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CheyenneandArapaho-nsn.gov

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Two lives of service honored with memorial benches

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes dedicate permanent memorials to the late Lt. Gov. Gib Miles and Clara Bushyhead

Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

CONCHO, Okla. — Two lives dedicated to service, family and the Cheyenne and Arapaho people were remembered Sept. 9 as the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes dedicated permanent memorial benches honoring the late Lt. Gov. Gib Miles and the late Clara Bushyhead.

The two granite benches, each perfectly etched with a photograph and personal inscription, sit beneath shade trees in front of the Dept. of Administration building in Concho, Okla.

The bench honoring Miles features his photograph, name, date of birth, Nov. 24, 1955, date of death, Sept. 4, 2023, and the inscription:

“Honoring a life deeply rooted in tradition and love.”

Bushyhead’s bench features her photograph, name, date of birth, July 3, 1964, date of death, Jan. 5, 2022, and the inscription:

“A lifetime of service for our people.”

The dedication brought together tribal leaders, family members, friends and colleagues who shared memories of two people whose lives touched generations of



Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens.

Cheyenne Chief Gordon Yellowman opened the ceremony with an invocation and prayer, followed by a Memorial Song performed by Emmitt Red Bird’s drum group.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana welcomed guests and family members and reflected on



Left: Clara Bushyhead’s son Zachary Blackowl, daughter Connor Bushyhead, and two of her granddaughters attend the dedication for the memorial benches in honor of their mother/grandmother.

Below: Gib Miles’ family stand behind his memorial bench after the dedication. Pictured: Melinda Waters Miles, his daughters Mariah, Mahgan, Mariel and Gib’s grandson ‘John John.’ (Photos / Rosemary Stephens)

CACDC helps empower tribal citizens through financial literacy

Kimberly Burk, Tribal Tribune Correspondent

As with much of the population at large, citizens of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes can benefit from financial literacy training, says Chris Coburn, chief executive officer of the CACDC.

People who undergo training such as that offered by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Community Development Corporation “have more ability to succeed as a business, as a family and as a household,” said Coburn, who has led the CACDC since March.

“It’s really fundamental for people to understand financial literacy,” said Coburn, who is Cherokee and Muscogee.

“It’s not a question of intelligence, it’s a question of looking at things in a different way,” Coburn said. “Many people aren’t taught how to plan, how to budget.”

In conjunction with Tinker Federal Credit Union, the tribes offered in August a two-day financial literacy workshop. Coburn said CACDC is required to offer

such training because it is a Community Development Financial Institution.

“If we lend money to people, we must offer skills-based assistance,” Coburn said.

Participants in the August workshop ranged from a young couple in their 20s to people nearing retirement, Coburn said. One of the training goals was to help tribal citizens become more confident about their ability to manage money.

“If someone is not confident or they are in a victim mindset, they can’t fight for their future or their families,” said Coburn, who held similar roles with the Osage Nation and the Mvskoke Fund before joining the CACDC, which is based at the Tribal Service Center in Oklahoma City.

Coburn said he partnered with Tinker Federal Credit Union because it uniquely has an entire team focused on financial literacy. He said the training was very pragmatic.



Chris Coburn, CEO of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Community Development Corporation, was joined by Tinker Federal Credit Union staffers in leading an August workshop on financial literacy. (Submitted photo)

“It’s taking something difficult to grasp and putting it in common language,” he said.

“How to manage your household money and how to manage credit is a hard subject. Money is necessary. We

See **FINANCIAL** pg. 4



Sarah Pedro stands on the side of South Country Club Drive in El Reno, Okla., protesting data centers. (Photos / Glen Miller)

Protest follows massive water leak at El Reno bitcoin site

Glen Miller, El Reno Tribune

Sarah Pedro stood on the side of South Country Club Road, her face dripping with sweat from the 103-degree heat, but her hands gripped tightly to a sign reading “No to Data Centers.”

“This is my conviction so I can stand a little heat,” said Pedro.

The El Reno woman is part of two Native American groups protesting data centers statewide, the latest being the Bitcoin mining business located on West Jensen Road.

Though Bitcoin mining centers and data centers are both forms of digital infrastructure, they differ in operational demands, environmental requirements and purpose.

Pedro said she and others will be protesting throughout the week due to the fallout from the exposed Bitcoin mining center in El Reno.

“Let’s face it, it’s a mobile data center and I’m against it. I don’t just want it to be shut down, but remove the whole thing. It’s a fire risk, it’s noise pollution and it’s a health risk when you think about it,” said Pedro.

The Bitcoin facility, located at 801 West Jensen Road, came into the spotlight last week when it was discovered a privately-owned and installed fire hydrant and waterline onsite malfunctioned, spilling 3.8 million gallons of water.

The leak led to the water in the West Tower at Lake

See **BITCOIN MINING SITE** pg. 4

Cheyenne and Arapaho educator leads new Native American studies curriculum at Clinton Public Schools

Latoya Lonelodge
Senior Reporter

CLINTON, Okla. - Leading the classrooms in Indigenous histories, cultures and traditions of North America, Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen Ahk-ta-na-hi Goodblanket.

Goodblanket is the newly assigned teacher for Native American Studies curricu-

lum, a new elective and class offered to students for the first time at Clinton Public Schools.

As a former 2017 graduate of Clinton High School, Goodblanket was born and raised in the Clinton, Okla., community. Goodblanket was raised in the modern world, but was also raised around his traditions, which included the Sundance,

Native American Church, sweats, powwows and he participated in gourd dances throughout his life, as well as singing at the drum here and there.

As a recent graduate from Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo., Goodblanket has a degree in Native American Studies and Environmental Studies. As someone who always wanted to help and be

of service, Goodblanket never thought he would become a teacher.

“When this job opportunity opened up, I knew it sounded just right for me and it was a perfect fit because I went to school for Native American studies and environmental studies,” Goodblanket said.

Goodblanket also studied psychology while in school,

which gave him more of an understanding of children and Indigenous psychology, growth and development and how to care for young adults and adolescents, understanding and paralleling that with Indigenous understanding and giving them space to grow.

When he saw the opportunity for the position as the new Native American Stud-

ies teacher, he was hesitant in applying at first and thought it may be far fetched and over his head, too much for him to take on.

“I didn’t necessarily have it on my scope, but I understood when going to college and seeing professors teach, I felt that I could also do that as well, I felt sometimes they

See **NA STUDIES** pg. 5

The verdict: Clinton High School Mock Trial Team heads to Empire Mock Trial Competition in Philadelphia

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

The future of law is here as Clinton High School Mock Trial Team heads to Pennsylvania as one of 36 schools to attend the Empire Mock Trial competitions.

Empire is an international non-profit organization hosting mock trial competitions for high school students. Hungry for a big win, the Clinton High School Mock Trial Team prepares to compete against the nation’s best as they suit up and put their minds to work in the legal profession.

Held in Philadelphia from Oct. 15-19, the Clinton High School Mock Trial Team will be traveling to the Empire Mock Trial to compete against other high school teams in the very place where the Declaration of Independence was adopted.

Founded in 2007, Empire is dedicated to educating, connecting and empowering high school students to be more compassionate and capable citizens.

According to the Empire Mock Trial website, the organization has served more than 15,000 students from 38 states and seven countries, instilling values such as civil discourse, respectful advocacy, and a commitment to the rule of law.

Getting the opportunity to compete on a larger scale, for many on the mock trial team, competing at Empire is a stepping stone into their future careers as many hope to someday enter the legal profession.

In her third year on the team as a junior in high school, Alexandra Fuentes, 16, initially joined the team as she believed joining would benefit her as her interests included entering the law field.

“What interests me the most is learning how to hold yourself in

trial with the process in holding a trial and my teammates, just being around them really helps a lot and it’s really enjoyable just being around these people,” Fuentes said.

Fuentes hopes to attend the University of Oklahoma School of Law and participate on their mock trial team, as she’s formed a passion for it and learned many skills from being on the team.

“I learned how to sort of gage where I need to, like my focus, I learned how to work with people, how to lead a room and get people to pay attention to you and listen to the things that you’re saying,” Fuentes said.

Ace Elizondo, 17, a senior, first took interest in the class his freshman year of high school with influence from his siblings as they also took part in the mock trial team. Elizondo said since the first week of being in the class his freshman year, he knew it was a place for him.

“The team itself, we’re all good friends. We connect in a way that truthfully I haven’t been able to connect with in other groups or clubs I’ve been in, it’s a very strong relationship wise team, we’re very close and I love that about this class,” Elizondo said.

What Elizondo has learned the most from the mock trial team is



The Clinton High School Mock Trial Team is heading to the Empire Mock Trial competition in Philadelphia, one of 36 schools chosen to compete. The team is the only high school representing Oklahoma.

