members who supported him throughout his journey in tribal leadership, from

serving as a youth council representative to legislator, speaker of the legislature and now as a representative of the tribes before the United Nations.

He shared that his experience reinforced the Cheyenne teaching, Bii’xoo3e’ti Noh Heeteenebeeti’, love and respect, which reminds people to treat one another with dignity, compassion and understanding.

Ruiz said the opportunity represented more than a personal milestone. He described it as an investment in Indigenous leadership, youth, cultural preservation, language revitalization and tribal sovereignty while strengthening relationships with Indigenous Peoples across the world.

“As I return home,” Ruiz said, “I do so knowing I carried the voice of our people with me every step of the way.”

The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples serves as the United Nations Human Rights Council’s expert body dedicated to advancing and promoting the rights of Indigenous Peoples worldwide.



A3 Legislator Travis Ruiz meeting with Indigenous representatives and delegates during the 18th Session of the United Nations Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP) in Geneva, Switzerland.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER BLOOD DRIVE

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes CHR Program

Tuesday, August 18
9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.
Bloodmobile at the DOH Building - 1950 S. Shepard

For more information, contact Monica Perry at 405-295-1749.

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER
Blood donors are a breed apart

BLOODHOUNDS
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FACILITATOR KENNY WILLIAMS

LEGAL NOTICES

PG-2026-0019

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
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In the Matter of:)
CHERYL CANDY)
Petitioner,) Case No. CIV-2021-0118
VS.)
TIMOTHY RAYA)
Respondent,)

**NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: TIMOTHY RAYA
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 13th day of AUGUST 2026, at 10:00A.M. in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - o Zoom link:
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 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 13th day of July, 2026.

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

PG-2026-0021

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
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In the Matter of:)
TIMOTHY WHITECROW)
Petitioner,) Case No. CIV-2025-0051
VS.)
CHEYENNE LAMB)
Respondent,)

**NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: CHEYENNE LAMB
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 12th day of AUGUST 2026, at 10:00A.M. in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 13th day of July, 2026.

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

CIV-2026-0041

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
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DEPUTY

In the Matter of:)
SHALAYNA KAAANE)
Petitioner,) Case No. CIV-2026-0051
VS.)
DEXTER HALL)
Respondent,)

**CIVIL SUMMONS BY
PUBLICATION**

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES TO: DEXTER HALL
Address Unknown

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

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

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

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

Dated this 14th day of July, 2026.

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

CIV-2026-0039

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE-ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
STATE OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
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IN THE ADOPTION OF:)
L.J.E. D.O.B. 12/27/11)
Minor Child) CASE NO: JFA 2026-001
Stephanie Hamilton)
& Rollin E. Hamilton)
Petitioners.)

NOTICE OF FINAL HEARING

TO: All persons interested in the Adoption of L.J.E., DOB 12/27/11

You are hereby notified that on the 15th day of April 2026 the Petitioners, Stephanie Hamilton & Rollin E. Hamilton, filed in the District Court of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma a verified Petition for Adoption in the matter of L.J.E. DOB 12/27/11. This matter is set for hearing on the Petition on the 18th day of August, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at the Judicial Center located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, in Concho, OK.

You are hereby advised that you must file objections to the Petition at least ten (10) days before the hearing and send a copy to the Petitioner's attorney, Brenda S. Golden, PO Box 56, Edmond, Oklahoma 73083-0056, or you will be deemed to have waived any objections. If you have no objections, you need not appear at the hearing or make any filings with the Court.

Witness my hand and seal this 1st day of July, 2026.

Lafreda Whitecrow, Chief Court Clerk
By: *Tawny Melendez*
Deputy Court Clerk

CIV-2026-0041

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
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In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
N.W.) Case No. PG-2013-0094
D.W.)
Minor Children,)

**NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANDREA BEAVER
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 26th day of AUGUST 2026, at 10:00A.M. in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 21st day of July, 2026.

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

CIV-2026-0039

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022
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In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
H.A.C.A.) Case No. PG-2026-0024
Minor Child,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ADRIAN CAMPUZANO-ZAPATERO
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

TAKE NOTICE that Susie White, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child, H.A.C.A., 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 12th day of AUGUST, 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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 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 10th day of July, 2026.

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

EMPLOYMENT

**Caseworker
Social Services**

Closing Date: Until Filled

QUALIFICATIONS:
High school graduate or GED certification required, prefer associate degree. Requires two years experience in related field. Maintain high level of confidentiality. OSBI and criminal background checks required, must possess a current Oklahoma driver's license to operate government owned vehicle. Prefer knowledge of Cheyenne and Arapaho/American Indian cultures and values.

SALARY: Negotiable

**Admin. Clerk
Enrollment**

Closing Date: Until Filled

QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma or GED. Requires at a minimum one year of experience in general office procedures, filing, typing, data entry, answering phone and working with the public. Highly proficient time and stress management skills. Knowledge of tribal programs, policies, regulations and general office ethics. Ability to relate and work with the Indian and non-Indian communities.

SALARY: Negotiable

**Office Aide-AP
Treasury**

Closing Date: Until Filled

QUALIFICATIONS:
High school diploma or GED certified. Valid Oklahoma driver's license and reliable transportation. One year minimum experience performing a variety of complex clerical duties. Proficient in Microsoft Excel and Word. Cheyenne-Arapaho preference.

SALARY: Negotiable

Submit Tribal Application, Resume, Transcripts, Diploma, Certifications, License and CDIB (if applicable) to: Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Personnel Dept. P.O. Box 167, Concho, Okla. 73022 or email to atisdale@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov. Local Office: 405-422-7498 / FAX: 405-422-8222 / Toll Free: 800-247-4612, ext. 27498. To view a full listing of job vacancies visit www.cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/careers.

Calendar of Events

Housing Authority Oklahoma Community Meeting

3-6 p.m.. Thursday Aug. 6, 2026 at the Tribal Service Center, 4400 SW 21st Street in Oklahoma City. Food and door prizes will be provided. For more information call 580-331-2400.

Birthday Dancy for Sierra Shadaram

Saturday, Aug. 8, 2026 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Gourd dance at 3 p.m. and supper break at 5 p.m. Vendors welcomed with one donated raffle item.

Head Staff: MC Alan Fletcher, HS Jordan Roque, HMD Mondo Wetselline, HLD Phyllis White Thunder, HTB Bryce Longknife, HTG Adele Greely, Honored Veteran Shayla Goombi, Honored Chief Richard Curtis, Honored Elder Wanda Whiteman, Co-Host StarHawk Society and ADs Billy Youngbird and Mikey Goodmedicine.

For more information call Kendricks Sleeper at 405-464-2657.

Native Country Creative Arts Paint Party

1-5 p.m. Aug. 9, 2026 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center, 2015 Dog Patch Road in Clinton, Okla. For Native Youth ages 3-18 - all supplies provided. For more information call 580-445-1407 or email contacts@nativecountryca.com.

91st annual American Indian Exposition

Aug. 12-15, 2026 at the Caddo County Fairgrounds in Anadarko, Okla.

Third annual Overdose Memorial & Cirrhosis Awareness Dance-All Nations Rezcovey 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@rezcovery.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.

2026 Cheyenne and Arapaho Labor Day Powwow

Sept. 4-7, 2026 at the Colony Powwow grounds in Colony, Okla. Gourd dance daily at 2 p.m. Grand Entries Friday Sept. 4, 8 p.m., Sept. 5-7, 7 p.m.

Head Staff-Cheyenne: MC Max Bear, HS Joel Motah, HMD TBA, HLD Crystal WhiteShield, HGD Cato Red Hat. Head Staff-Arapaho: MC James Sleeper, HS OT Sankey and Phoenix Whiteshirt, HMD Brycen Whiteshirt, HLD Regina Youngbear, HGD Robert Tabor. Color Guard Buddy Bond. Memorial Flags: Friday, Deforest 'Mock'TallbeR, USMC, Saturday, Johnny Fletcher, USMC, Sunday, Rollin Haag Sr., US Navy, and Monday Lavona Mae Birdhead, US Army.