Pictured l-r: Whitney Salazar, 15, Ashley Garcia Morales, 16, Alexandra Fuentes, 16, Ace Elizondo, 17, Kira Rhoads, 14, Atlee Fuller, 16, Joshua Armstrong, 15, Felipe Acosta Sandoval, 16, Victoria Nemtan, 16, Jaxon Black, 15, and Head Coach Ashley Kelley.

leadership skills, how to be a leader and how to take charge when things need to be done, public speaking and controlling his emotions, as he’s had trouble with that before.

“I hope to take what I learn from this class and use it for the future because I want to become a teacher and this class has taught me great leadership skills, how to speak for myself, stand up for myself, as well as stand up for others when they need it,” Elizondo said.

Growing a strong bond with the team since her freshman year,

Victoria Nemtan, 16, a junior, felt like the team are her closest friends and what she enjoys most about the mock trial team is being able to speak in front of people and being able to experience new things.

“I’ve developed a very big passion in law and arguing so I do hope to become a lawyer and go to law school and use this jump start to my career,” Nemtan said.

Looking forward to attending the Empire Mock Trial, Nemtan believes it will be much harder than the state competitions held in Okla-

homa.

“I’m looking to challenge myself and to challenge the team in total, but I’m also looking to having a good time and have some fun and improve my skills,” Nemtan said.

Ashley Garcia Morales, 16, joined the team with inspiration from one of the captains during her eighth-grade year. She said she knew she wanted to be a lawyer since the sixth grade.

“I hope to use my knowledge that I have now and go to law

See **MOCK TRIAL** pg. 4

IHS Clinton Service Unit

Public Health Nursing

TOWN HALL

at the

Concho Respect Gym

220 E. Black Kettle Blvd, Concho, OK 73022

Sept. 29th, 2026

4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes

Department of Health Tribal Programs will be on site

Educational Presentation Topics

- Public Health Nursing
Presented by Bonnie Kraft, BSN, RN, BC, CIO, DPHN
- RSV & INFLUENZA (FLU)
Presented by Lillie Taylor, BSN, RN, IBCLC, PHN
- Bed Bugs
Presented by Christine Goughlin, BSN, RN, CLC, PHN

Flu, Covid, Adult Vaccines, & Children's Flu Vaccines will be available

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Form **MUST** be notarized.

W-9 **MUST** be submitted with COA Form.

W-9 **MUST** match what is on the COA Form.

Forms **CANNOT** be accepted by fax or email.

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HAVE YOU MOVED?

In order to receive the minerals per capita distribution, any changes to your address must be received in Enrollment by **OCTOBER 1**

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SIGN UP FOR DIRECT DEPOSIT!

Want to get your percap a week before the checks get mailed?

Tribal members who have Direct Deposit approved before October 1, will have the percap funds deposited to their account **ONE WEEK** before the checks are mailed out!

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‘You Are Worth the Effort’: Carla Whiteman’s life mission of helping Native youth succeed

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

For Carla Whiteman, being a high school counselor has never simply been a job.

It is a calling. A mission. A lifelong commitment to helping young people see possibilities in themselves, especially during the moments when they may have difficulty seeing those possibilities on their own.

After 35 years in education and counseling, Whiteman continues to sit behind her desk at Riverside Indian School, where students walk through her door every day carrying questions, challenges, homesickness, uncertainty and dreams for their futures.

Her message to them is simple: Believe in yourself. You are worth the effort.

Whiteman received two honors that recognized the impact of that philosophy.

She was selected as the 2025 Educator of the Year by the Oklahoma Council for Indian Education (OCIE) in December 2025 and was also named the 2026 J.R. Cook Advisor of the Year during the 50th annual UNITY conference held July 2026 in Oklahoma City.

For Whiteman, however, the awards were about much more than recognition.

“I was totally surprised on both of them,” she said. “It was such an exciting time.”

The OCIE award carried a special meaning because it took her back to the beginning of her career.

Thirty-five years earlier, Whiteman had sat in an audience watching other educators walk across a stage to receive awards from their peers.

“I remember thinking to myself, ‘Man, that would be really cool to be recognized by your peers,’” she recalled.

Three and a half decades later, she found herself standing on that same stage.

“I stood there on the stage,” she said. “It was exciting to know after all this time to be recognized by my peers.”

Whiteman said she has been fortunate throughout her career to have people who believed in her work and her mission. Two of those supporters, Dr. Kelly Berry and Dr. Cornell Pewewardy nominated her for both awards.

Her UNITY honor came as an even bigger surprise. Whiteman did not even know she had won.

Students from the Comanche Nation who attended the UNITY conference knew her, including several Riverside students she has

counseled. A friend sent her a text asking if she was at the conference. Whiteman said she replied that she was not. The response came back: “Yeah, but your fan club is.”

Whiteman laughed as she remembered the moment, several of her Riverside students who were part of the Comanche youth group had recognized their counselor and celebrated the honor on her behalf.

“Hey, that’s my counselor!” they said.

For Whiteman, that may have been the greatest recognition of all.

Whiteman did not begin her career intending to become a counselor.

She initially pursued nursing because of her mother, Maria Brown Whiteman, whom she described as “the finest Native nurse that ever walked the earth.”

Eventually, Whiteman realized nursing was not the path she wanted. She wanted to teach. More importantly, she wanted to be around children and help them reach the same educational opportunities she had experienced.

“I wanted kids to experience what that feels like and to know that they could do it too,” she said.

She understood that many young people do not always have the encouragement or motivation they need.

“A lot of our children don’t have the proper motivation or encouragement,” she said. “So, I thought, what better way to do that than by being an educator?”

She began teaching in Lawton and was eventually placed at a high school where she watched counselors work with students. That was when something clicked.

“I said to myself, ‘That’s what I want to do, right there. I want to be a high school counselor.’”

Once she knew what she wanted, Whiteman did not let obstacles stand in the way.

She already had a master’s degree, but not in counseling. A close friend encouraged her to obtain another master’s degree and did not give her much time to think about it. Her friend was preparing to leave her position in December.

Whiteman told her she had a master’s degree, but not one in counseling. Her friend told her she would stay one more semester so Whiteman could earn her second master’s.



Carla Whiteman was named the 2026 UNITY J.R. Cook Advisor of the Year during UNITY’s 50th annual conference held Oklahoma City in July 2026. (Submitted photos)

“Time’s a wasting, snap, snap, gotta go,” Whiteman recalled, laughing.

So, she got in her car and drove to East Central University.

This was before cell phones, computers and email made communication instantaneous. Whiteman arrived with her transcript in hand and told an advisor she needed to earn a master’s degree in counseling by May.

The advisor looked at her, with an ‘oookkkaaay’ kind of response, then looked down at her transcript.

He could accept six credits, but she still needed 27 more.

Whiteman’s response was simple, “Sign me up.”

What followed was a period of life that tested Whiteman’s determination.

She worked full time and

See **WHITEMAN** pg. 6



Carla Whiteman was named Educator of the Year during the 2025 Oklahoma Council for Indian Education’s annual conference in Oklahoma City.

Tribal Council Coordinator Candidates

On Oct. 3, 2026 the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Council will elect a new Tribal Council Coordinator at their annual meeting held in Concho, Okla. Four tribal citizens submitted their application for the position: Incumbent Albert Old Crow, Christopher Roman Nose and Sarah Pedro. Rachel Curtis declined to submit.

Candidates were invited to submit a bio/photo for publishing in the Tribal Tribune. Below are the bios/photos submitted by Albert Old Crow, Christopher Roman Nose and Sarah Pedro. Rachel Curtis declined to submit.

Incumbent: Albert Old Crow

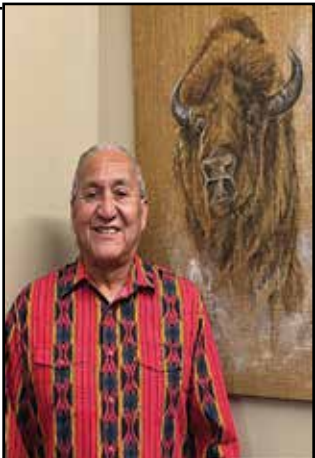
My name is Albert Old Crow, and I want to be your Tribal Council Coordinator of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for the third year in a row.

I was raised in Hammon and have lived in Colony since January 2025. For more than 10 years, I served as Chairperson of our annual Tribal Council meetings. People know me for keeping meetings fair and respectful, where every voice could be heard.

I’ve tried to live a life of service since I got sober over 40 years ago. Since 1996, I’ve co-hosted a Native

American radio show, led sweat lodge ceremonies in federal prisons, and helped support important tribal efforts like buying land at Bear Butte, building the Hammon Casino, and bringing electronic and remote voting to our tribal council meetings.

I share weekly updates, post quarterly spending reports, and created a public dashboard to track resolutions. I also launched videos and podcasts to help tribal members learn how to write resolutions and take part in our government. I’ve shown up, held listening sessions,



and stayed available to all.

I appreciate your support and vote as we continue to make the voice of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal members heard.