For more information contact Richard Deer at 405-889-6949, Wilma Blackbear at 580-791-1689 or Amick Birdhead at 580-210-3345.

All Nations Rezcovey 2nd annual Powwow

Sept. 19-20, 2026 at the Concho Powwow grounds in Concho, Okla. Gourd dance 1 p.m., supper break 5 p.m., Grand Entry 7 p.m. Saturday contests Tiny Tots, Juniors Teens. Sunday contests Golden Age Men & Women, Womens and Mens, dancers must make one Grand Entry.

MC Isaac Rhoads & Carmello Reveles, HS Bullet Watan, HM John Soap Jr., HL Georgia Harjo, Miss Indian OU, HMG Derek Toffpi, HLG Lydia West, ADs Brian Felder & Bobby Cometsavah, Co-Hotst Starhawk Society, Colord Guard MCN Womens Honor Guard and Honored Flags, Saturday Manuel Knifechief, U.S. Army and Sunday Arleigh Rhoads, U.S. Marine Corps.

**Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority**
OKC Community Meeting
Thursday August 6, 2026
3-6 PM
OKC Outreach Facility 4400 SW 21st St. OKC, OK 73108
Food and Door Prizes will be provided
For more information please call (580)331-2400.



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OBITUARIES

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Dancing Feathers Whitecrow

Dancing Feathers Whitecrow entered this earth Nov. 14, 1992. She was born in Oklahoma City to Tammy Whitecrow and grew up with influences from her grandmother Lafreda WhiteBuffalo, aunt Phillina Collateta as well as Tamyra and Steven Dickens and lots of family and friends who loved her dearly.

Feathers was a very sociable, courageous, confident woman. Most of all she was a protector to anyone she cared about. She was a loving mother, daughter, sister and aunt. She attended Horace Mann Elementary and after continued her education at Roosevelt Middle School in Oklahoma City, she then proceeded with her GED in her adult years. Throughout her younger years she became a member of the Boys

and Girls Club at Memorial Park and here is where she made many friends and participated in cheerleading. Feathers was fun and always had a contagious laugh, she could make any situation a funny time and had a smile that could light up a room. She loved listening to music, making friends and braiding hair. She was great at that. She took great pride in her Native American heritage and is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Feathers had seven amazing children who she loved very much and always shared that with anyone she met. There are no words that could share how much she was loved or how much she will be missed. Feathers left this realm on July 7, 2026. Though her time was cut short she made a huge impact

Euline Gayle Lee

Euline Gayle Lee was born Sept. 27, 1960, in Clinton, Okla., to Delbert and Estherline (Lee) Wills and passed away, July 20, 2026, at her home in Weatherford, at the age of 65. Euline was raised and attended school in Canton. In 1979 she married Larry Sharp and together they started their family, moving to Weatherford in 1983, during the oil boom. Euline loved being a homemaker and staying home to raise their children, Thomas, Nicole, Ross, Brandy, and Kelli. In her free time, she enjoyed camping, fishing, watching OU games with her family, spending time with her grandchildren, watching her soaps, and her favorite shows, Gunsmoke and Bonanza. She also greatly enjoyed having

her “me time” at the casino. Euline is survived by her children, Thomas Lee (Lori) of Weatherford, Nicole Sharp (Freddie) of Weatherford, Ross Sharp (Aron) of El Reno, Brandy Sharp (Robert) of Weatherford, sister Debbie Wills, of Konawa, Okla., and brother Jesse FlyingOut of Clinton, as well as 34 grandchildren, Raven, Rowdy, Angelina, Paegan, Riann, Havoc Xavier, Wahlking, Dareck, Ruben, Bentley, Ashyn, Halo, Talia, Ryleigh, Elrond Jr, Aric, Daric, Marissa, Talon, Kendrick, Marion, Summer, Devon, Braylynn, Larry Joe Jr, Jeremiah, Irye, Lariana, Legend, Callie, Tristan, Cameron, Addison and Kyler.

She was preceded in death by her parents, her husband Larry, daughter Kelli Lynn Sharp and grand-

Victoria Aissa Johnson

Victoria Aissa Johnson passed away July 13, 2026, at SSM St. Anthony-Midtown in Oklahoma City.

Victoria was born on May 27, 1981, in Gallup, New Mexico, and graduated from Rio Grande High School in Albuquerque. She was a medical assistant and enjoyed doing bead work.

She is survived by her husband of 44 years, Lynbert Johnson of the home in Midwest City, father Asa Haswood of Lupton, Ariz., three daughters, Marissa

Mae Johnson, Shanna Lynn Johnson and Tiana Jonelle Johnson all of Midwest City, brother Earnest M. Pino of Albuquerque, two sisters, Dawn Jonelle Eoyiddle of Oklahoma City and Nichelle Lynn Pino of Albuquerque.

Her mother, Carole Mae (Williams) Haswood and brother Rodney Wayne Pino preceded her in death.

Funeral services were held July 18 at the Huber Benson Funeral Chapel in El Reno, Okla., with Rev. Gerald Panana officiating,

Catherine Janelle Morlan

Catherine Janelle Morlan passed away July 17, 2026, in Yukon at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital. She was born in Clinton, Okla., on March 23, 1970, to Evan Dale and Elsie Louise (Wheeler) Morlan. She graduated from West Carrollton High School in Ohio. Catherine was an auditor and supervisor at Lucky Star Casino.

She is survived by two sons, Karson Acosta and Evan Acosta, both of El Reno, daughter Sonia Acosta, of Oklahoma City, brother Christopher Derenzo of

El Reno, sister Mary Vega of El Reno and seven grandchildren, Efren Christopher Acosta, Angel Manuel Acosta, Alejandro Jesus Barrlos, Dilan Acosta Primo, Anna Janet Acosta, Oscar Omar Acosta, and Azul Navarro.

Catherine was preceded in death by her parents; adopted mother, Catherine Derenzo, son, Junior Acosta; daughter, Janie Acosta, brothers, Darrell Morlan, Karl Morlan and Tony Derenzo.

An all-night wake service was held July 22 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral



and left memories that will live on forever. We know her spirit will carry on forever in those she met.

Wake services were held July 12 at the Seiling Emergency Response Center in Seiling, Okla. Funeral services were held July 13, at the same venue, followed by an interment t the Cantonment Cemetery under the direction of Redinger Funeral Home.



son Talon Amos Stone. An all-night wake service was held July 23 at the Weatherford Indian Baptist Church in Weatherford, Okla. Funeral services were held July 24 at the same venue, with Delfred ‘Bunny’ Whitecrow officiating, followed by an interment at the Canton City Cemetery under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home.



followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.



neral services were held July 23 with James Black officiating, followed by an interment at the Concho Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Anthony Swallow

Anthony Swallow, 79, passed away July 9, 2026, in Hennessey, Okla., at the Hennessey Nursing Home. He was born Aug. 15, 1946, in Clinton, Okla., to Gerge and Florence (Hollingcrane) Swallow of Kingfisher, Okla.

He graduated from Kingfisher High School in 1965. He attended Okmulgee 1966-1969. Then he worked for the BIA and Tribal Police 1979-1988. He attended Chisholm Trail vo-tech and received his LPN license 1989-1990. He worked at Lucky Star Casino in the Security department from 2003 up until his death.

He had married Eliouse Swallow 1967- 1977 then after their marriage ended, they became lifelong friends. He also had other wives over the years Irene Deer and other women but too many to name ... just kidding. He was loved by so many people over the years.

He loved to make rock sculptures, loved artwork, fishing, hunting, going to dances and powwows. He was in the Bowstring Clan for the Cheyenne Sundance. He loved to travel all over the state, especially the past few years going to Bear Butte, Devils Tower and Crazy Horse.