See **TC COORDINATORS** pg. 7

Annual Tribal Council Meeting



SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026
RESPECT GYM 10:00AM
CONCHO, OK



Agenda Items:

1. A Tribal Council Resolution to amend TC Policies and Procedures

2. A Tribal Council Resolution to select a Tribal Council Coordinator

3. A Tribal Council Resolution to approve the 2027 Tribal Budget

4. A Tribal Council Resolution to declare No Data Centers on C&A Tribal lands

5. A Tribal Council Resolution to support Behavioral Health clinics on Tribal lands

6. A Tribal Council Resolution to support Traditional Healing

7. A Tribal Council Resolution to support Jennifer Hill as BIA Superintendent

8. A Tribal Council Resolution to support Joe Bryant as IHS Chief Exec Officer

9. A Tribal Council Resolution to Establish One Official Place for Public Notices and Direct Notice to Members who Request It

10.A Tribal Council Resolution to Amend Remote Participation Standards for Tribal Council Meetings

11.A Tribal Council Resolution to Recognize Member Forums for Out of District Citizens and for Citizens Enrolled under the 2021 Amendment

12.A Tribal Council Resolution to Declare Legal Counsel a Necessary Operating Need for the Tribal Council Branch

13.A Tribal Council Resolution to Establish a Registry of Unanswered Member Complaints and Requests and to Receive an Annual Report of the Counts

14.A Tribal Council Resolution Adopting Minimum Standards Governing Enrollment Records and Applications

15.A Tribal Council Resolution to Reduce Undeliverable Ballots and to Preserve the Voter Registration of Members Residing Outside the Districts

16.A Tribal Council Resolution Requesting Federal Review and Follow-Up of Audit Findings Concerning Federal Funds and Federally Funded Programs

17.A Resolution Establishing a Tribal Council Policy for Budget Accountability and Mid-year Financial Review

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ALBERT OLD CROW - TRIBAL COUNCIL COORDINATOR
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MOCK TRIAL

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school and become a lawyer. What’s helped me the most in this class that I learned is public speaking, I am not great with talking out in front of a class and this class helped me a lot with it,” Garcia Morales said.

Enjoying the friendships she’s made while being on the mock trial team and the bonds she’s created, Garcia Morales looks forward to attending Empire and its opportunities.

“I look forward to actually seeing more competition outside the state of Oklahoma and what other teams bring to the table and just the fun of it,” Garcia Morales said.

Enjoying the winning aspect of the mock trial team, Felipe Acosta Sandoval, 16, looks forward to attending Empire and said it’s an honor that the team is going.

“There’s this thing at Empire trial called the excellent witness and that’s ranked and I really want to be ranked first, that’s primarily what I want, to be better than all the other witnesses,” Acosta Sandoval said.

While he believes he won’t be using much of the legal team knowledge in the future, Acosta Sandoval will take his public speaking skills to benefit his future.

“To be able to talk confidently, somewhere in the future, to be able to talk substantially,” Acosta Sandoval said.

Enjoying the people she met through mock trial, Whitney Salazar, 15, first joined the team as the quiet kid, but said the team has really brought her spirit out more and has opened her up.

“They’ve grown to be my closest friends, like my family almost,” Salazar said.

Salazar won’t be attending the Empire trip, however she looks forward to watching them shine and hearing all about their experience.

Being on the team, Salazar felt she’s gained a voice and would benefit her in the future.

“I was quiet but from being on this team, I kind of gained my voice more and so I feel like that would really help me out, and I feel like that would really help me out

in the future,” Salazar said.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Youth, Kira Rhoads, 14, took interest in the mock trial team last year in her eighth grade year when they visited her school and talked about the team.

“They started talking about how fun it is, how witnesses are, how attorneys are, how they go to competitions, so that really interested me, because I always had a thought to be a lawyer,” Rhoads said.

Since joining the team, Rhoads has enjoyed being a part of the team and is looking forward to seeing what she can do and what she can get better at while at Empire.

“I enjoy this team a lot, they brought my confidence out, we became really close really fast, which made me really happy,” Rhoads said.

Rhoads hopes to take her knowledge from the mock trial team with her to law school and become a lawyer someday. From being on the team, she’s learned to speak more confidently and believes that will help her in the future.

“This team is really great and they make you feel like they’re there for you and they all have your back and if people want to give it a chance, give it a chance,” Rhoads said.

Interested in law, Joshua Armstrong, 15, joined the team his freshman year and has enjoyed the learning experience.

“I hope what I learn helps me gain more confidence and get into law school,” Armstrong said.

Jaxon Black, 14, became first interested in the mock trial team his eighth-grade year and what he enjoys the most about the team is being able to come together and practice and work in the same areas. Black hopes to utilize his knowledge from the mock trial team to pursue a career as a lawyer in the future.

“What I look forward to the most is this to be a learning experience and a team bonding experience, I really think this would help us all get closer as a team and be an excellent learning experience,” Black said.

See **MOCK TRIAL** pg. 7

FINANCIAL

continued from pg. 1

didn’t get to choose the rules, but we can choose what happens.”

Coburn said one of the workshop courses was about “the psychology of money.”

Attitudes about money can be cultural or based on the family environment, he said.

“Emotion overrides a logical decision a lot of times,” Coburn said. “Everyone has to find their own right answers for their family, their household. These classes are new ways of looking at things and best practices.”

About 35 people attended financial literacy training offered this year in Concho and in Oklahoma City, Coburn said. He said learning together is important, as the workshops “are about creating a culture of community around helping each other find the best ways to move forward.”

A more in-depth course will probably be offered in October, Coburn said.

In addition to financial education, CACDC offers access to capital, business development services, commercial loans and communi-

ty development initiatives.

CACDC distinguishes itself from traditional banking institutions through unique strategies, according to its website.

“First, it applies a more flexible approach to credit analysis, often reducing the upfront capital required from business proprietors. It also offers the possibility of a longer amortization period, enabling more tailored repayment schedules,” the website states.

CACDC offers loans starting as low as \$5,000. On the upper end, CACDC can independently provide loan financing up to \$300,000. For credit requests beyond this figure, CACDC can aid in the process, although it will require partnerships with other financial entities, according to its website.

A Native Community Development Financial Institution is a specialized, certified financial institution that directs at least 50 percent of its activities toward serving Native American, Alaska Native, or Native Hawaiian communities.



Bitcoin mining center operating illegally in El Reno, Okla., was brought to light by a damaged fire hydrant on the property that ended up leaking over 3.8 million gallons of water.

BITCOIN MINING SITE

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El Reno dropping to 10 feet and forcing the city to put a ban on all outside watering. El Reno Public Schools and Redlands Community College shut down for two days.

Water service to businesses and residents south of Interstate 40 and west of U.S. 81 was suspended until the leak was found. It was discovered by members of the El Reno Public Works Department and Fire Chief Jason Duff on the morning of Aug. 27 on a tip by a local resident living in the area.

“On the south end of the property was the private fire hydrant on a private waterline. A lot of people think, well, if it’s a fire hydrant, it belongs to the fire department. That was not the case here,” said El Reno Mayor Steve Jensen.

Jensen raises cattle on land off Jensen Road and the Heaston area, both of which were shut off from city water service. He spent more than \$25,000 out of pocket to purchase portable water containers and get water from outside sources in order to hand-water his herds.

“We wanted to free up the water and pressure for the residents of El Reno,” said Jensen.

He said locating the leak was not easy due to tall grass, weeds and plants around the hydrant and waterline.

“It’s an I-2 industrial site that is supposed to be mowed, but the sunflowers and grass were so tall and it was up there close to where their Bitcoin mining operation is. It’s hard to detect because it was 100 yards off the road,” said Jensen.

The mayor and Interim City Manager Ken Brown said drought conditions also led to the delay in the leak detection.

“People say, well, 3.8

million gallons of water, you ought to be able to see it. We’re in such a major drought right now and the water can flow out but there’s so many big cracks in the ground, it takes time for those to fill up and the water run out into the creek. The water ran close to a mile down through there,” said Jensen.

Who is going to pay the bill?

The 3.8 million gallons lost is roughly one day of normal water usage for the entire city of El Reno and the customers it serves. El Reno provides water to the Heaston area and the town of Union City, among others.

Public Information Manager Lyndsay Bayne said the city uses between 3 and 4 million gallons of water daily “depending on the weather.”

The Jensen Road property is owned by Athlon Blockchain Technologies LLC. The company and founder, Tony Shi are based in Palo Alto, Calif. The company kept an El Reno address, listed on its website, in the 2400 block of South Choctaw – which is a residential dwelling.

Jensen said Athlon will be responsible for the water bill as well as additional expenses incurred by the city.

He added El Reno Public Schools provided manpower, drones and search equipment and he urged the district to compile cost figures to be added to the Athlon bill.

“The water was all metered so we will bill the property owner for the water and there will be no cost to the taxpayers of El Reno. We’re going to bill them for additional overtime that our employees had and all expenses associated with the search trying to find the leak

because it was not a failure in the city of El Reno system,” said Jensen.