When he was younger, he loved to play softball with his father George Swallow. He enjoyed watching all his grandchildren and great-grandchildren over the years. He loved camping at the Cheyenne Sundances, Powwows, and Honobia for the Big Foot conference, and camping. He loved to go fishing at Elmer’s lake and Hugo Dam in Hugo, Okla. He loved watching his team Denver Broncos and Kingfisher Yellow Jackets football teams. He taught his girls and son how to fish when he lived by Baker’s lake in Kingfisher. He loved to work on vehicles and anything to do with his hands.

He is survived by his daughters, Rebecca and husband David Reyes of Kingfisher, Georgia and husband Billy Meade of Dover Okla., Tony Haag of Hennessey, Dorthy and husband Robert Island of Kingfisher, his stepdaughter Clarinda Fletcher of Geary, Okla. and stepson Steven Fletcher of Wyoming. He had 13 grandchildren, Deborah Swallow, Shantel Gabriel and Tristen Haus, Steven and Tory Beachcham, Mary Haag, Kayla and Steven Hoffman, Alexander and Jill Haag, Brendan and Jean Haag, Addie and Brandon Ramirez, Hubert Haag, Jabier Carrasco, Luis



Carrasco, Julia and Lorenzo Avila and Zachary Briggs. He had 15 great-grandchildren Stephanie Marsh, Aurora and Bella Sotelo, Conway Beachcham, Olivia Swallow, Kenzi Hamilton, Kyra Nichols, Xileni Ramirez, Vinnie and Lexy Haag, and Ulisez Avila, Joseph Cedar and Geantte Sage Fletcher, Kayleen Vicenti and Layla Posey.

He was preceded in death by his parents George and Florence Swallow, longtime friend Elouise Swallow and his grandson Cheyenne Swallow.

An all-night wake service was held July 13 at the Kingfisher Emergency Response Center in Kingfisher, Okla. Funeral services were held July 14, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Kingfisher City Cemetery under the direction of Sanders Funeral Home.

Minerva ‘Murry Whiteturtle’ Rodriguez

Minerva “Murry Whiteturtle” Rodriguez began her earthly journey on March 24, 1964, in Clinton, Okla., born to Tommy Welborne and Irene (Whiteturtle) Standingwater. She was a proud Cheyenne Woman. She was a devoted wife, mother, sister, aunt, grandmother, great-grandmother, cherished friend, and, above all, a proud “Mimi.” Her greatest joy came from the love she shared with her family, her people, and her community. Minerva believed that learning was a lifelong journey.

She earned her GED from Riverside Indian School before attending Sayre Junior College, where she studied Medical Technology. In 2000, she achieved her goal of becoming a Licensed Practical Nurse by graduating from Western Technology Center. Never one to stop growing, she returned to Western Technology Center and completed her studies in Business Technology in February 2024, showing her children and grandchildren that it is never too late to pursue your dreams. Her work reflected the caring heart the Creator blessed her with. She dedicated many years to serving others in the medical field at Clinton Indian Hospital, Physicians Laboratories, and many nursing homes.

She also served her people as CHR Program Director for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Along the way, she welcomed many with her warm smile while working the front desk at various hotels, and most recently as a receptionist at Lucky Star Casino. Minerva was a faithful member of the Indian Baptist Church in Elk City and Hammon. Her faith, along with the love of her family and community, guided her throughout her life. She believed the greatest blessings Creator gives us are the people we are entrusted to love and care for. She loved life and enjoyed sharing it with those around her. As a young woman, she was active in athletics and remained a devoted fan of the Oklahoma Sooners and the Oklahoma City Thunder. Minerva loved playing hand games and going to Pow Wows.

Whether cheering on her favorite teams, attending concerts, listening to music, or simply spending time with those she loved, Minerva found joy in every moment. Her laughter, kindness, and generous spirit will forever be remembered by all who knew her.

She was welcomed home by her beloved mother Irene Standingwater, her sister Teri Welbourne, her nephew Blake Welbourne, her grand-



mother Anosta Fletcher, her grandfather Claude Fletcher and her two precious angel grandchildren, Ashleigh Rodriguez and Chase Whiteman.

Left to cherish her memory are her loving husband Manuel Rodriguez of the home, her children, Luis Rodriguez, Manuel Allen Rodriguez, Erika Rodriguez, and Kristal Rodriguez, 15 beloved grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and countless nieces, nephews, relatives and friends who will carry her love, teachings, laughter and memory in their hearts for generations to come.

A traditional wake service was held July 21 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held July 22, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Clinton Indian Cemetery under the direction of Kiesau Lee Funeral Home.

Patsy Lee Smoker Sutton

Patsy Lee (Smoker) Sutton went to her heavenly home on July 8, 2026. She was born on Sept. 29, 1951. Patsy was a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and was extremely proud of her culture, history and heritage.

Patsy loved to socialize and talked on the phone with her friends and family regularly. She was a prayer warrior to all she met. She had the ability to light up a room with her kindness and laughter. Her compassion and support of others made a lasting impact on everyone who knew her. Patsy will al-

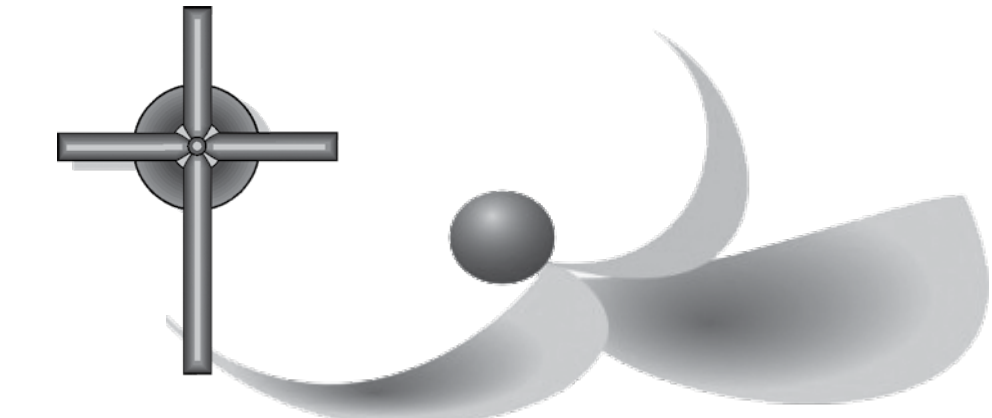
ways be remembered for her loving personality and the warmth she brought to the lives of the people she loved.

Patsy is survived by her daughter Chanell Q. Manuel (Durrell Moody) of Lawton, Okla., daughter Rachel L. Shotgunn of El Reno, Okla., sister Mary Kelly of New Castle, Okla., grandkids Marcus Adair, Sa’mya Adair, Da’leah Moody all of Lawton, John M. Powell, Miracle Powell, and Darez Powell all of Tulsa, Okla.

Patsy was preceded in death by her loving husband Ronald Sutton, her mother and father, sister and brother.



Graveside services were held July 17 at the Mt. Scott KCA Cemetery in Meers, Okla., under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.





YOU BE THE JUDGE!

WATONGA
July 4th
3PM

CLINTON
August 22nd
3PM

CONCHO
September 19th
3PM

Get in on the action with a

\$10 PEOPLE'S CHOICE TASTING PLATE

Sample all entries using locally sourced Cheyenne and Arapaho buffalo meat and cast your vote!





PROGRESSIVE PAYDAY



LUCKY STAR CASINO

CASH DRAWINGS SATURDAYS IN AUGUST!

WIN YOUR SHARE OF

\$162,500 IN CASH

One (1) name will be drawn every hour from 7pm to 11pm for

\$1,000 in CASH

at Lucky Star 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 Lucky Star Geary.

5x FRIDAY

EARN ENTRIES STARTING MONDAY, JULY 27TH!

Ten (10) Points Equals One Entry

Winner must be present to win and may only win once per Saturday. 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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