The city placed an emergency 10-day abatement on the property for various fire and safety code violations, among others. The site was also condemned for public nuisance due to the water leak and the subsequent fall-out.

An abatement hearing is set for Sept. 14.

Brown said city staff has been in contact with the property owner.

“We’ve notified them of the violations,” said Brown.

Brown added the situation may not be resolved in the hearing, especially if the owners do not show up.

“If that happens, traditionally we give them an extra 30 days to appear. Then we can take additional steps to start the abatement process,” said Brown.

Two large box trucks were seen on the site Wednesday but Brown said he was not worried about Athlon skipping out on the fines.

“As far as collecting the money, they (Athlon) are the owner of record on the land so they’re not leasing it from someone else,” said Brown.

Will there be criminal charges?

Brown, who served as El Reno’s police chief before being named interim city manager, doesn’t think the operation warrants any criminal charges nor does he think any state or federal agencies will get involved.

“It was a legitimate business so I don’t believe there was anything criminal. It’s going to be on the civil side, meaning that it covered code violations and things like that,” said Brown.

It always been a Bitcoin mining site

Since the city issued the

abatement notice and shut off water service to the Bitcoin mining site, the noise level has dropped.

“It’s been pretty quiet here lately,” said one worker. “It’s usually pretty loud.”

The El Reno City Council voted in January 2019 to re-zone a large area along Jensen Road, like other areas in the city, from an Agriculture status (A-1) to Industrial (I-2), according to Matt White.

White sat on the council at that time as mayor alongside Councilwoman Tracey Rider, who now serves as Canadian County commissioner for District 3.

Both recall that 2019 vote, with Rider saying she voted against rezoning, feeling such industrial use was getting “too close to residential areas.”

White and Rider said they were shocked to find out a Bitcoin mining business eventually landed in that area.

According to a property search on the Canadian County website, the 801 Jensen Road property, covering 28.52 acres, was sold by a local family’s revocable trust on October 8, 2021, to an unnamed buyer for \$641,500.

In a press release sent out by the city last week, Brown stated Athlon applied for a Commercial Building Permit through the city’s Community Development Department, the same month as the property’s sale, and paid all the normal processing fees.

The business type listed on the initial application fit into the scope of the area’s zoning so the application was eventually approved and permits issued.

“The way I understand, it was for computer operations, and by right, they can do what they were doing,” said Jensen.

Brown agreed.

“It was zoned for that Bitcoin mining use and that’s how it was kind of portrayed. It was zoned to be able to do that,” said Brown.

According to the Property Record Card on the Canadian County Assessor’s Office web page, the Jensen Road property has nine mobile mining containers worth \$266,285, one commercial building and a paved road. It does not list the shipping containers currently onsite.

The property’s current market value is \$1,076,484.

The press release further said Athlon was issued a stop work order in June 2023, which was supposed to suspend all construction at the site due to multiple fire and life safety code violations. The original building and electrical permits had also expired.

“We did some inspections and they didn’t pass inspections and so we went back and forth several times with many of the violations being fire-related,” said Brown.

Athlon was given until December 2023 to obtain new permits, said the release, and told that operations at the site were suspended until it got a Certificate of Occupancy.

Those documents, said Brown, were never issued.

So why was the Bitcoin site up and running?

Jensen and Brown agreed several factors such as staff turnover and workplace communication led to the Athlon-owned site flying under the city’s radar for 32 months between the issuance of the stop order and the water leak.

“I drive by there practically every day. It’s hard to tell if it’s running or not. I mean the gates are always closed and there’s nobody coming



El Reno Mayor Steve Jensen fields questions from the press during a press conference about the illegal operating bitcoin mining site in El Reno, Okla.

in or out.

“Every once in awhile you’ll see a guy or two walking around but I didn’t know if they were maintenance or not – but nothing comes or goes,” said Jensen.

A water bill was paid every month, according to Bayne, but there was no high usage total in the time prior to the leak that raise a red flag.

“A lot of people own land that is just sitting there but they have utilities turned on,” said Bayne.

Brown admitted city staff failed to follow up with the stop work order but added it came down to the assumption that Athlon would follow the law.

“The assumption was that people would respect that stop work order. Just like we have stop signs up and we expect you to stop but not everyone does. We failed in that area but there are some things we are correcting now.

“I can’t go back to 2023, but the only thing we can do is assure you that we have learned some things about ourselves and this is one area we will be attacking and be able to address,” said Brown.

NA STUDIES

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put in that effort that I was wanting out of my college profession and that made me think I could do it and then have an opportunity here in Clinton and just made me feel like I should do it because it's Clinton, it's my hometown and I care a lot for these people," Goodblanket said.

Giving it a shot, Goodblanket was accepted into the position and felt very grateful and happy to be of service and to take on the position.

Coming full circle, Goodblanket felt surreal as a former student coming into a teaching role at Clinton High School. The celebratory moment made him think of his brother, Mah-hi-vist Goodblanket who was also a former Clinton High School student.

"It's an honor, it's a privilege, I can't help but also think about my brother too because he walked these halls and he had his ups and downs here too and I just think about him and I know he's proud of me and I think that it's a good thing. I don't take it lightly but it's also very rewarding in many ways and just seeing it come full circle, progressing in a positive way," Goodblanket said.

With Clinton Public Schools offering Native American Studies, Goodblanket feels it's very significant due to the history and heritage at Clinton being primarily native and a Cheyenne and Arapaho town. Some of which will be included throughout his curriculum, as a lot of the stories will entail more toward the end of the school year, when it becomes more contemporary and modern and the class is learning ancient times.

When the class gets into modern day, Goodblanket will reference Clinton and how natives were camped outside of Clinton and how they eventually made their way into houses, called tribal housing.



Ahk-ta-na-hi Goodblanket is the new Native American Studies teacher at Clinton Public Schools, a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and a former graduate of Clinton High School. Goodblanket recently graduated from Fort Lewis College with a degree in Native American Studies. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

"Clinton is very rich in history, culture and heritage as well as just the wrongful doings as Clinton has done, just with the government police force, and with this effort, with this class, any ill feelings can be mended," Goodblanket said.

The Native American Studies class is offered as an elective for high school students and is flexible for Goodblanket as he will have full ability to create his own curriculum. He will also teach the middle school and elementary school children. For the first half of the semester for middle school and high school, the class entails oral traditions.

"The younger kids like third grade under, they will get oral stories most likely throughout the whole school year just to make it light, just to make it fun and inclusive of all tribes as well. Right now we're doing the great plains, so we cover the Kiowa, the Pawnees and the Cheyenne," Goodblanket said.

Taking on the role of an educator and teacher in the community of Clinton, Goodblanket's goals include empowering students and to

show them that they can do anything they set their mind to. That they can do it, they can accomplish it.

"Even though they may have self doubt or other people, other outside sources make it difficult, that if you just keep trying, you can persevere, no matter what, because I know things happen even though you don't necessarily see it coming but having persevered, how we keep going and how we keep moving, will make the difference, so just being that helping hand and encouraging these students to become adults," Goodblanket said.

With the incorporation of Native American Studies at Clinton High School, Principal Michelle Sorter said Oklahoma is rich in Native American culture and Clinton is no exception and it is important for students to have the opportunity to learn tribal history and traditions.

"Clinton is a community proud of its traditions. Incorporating Native American Studies as a course for our students provides one more layer of that tradition and enriches all of us," Sorter said.

Currently, 19.89% of the high school students identify as Native American or are of Native American descent that are enrolled at Clinton High School.

Sorter said the course will give the students an opportunity to gain insight to the history, traditions and customs of Native American Tribes and their impact on Oklahoma, the United States and Clinton.

With the selection of Goodblanket to lead the Native American Studies curriculum, Sorter values having educators in the building who reflect and understand the diverse experiences of the students.

"Mr. Ahk-ta-na-hi Goodblanket is not only deeply knowledgeable in Native American studies, but brings a lived experience of the culture's rich customs and traditions. A Clinton native, he has grown through the community and school system in which he now serves and knows on a personal level the challenges our students may face, his connection to the students and community is an asset that cannot be understated or measured," Sorter said.

Blackwolf Beadz

by krista blackwolf

Facebook: BlackwolfBeadz TikTok: @blackwolf.beadz
Instagram: @blackwolfbeadz Email: kblackwolf23@gmail.com

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

HIGHER EDUCATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

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10:00AM - 1:00PM
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Groundbreaking: Indian Child Welfare Facility Part of the Tribal Justice Center

On Sept. 9, the official groundbreaking was held beside the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Justice Center, marking the spot for the construction of a new Indian Child Welfare facility to be built.

Photos / Darren Brown

WATONGA GED CLASS

& WORK READINESS TRAINING

SEPTEMBER 22, 2026
10AM - 2PM

GED Class
Mathematics, Language Arts, Social Studies, Science, Pre-testing, Tutoring, & Scheduling official test.

Work Readiness
Resume Writing, Applications, Interview skills, & Job Searching.

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TRANSPORTATION MUST BE REQUESTED AT LEAST 24hrs BEFORE EVENT
-LITE REFRESHMENTS-
-TO BE DETERMINED DUE TO COMPUTER AVAILABILITY-

MEMORIAL BENCHES

continued from pg. 1

the years he spent working alongside both Miles and Bushyhead.

“I can remember when we were all three working together at housing and Clara and Gib would be talking back and forth and Gib slamming his fist down when he wanted to make a final point and Clara just saying, ‘Oh, no, we’re not, Gib,’” Wassana said, laughing as he reminisced about the many years they spent working together.

One of Wassana’s fondest memories of Miles was his sense of humor. Although Wassana said he sometimes didn’t quite understand the joke, Miles always had a joke and a laugh ready.

Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham also shared memories of Miles, saying he had known him from an early age when Miles and Gorham’s older brother were both athletes playing college sports.

“I remember one time we were sitting in a meeting

with the legislature and Gib had some kind of paper, a newspaper, and every time someone would say something, he would hold up that newspaper and look at me, making faces. I had a hard time trying not to laugh and at one point had to excuse myself because I couldn’t hold back the laughter,” Gorham said.

Gorham also spoke about his memories of Bushyhead, saying he met her after moving to El Reno in the ninth grade because she worked with his mother.

“Clara always would tell me my mother would be proud of me, and that meant a lot to me,” Gorham said.

Zachary Blackowl, Bushyhead’s son, spoke from the podium and recalled the many days he and his sister, Connor, spent at the tribal complex late into the night while their mother worked.

He said his mother was dedicated to her tribe and her

people throughout her life.

Blackowl expressed his gratitude for the memorial bench and the opportunity it provides to keep his mother’s memory, and Miles, alive for generations to come.

“Years from now, people won’t know who my mom or Gib were, but they will see these benches and want to know their story, so their story will continue to be told,” he said.

Blackowl said he was especially happy the benches honoring Miles and Bushyhead were placed near one another because of the great friendship the two shared throughout the years.

“Gib was the first person to show up for our family after the death of our mom when we needed people the most, and we will never forget that,” he said.

Mahgan Muskett, the eldest daughter of Miles, was chosen to serve as the family’s spokesperson.

end brings me out wrong, 10 angels swearing I was right would make no difference.”

Muskett said that when she learned about the memorial dedication, she searched through her father’s Bible for something she thought he would want said.

What she found was something she had written down following the many conversations she and Gib had about the qualities of a good leader and what makes a good leader.

“It is a leader’s responsibility to choose to focus on service rather than defend every point of criticism ...”

Gib Miles: A Life Rooted in Family, Faith and Service

Gib Miles was born in Oklahoma City on Nov. 24, 1955, to LeRoy LaMott and Melba (Sharp) Miles, where he predominantly grew up.

At age 13, his family moved to Yukon, Okla., where he later graduated from Yukon High School in 1974.

It was in Yukon where his basketball talent and skills developed as he became the starting point guard for the Yukon Millers State Championship basketball team.

He was recruited to further his basketball career and education at Bethany Nazarene University, now known as Southern Nazarene University.

In the summer of 1974, Miles was selected for the Western All-Star team. He traveled with his team to Peru, Mexico, Brazil and Colombia, doing mission work and competing against numerous national teams.

During his college years, he spent three months as an intern in Washington, D.C. He went on to earn his Bachelor of Political Science degree from Bethany Nazarene University.



Mahgan Muskett, daughter of the late Lt. Gov. Gib Miles describes her futher as a man of God first and foremost, and the family’s gratitude for all those who were responsible for the creation and installation of the memorial benches.

WHITEMAN

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attended school full time.

“By the grace of God and my family helping me, I did it,” she said. “Some days I met myself coming and going.”

Her son was only 5 years old at the time.

One of her classes was held on weekends in Duncan, and her father helped make it possible.

On Friday evenings, her father would drive Whiteman and her young son to Duncan. She would attend class all day Saturday and Sunday while her family supported her from the sidelines.

Her father was a firm believer in education. Whiteman remembers graduating from MacArthur High School on a Friday. The following Monday, her father woke her up.

“We need to get to Cameron,” he told her.

She asked why.

“Summer school is about to start.”

Whiteman laughed as she remembered telling him she needed a break.

His response?

“You had Saturday and Sunday. Now let’s goooo.”

“Honestly, I was in school non-stop for five years straight,” she said.

There was one more hurdle to overcome before becoming an official counselor. Whiteman had to pass the state examination required for her counseling certification. She remembers sitting in a large gymnasium in Oklahoma City with countless other people taking their tests. She had worked so

hard to reach that point that the pressure was overwhelming.

“I thought to myself, ‘I’m going to finish this master’s degree, but what happens if I don’t pass that test?’”

When the test results finally arrived, her father received them. Whiteman was at school and she asked him to open the results. He hesitated.

“Dad, you’ve got to do this now because I’m about to have a mental crash!” she remembers telling him.

Finally, he found the score. Whiteman knew she needed at least a 70. Her father looked at the result and asked her what she needed to pass. When she told him he blurted out, “You got a 92!”

That was May.

She was hired in June at about 34 years old.

The experience became a story Whiteman would later share with students who were contemplating higher education themselves. She tells them not to be intimidated by the work required to reach their goals.

“I tell you this story not to shine a light on me, but to let you know that it can be done,” she said.

Her message is one she has carried throughout her career, if you want something badly enough, you have to be willing to do what it takes.

“Believe me, if you want something bad enough, you will jump through any hoop to get there,” she said. “You will understand what it means to do what it takes, to

be what it takes to get there ... and you will get there.”

Whiteman spent 27 years with Lawton Public Schools before joining Riverside Indian School in 2012.

She had always wanted to work at Riverside. She wanted to work with Native children. Although she had worked with Native students during her years in the public school system, Riverside offered something different.

“Being here around all the Native kids, Native staff, their parents, brings a whole different dynamic to my career, to my job,” she said.

And then there is the reward of watching students change.

“To be able to see our kids excel and actually see them start to believe in themselves, it’s special and exciting,” she said.

For Whiteman, that connection is also personal.

She grew up in Hominy, Oklahoma, surrounded by her Osage family and grandparents.

“I grew up old,” she said, explaining that she spent much of her childhood with her grandparents and their brothers and sisters.

She learned traditions and culture from them. Her father, Wendell Whiteman, is half Cheyenne and half Arapaho. Her mother, Maria Brown Whiteman, was a product of the boarding school era and attended Concho.

Her parents met at Concho, where her grandfather, Alfred Whiteman Sr., served for many years on the Tribal

Council. Whiteman has two sisters, and the girls lived with their grandparents while their parents established their careers. Eventually, the family moved from Hominy to Lawton when her parents went to work for Indian Health Services.

She graduated from Lawton MacArthur, describing the move from Hominy to Lawton as a culture shock.

She later earned her undergraduate degree from Cameron University, followed by a master’s degree in education from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and a second master’s degree in counseling through a combined effort between Oregon State University and East Central University.

Her educational journey prepared her for the work she would eventually make her life’s mission.

Over 35 years, there have been countless students. Some she remembers because they succeeded. Others she remembers because they needed someone to refuse to give up on them.

One young man was part of Whiteman’s first class of students.

He struggled in school and wanted to associate with students who were making poor choices. He often challenged authority and resisted anyone trying to tell him what to do.

Whiteman kept working with him. She reminded him that eventually he would have to grow up and make decisions about his future. After he graduated,



Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana shares some of his fondest memories of the late Lt. Gov. Gib Miles and the late Clara Bushyhead during a dedication ceremony for new memorial benches installed at the Tribal Headquarters in Concho, Okla. (Photos / Rosemary Stephens)

Miles began working in the oil and gas industry as a landman and worked as an EMT-paramedic for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

In 1985, Miles moved his family — daughters Mahgan, Mallory, Mariel and Mariah, from Yukon to his grandmother’s homeplace in Geary, Okla.

He eventually returned to his roots in the oil and gas industry, forming his own business, Stalking Energy LLC, in 1994.

Miles served as a member of the Geary School Board, was a leader of the men’s group for the Geary United Methodist Church and served on the Housing Board for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Department of Housing.

He coached youth basketball teams throughout his life and continued playing recreationally until his health no longer allowed him to.

Friends and family remember Miles as a person who never met a stranger. He often spoke openly about how basketball saved his life and was a follower of Jesus Christ.

Those who knew him best say that, after his faith, his four daughters and grandchildren were always his number one priority.

Clara Bushyhead: A Fierce Advocate for Tribal Youth

Clara Bushyhead was born July 3, 1964, in Clinton, Okla., to Charles “Henry” Dawes Bushyhead and Kathleen Bushyhead.

She was predominantly raised in El Reno, Okla., where she graduated from El Reno High School.

Bushyhead was employed with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for many years,

See **MEMORIAL BENCHES** pg. 7



Carla Whiteman has been a school counselor for over 35 years, dedicating her life helping tribal youth to succeed in life.

she lost touch with him. But she continued hearing about him. She heard he was doing better. He was not incarcerated. He was building a life. Whiteman would tell his family to tell him that Ms. Whiteman was still pulling for him.

Then, years later, Whiteman was serving as the emcee for a Comanche graduation banquet.

She was reading the names of graduates from a list when she reached a familiar name.

It was him. And he had earned a master’s degree.

Whiteman stopped the ceremony.

“I said, ‘What? We’ve got to stop right here. I’m sorry, I’ve got to stop right here,’” she recalled.

She told the audience that the young man she was about to introduce had “made me earn my dollar” when she first started her career.

Then she announced that he had earned a master’s degree in business and was now the general manager of a casino in Red River.

She had no idea.

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TC COORDINATORS

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Christopher Roman Nose

Christopher R. Roman Nose is an enrolled tribal member who was born at the Lawton Indian Hospital and raised in the Watonga community. His roots in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and his lifelong connection to the tribal community have shaped his commitment to serving tribal citizens.

Roman Nose is the son of Quinton and LaDonna Roman Nose. He is the brother of Marla Roman Nose, Milan Roman Nose Jr., and Parry Roman Nose.

He is the grandson of the late Milan and Susie Roman Nose and the late Ernest Brooks and Ruth Yellowman Brooks, who is 91 years old.

Roman Nose is a graduate of Watonga High School and the University of Oklahoma. His professional experience includes employment with Oklahoma City University, the Chickasaw

Nation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Through his education and professional career, Roman Nose has gained experience working in both tribal and non-tribal settings, giving him a broad perspective on the needs and concerns of tribal citizens.

As a candidate for Tribal Council Coordinator, Roman Nose believes the Tribal Council branch plays an important role in the Tribes’ four-branch government.

One of his primary goals is to improve communication between tribal citizens who live outside their districts and those living outside the state and the tribal government. He believes all tribal members should have meaningful opportunities to communicate with their elected leaders and have their concerns heard.

Roman Nose also wants



to advocate for fair and equal services for all tribal citizens, regardless of where they live. Another priority is ensuring tribal members have fair opportunities for employment within both the Tribes’ gaming enterprises and government operations.

Roman Nose said his goal is to help strengthen communication, representation and opportunities for all tribal citizens while contributing to an effective and accountable Tribal Council branch.

Sarah Pedro

Hello Tribal Members! My name is Sarah Pedro. I am a Proud Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Member. I would like to send a warm welcome to all the new tribal members who have recently enrolled. Your participation in Tribal Affairs are greatly appreciated. My parents are the late William Lee Pedro and Lela Pedro of El Reno. My parents on my maternal side were the Late Rufus and Sarah YellowEagle and my paternal side were the late William Lee Pedro and Eileen Pen. I come from humble beginnings as a grandchild growing up in a ceremonial family i was always taught to be kind, generous and helpful to all our tribal people. Teachings I still carry with me today. I attend college at OSU-OKC for criminal Justice police science in support of my pursuit of Justice for many of our tribal people facing injustice dealing with the state’s judicial system. Being a single mother raising 3 kids alone has given me a very different perspective of daily struggle that many of us face daily. I am

sober for close to 2 years. I have worked with the Tribes 3 branches of Government throughout the years with many of our leaders. I worked with Arapaho District 2. Cheyenne District 1, Legislative Speakers office, Executive office with Economic Development under the late Marlin Hawks supervision, as well as the Tribal council with Pete Salinas and Jennifer Wilkerson. Throughout my experience it has allowed me to become knowledgeable with the process and proper procedures of how each branch functions with one another. My passion to help our Native American people has allowed me the opportunity to be an advocate for our rights as individuals a more important as indigenous people. I am currently an American Indian Movement member with the AIM Indian territory of Oklahoma chapter. I do volunteer work with CRNOK out of Oklahoma City. I am also an LAndBack Network member with NDN Collective advocating for indigenous lands across the United States. More recently I have volunteered my time



to work with the campaign for Cyndi Munson whose running for Oklahomas next Governor. I enjoy working with all these organizations to empower our people and share space with them on learning from one another. My passion is our people. I ask for tribal members support in electing me as the next Tribal Council coordinator. My promise to the people will be that of advocating for our tribal women, elders and children’s rights. Every tribal members story matters and your voice matters on the success of our great nation.

I look forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming tribal council meeting.

MOCK TRIAL

continued from pg. 4

As head coach for the Clinton Mock Trial Team for eight years, Ashley Kelley, said she feels proud of the team. At the end of the 2025-2026 school year, the team had talked about applying to Empire. Kelley feels the kids have it in them to win big and wants to put them on the stage at a national competition, so they can experience that.

“It’s a whole different dynamic than that of like our state competition than we’ve been doing, Clinton is known for it’s national placement, fourth place in 2012, it’ll be 15 years ago come this spring and I want these kids who are literally the crème of the crop at Clinton High School to experience a different form of Mock Trial Competition,” Kelley said.

Attending Empire will test their knowledge and their skills, help build up their team early so that when they do get their state case at the end of October, they’re set and the leadership on the team, is impeccable, Kelley said.

“I have been working non stop behind the scenes getting everything ready for the trip, making sure that we’re booked and paid for and working on donors and they’ve been having practices,” Kelley said.

The team hosts anywhere from four to six practices, working one on one with each other, with captains taken on leadership roles, so they can build their team and be the best. The competition at Empire has the same amount of teams that was in the state competition the team faced last year with 36 teams. But the teams are not just from Philadelphia, or Pennsylvania, they’re from all over the nation.

“I think it’s very important for people to understand that while this is a national style competition, this is not nationals for us, we’re using this as a learning tool to build up our program so that we can be best in the state of Oklahoma and go back to nationals in May because these kids are hungry for a win, a big win,” Kelley said.

Mock trial has been at Clinton High School since the 1980’s, with several

people who have been in the program and have gone on to work in the legal profession. Kelley was also in the program and her mother was the coach for a long time until her passing 10 years ago. Kelley was asked to step in and help with that team, they went on to place third in state that year.

“I just kind of took over the program, which is fine and I love it, but anybody you ask, this is why I teach. This program is why I’m a teacher, it means so much to me, for these kids to come in to class, not only learn the law, but to learn vital life skills, public speaking, having confidence, advocating for yourself,” Kelley said.

As Clinton Public Schools first time to ever be selected to attend Empire, Kelley said she looks forward to the different things the team can do in the competition.

“They have to do a motion in limine beforehand, it’s called a pre-trial argument and they have to argue a specific thing, based off real life cases, that wrote laws and they have 45 seconds to do it, so that’s one thing that’s different, the other thing that’s different is two of our students will be guest witnesses that will score points for our team, but they won’t actually compete with us,” Kelley said.

Kelley said the students will go and meet with their team 30-45 minutes prior to a trial and will go sit in another courtroom with the team that they’re working with and score points for the team, they will never be with the team. That’s something new and exciting, Kelley said.

Preparing for mock trials, Kelley said the team goes over material in class, basic material they need to know as they’ve been good about using class time to work on questions, run their parts and staying caught up on their homework, as they can have up to three-hour practices.

With 35 other schools the Clinton High School Mock Trial Team could potentially see, they will face off against four or five teams.

“Mock trial is very much

a points based system, what you score depends on where you’re ranked and that will kind of tell them where they are by who they’re competing against too and they may lose the first round and end up in the finals playing the top team, just because of points and mock trial is a very subjective competition, which sometimes is the funnest,” Kelley said.

To attend the Empire Mock Trial in Philadelphia, the team has been fundraising as they have to raise a total of \$15,000 which Kelley said they have not quite reached yet. Having just had a golf tournament where they raised \$5,000 and with donations from all over the community, local lawyers, businesses and even a \$2,000 donation from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education for the trip, Kelley said she’s thankful for the community support.

“I’m very thankful for community support, support from the tribe, because this program changes lives and I say that and I know the kids will say join. But I will say mock trial is not for everyone. You have to be willing to put in time, put in the effort, open your minds, open your heart and open the door for yourself so you can make these friends and be part of this family so that you can learn from them and with them to grow into what it takes to really be a mock trial student,” Kelley said.

Clinton High School Principal, Michelle Sorter said being invited to compete at a national level is an honor for the students and showcases the hard work and talents the school sees in them everyday.

“This opportunity gives our students one more place to be involved, shine and pursue their career field with a head start in their experience. The program develops well spoken, detail oriented students. It gives them an advantage in their interviewing skills and in seeing events from alternate perspectives, while affording them the opportunity to practice with other goal driven individuals,” Sorter said.

MEMORIAL BENCHES

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serving in different capacities throughout her career.

She served on the El Reno Main Street Board and, at the time of her death, was the public relations officer for Lucky Star Casinos. In that role, she built relationships throughout western Oklahoma between communities and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Bushyhead was a strong advocate for tribal youth and spent many years working on programs promoting substance abuse prevention.

Among those efforts was the Tradition Not Addiction program, launched in 2014, through which she worked closely with the Southern Plains Health Board.

She was quoted as saying, “You have to go after the whole community. You can’t just target the kids. Where are those kids getting alcohol? The number one response they gave us was ‘at home.’ Sometimes you have to be real with folks.”

Outside of her work, some of Bushyhead’s favorite activities included attending

concerts, as she was an avid music enthusiast, making jewelry, watching OU football, traveling and spending time with her family.

She had two sons, Zachary Blackowl and Andy Mendez, and one daughter, Connor Bushyhead.

Friends and family remember Bushyhead as a loving and dedicated mother and friend, as well as a fierce advocate for tribal youth, sobriety and tribal sovereignty. Above all, they remember her love for her family.

The memorial benches now stand near each other beneath the trees at the tribal complex, a permanent reminder of two lives devoted to family, community and the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

For those who knew Gib Miles and Clara Bushyhead, the benches are more than memorials. They are places where stories can begin and where future generations can learn about two people who gave their lives in service to their people.



Zachary Blackowl, son of the late Clara Bushyhead speaks from his heart about growing up with a mother dedicated to serving tribal citizens throughout her life.



Short film shot in Clinton, uses all tribal citizens as cast and crew

Christian Jacobsen, Clinton Daily News

Annette Nowlin and her brother, Josh Sorter, co-directed a short film called “The Red Echoes.” Nowlin was inspired to make her own film after having been included in the film making process before with her daughter, Brynlee Nowlin. She said, “Brynlee has been in a few short films before, and a lot of them did not make a lot of sense to me. They didn’t have much of a plot, so basically my brother, Sorter, said, ‘We could do something better.’”

After filming for a month in 2025, the film “The Red Echoes” was complete. She describes the film as, “In a Native American community, a young woman mysteriously disappears without a trace. As her mother and children embark on a journey to uncover the truth behind her disappearance, they receive some much-needed assistance.”

When asked what she enjoyed the most about making the film she said, “My favorite part is actually watching what we created afterward. I’m really excited to get all the pieces together because whenever we film, we don’t always film in chronological order, and then we do several takes from several different viewpoints, so actually seeing it all put together is always great.”

However, Nowlin does report there was a slight learning curve at the beginning of learning how to film. “Something unexpected that happened is our very first scene that we filmed we ended up throwing it in the trash. I’ve been on so many film sets and felt like we can do it no problem, but we had no idea what we were doing. It was only after watching our first scene we filmed did we realize we needed to work on our camera setup and lighting. We both went home and looked up a bunch of YouTube videos on lighting and

angles and got back to it.”

She describes the next steps toward applying a film into film festivals. “If you’re submitting to film festivals, you will put it on YouTube, but it has to be on private, because you can’t publicly release it. Then you get a Filmfreeway.com account and upload it there. Filmfreeway.com is where you place the stills from the film, credits to the directors and actors, a link to the film, and sign up for film festivals in your state, or around the country. We focused on Native American film festivals and Oklahoma film festivals for our short film.”

After submitting to the festivals, the website then lists the progress of being accepted or not, and notifies when that festival will be held. “We were selected for five festivals for our film,” said Nowlin. “We got accepted into Red Brick Road Festival, Native Lens, American Motion Pictures, Tulsa Underground, and Bare Bones International Film and Music Festival. The Red Brick Road will be premiering our film Oct. 9 in Pauls Valley.”

When asked how it felt for their film to be chosen she said, “We were super nervous because we had no idea if it was good. I mean I know it is good, but good enough to compete with other people or even premiere with people doing this for years was very nerve-wracking.

“Our very first premiere was in Durango, Colo., and only six short films were selected. Two of those were student films in collaboration with the festival, so technically only four were selected, and we were one of them. Afterward we were at a mixer and the people in attendance kept coming up and saying, ‘Oh my gosh, your film was so good!’”

“Tami Graham with KSUT Four Corners



From left, Meraelie Sevenstar, Rainie Forrest and Brynlee Nowlin look for a missing person for the short film, ‘The Red Echoes,’ filmed in Clinton, Okla., in August 2025. (Courtesy photo)

Public Radio, also the executive director of Native Lens as well as leads the Durango Independent Film Festival, told us that when our film was playing every single person in the audience was holding their breath. She told us it was good, so we did get some really good feedback.”

With their next festival planned for October, Nowlin was able to share, “We are working on a new short film for our next production. It is planned to be a horror story, but that’s all I can say right now.”

Nowlin shares some advice to people thinking about making their own films. “Pick up a camera and just start filming. Tell your own stories. The film industry in Oklahoma

is so much bigger than I think anybody realizes. The film industry has been booming because there are so many different incentives to film in Oklahoma, you can even get rebates on what you’ve spent.”

She references the website Okfilmmusic.org in which interested parties can look up incentives for creating a film in Oklahoma, how to get started or even find work in the film industry, search for Oklahoma musicians and music instructors, or find a production team available for a project.

Nowlin says to anybody wanting to start a new project or hobby, “Find something you’re passionate about and go create something.”

offense moving throughout the match. Littlecalf also contributed a block at the net.

The junior varsity squad matched the varsity team’s success, defeating Minco in straight sets, 25-13 and 25-19.

Meya Baros led the JV effort with five aces, while Serena Morton added three. Michelle Hamilton, Harley Kirk and Nehoni Gorham each recorded two aces, with Glory Gray adding one.

Gorham, McKenzie Hawk and Mahli Adair each contributed a kill in the JV victory.

“It’s still early in the season, and these girls continue to work hard, improve, and play together as a team,” Volleyball Coach Rebecca Risenhoover said.

With both squads finding successes against Minco and Capps Middle School, the Lady Chiefs demonstrated strong serving and offensive play while continuing to build momentum on the volleyball court.

from home for the first time can be difficult. They are homesick and they are learning for the first time how to live independently. They are learning responsibility.

Whiteman tells them to give Riverside a chance, “Just give us two weeks and let us grow on you,” she tells them.

She wants students to understand that Riverside is more than a school. It is preparation for life. They will not always be 16 years old. One day they will be 18,

sun,” she said.

And behind that desk, she continues doing the work she has done for more than three decades.

“That’s why I sit behind this desk and do what I do ... to help our kids succeed in life.”

After 35 years, retirement is not yet on Whiteman’s immediate horizon.

She believes all roads led her to Riverside, and she expects it is where she will eventually finish her career.

“I’ve been doing this for a long time,” she said. “And I’ve heard it said you will know when it’s time to retire, and I haven’t come to that crossroads yet.”

Until that day comes, she will continue showing up.

She will continue answering questions.

She will continue challenging students who need to be challenged.

She will continue encouraging students who need encouragement.

And she will continue believing in young people, sometimes before they are ready to believe in themselves.

For anyone considering a career as a counselor, Whiteman offers advice

Lady Chiefs Sweep Capps Middle School in Strong Volleyball Performance



Darlington Lady Chiefs Varsity Volleball team

The Lady Chiefs volleyball teams turned in a strong performance Sept. 10 against their opponent Capps Middle School.

The junior varsity took their match we a two set win, 25-15 and 25-14. The varsity had a strong winning outcome, shutting out Capps 25-6 and 25-15.

In an August 25 match against Minco Bulldogs, both the varsity and junior varsity squads earned victories over the Bulldogs.



Darlington Lady Chiefs Junior Varsity Volleball team

The varsity Lady Chiefs controlled the match from the start, posting straight-set victories of 25-13 and 25-20.

Johanna Navanick led the varsity squad from the service line with four aces, while Leelo Sandoval, Yasmina Sleeper and Sienna Sleeper each contributed three aces. Eva Littlecalf added another ace to the team’s total.

Littlecalf also paced the Lady Chiefs offensively with four kills, followed by Violet Roman Nose with three kills. Navanick led the team in assists with five, helping keep the

WHITEMAN

continued from pg. 6

“I was so excited for him,” she said.

Whiteman became emotional as she recalled the young man’s story. He had lost his mother in a tragic car accident when he was only 10 years old and struggled after her death. Whiteman said she told him she could not bring his mother back but she could help him find a way to honor her. She told him he could honor his mother by becoming a good father, being a good citizen and giving back to his community.

When she saw him years later, Whiteman thought about how proud his mother would have been. She told him as much.

He already knew.

“I wouldn’t be here if you had not sat me down and talked to me,” he told her.

For Whiteman, those words were another kind of award.

“Thank you for validating that for me,” she remembers thinking.

Another student Whiteman remembers is Nancy.

Nancy became pregnant during her senior year of high school. At the time, teenage pregnancy carried a significant stigma, and Nancy had decided she was not going back to school. Whiteman went to her home.

She knocked on the door. Nancy answered.

“I’m not going to school,” she told Whiteman.

Whiteman’s response was immediate.

“Oh yes, yes you are.”

She told Nancy she would pick her up every day if she had to.

Lawton had recently established a school specifically designed to help pregnant students finish high school. Nancy had already tried to enroll but was told it was full.

Whiteman was not willing to accept that answer.

“We’re going to get you in it,” she told her.

Then she told Nancy to get ready for school.

Nancy protested that she did not really want to do it.

“I really didn’t ask if you wanted to,” Whiteman told her.

She explained that Nancy needed to complete her high school diploma for herself and her baby because without that diploma, too many doors would be closed.

Nancy listened.

She graduated.

Years later, Whiteman watched that same young woman become a successful adult, wife and mother.

She became deeply involved in education and eventually became head

of the Johnson-O’Malley program at her school. Whiteman later served as the emcee for a powwow at the school.

As she watched Nancy speak, Nancy publicly credited Whiteman for helping her stay in school.

“I wouldn’t be here if it wasn’t for this lady behind me,” Nancy said.

For Whiteman, watching her former student walk across that stage was an emotional and joyful moment.

It was proof of what can happen when someone refuses to let a young person give up on themselves.

“I get emotional about these things because this is my life’s work,” Whiteman said. “This is my mission in life.”

That mission continues every day at Riverside.

Whiteman says many of the students who come through the school simply need someone to believe in them.

“A lot of kids that come through this building just need someone to believe in them and to tell them, ‘You are worth the effort,’” she said.

Many Riverside students come from across the country. For some, being away

“How is it going to empower me to be able to give back to you,” - Carla Whiteman

rooted in the experience of a lifetime.

If the desire is already there, she believes there is a reason for it.

“You have to have a love of children to go into counseling,” she said. “Be able to love them unconditionally, not be judgmental and be able to meet them where they are at.”

Then comes the most important part.

“Hopefully take them where they need to go.”

For Carla Whiteman, that has been the work of a lifetime.

And judging by the former students who continue to return to her with stories of degrees earned, families built, communities served and dreams realized, the journey has made a difference.

The awards she received may have placed her name on a stage.

But the real measure of Whiteman’s career can be found in the young people who walked through her office doors uncertain of themselves and eventually walked back into the world knowing they were capable of becoming something more.

For them, Ms. Whiteman was there.

And she believed.

LEGAL NOTICES

CIV-2025-0057

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED SEP 02 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of:)
MARY BETH BRAVO)
Petitioner,) Case No. CIV-2025-0057
VS.)
MAURICIO BRAVO ZARAGOZA)
Respondent,)

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: MAURICIO BRAVO ZARAGOZA
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 7th day of OCTOBER 2026, at 10:00 A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RlCmUwVDVlOEFMc0lSQUJlRkxTd0RlOT09> or
<https://zoom.us/join>
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 2nd day of September, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2026-0059

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 13 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Application of:)
TRISTIAN BENIEN PAYAN) Case No. CIV-2026-0059
DOB: 08/06/2008)
To Change His/Her Name)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

TAKE NOTICE, that TRISTIAN BENIEN PAYAN has filed in this Court for Petition for Name Change, as follows, to wit; from TRISTIAN BENIEN PAYAN to TRISTIAN BENIEN SPOTTENCORN and that petition will be heard by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 West Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, 73022, on the 14th day of OCTOBER, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., and any written protest may be filed in the case, prior to the date set for the hearing.

Issued this 13th day of August, 2026.

Lafayette Whitcrow, Chief Court Clerk
Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2020-0049

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 28 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
DOUGLAS BLACKBEAR) Case No. PG-2020-0049
DOB: 04/16/2002)
An Alleged Incapacitated Person,)

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 28th day of SEPTEMBER 2026, at 10:00 A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RlCmUwVDVlOEFMc0lSQUJlRkxTd0RlOT09> or
<https://zoom.us/join>
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 28th day of August, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0021

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED SEP 02 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
S.L.H.) Case No. PG-2026-0021
Minor Child,)

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ED HAYS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 7th day of OCTOBER 2026, at 10:00 A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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

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 - Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RlCmUwVDVlOEFMc0lSQUJlRkxTd0RlOT09> or
<https://zoom.us/join>
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 2nd day of September, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0030

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED SEP 02 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
GERALD YELLOWEAGLE) Case No. PG-2026-0030
DOB: 10/18/1950)
An Alleged Incapacitated Person,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES

TAKE NOTICE that Randall Lonebear, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 7th day of OCTOBER, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

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

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RlCmUwVDVlOEFMc0lSQUJlRkxTd0RlOT09> or
<https://zoom.us/join>
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 2nd day of September, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

JFD-2014-0024

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 03 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: JFD-2014-0024
EX. REL.,)
RAMANDA GARCIA,) ANTHONY SWALLOW:
OBLIGOR
PETITIONER,)
vs.) RAMANDA GARCIA:
CUSTODIAN
ANTHONY SWALLOW,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ANTHONY SWALLOW

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Motion to Modify Child Support by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 5th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated the 3rd day of August 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CIV-2020-0052

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 03 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2020-0052
EX. REL.,) EUGENE BLACKBEAR III:
APRIL CLANTON NOW CURTIS,) OBLIGOR
PETITIONER,)
vs.) APRIL CLANTON NOW CURTIS:
CUSTODIAN
EUGENE BLACKBEAR III,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: APRIL CLANTON NOW CURTIS

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Motion to Modify Child Support by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 5th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated the 3rd day of August 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CIV-2026-0038

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 03 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2026-0038
EX. REL.,) LOCADIO HADLEY:
CHELSE YELLOWEYES,) OBLIGOR
PETITIONER,)
vs.) CHELSE YELLOWEYES:
CUSTODIAN
LOCADIO HADLEY,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: LOCADIO HADLEY

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Petition to Register Order Under Full Faith and Credit and Motion for Income Assignment on Per Capita Income by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 5th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated the 3rd day of August 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CIV-2024-0097

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 03 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2024-0097
EX. REL.,) JANET HEAP OF BIRDS:
JOSHUA RAINEY,) OBLIGOR
PETITIONER,)
vs.) JOSHUA RAINEY:
CUSTODIAN
JANET HEAP OF BIRDS,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: JANET HEAP OF BIRDS

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Motion to Modify Child Support by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 5th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated the 3rd day of August 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CIV-2026-0010

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 03 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2026-0010
EX. REL.,) GEORGE WHITESHIELD:
SHELBY WHITETHUNDER,) OBLIGOR
PETITIONER,)
vs.) SHELBY WHITETHUNDER:
CUSTODIAN
GEORGE WHITESHIELD,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: GEORGE WHITESHIELD

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Petition to Register Order Under Full Faith and Credit and Motion for Income Assignment on Per Capita by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 5th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated the 3rd day of August 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CIV-2026-0002

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 03 2026
P.O. BOX 102 DOCKET PAGE
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2026-0002
EX. REL.,) JONATHAN SAM:
TAYLOR SHOOPMAN,) OBLIGOR
PETITIONER,)
vs.) TAYLOR SHOOPMAN:
CUSTODIAN
JONATHAN SAM,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: JONATHAN SAM

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Petition to Register Order Under Full Faith and Credit and Motion for Income Assignment on Per Capita by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 5th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated the 3rd day of August 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

CIV-2016-0098

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
IN THE TRIAL COURT
FILED AUG 03 2026
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TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2016-0098
EX. REL.,) DAVID LEVI:
MISSELDIA MILLER,) OBLIGOR
PETITIONER,)
vs.) MISSELDIA MILLER:
CUSTODIAN
DAVID LEVI,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: MISSELDIA MILLER / DAVID LEVI

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Motion to Reduce Arrears to Judgment by Tribal Child Support Services. You are ordered to appear in the District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 5th DAY OF OCTOBER 2026 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Dated the 3rd day of August 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
1621G East U.S. Highway 66 / P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-262-1125

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Birthday Jessi!
September 9
Mom, dad, brother and Keanu love you!



Happy Birthday Latoya Lonelodge
September 9
We love you with all of our hearts,
Cory, Zori, Lovelynn, River and Mom



Happy Birthday
Lisa Martin
September 18
You are kind, giving and all around one of the best people –
Love from all of us who are blessed to be called your friend



Happy Birthday Sabrina Norris
Septempber. 21
From all of us in the Dept. of Administration



CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

Presented by: Indian Child Welfare Program

C&A Tribal Services Center-

4400 SW 21st St

OKC

Oklahoma City, OK

Honoring Tradition • Strengthening Families • Supporting Our Children

Join us for Positive Indian Parenting Classes designed to support Native families through culturally grounded parenting practices that honor our traditions, values, and community strengths.

ONE DAY ONLY!

COMPLETE THE ENTIRE COURSE IN ONE THURSDAY

LESSONS:

1. Traditional Parenting

2. Lessons of the Storyteller

3. Lessons of the Cradleboard

4. Harmony in Child Rearing

5. Traditional Behavior Management

6. Lessons of Mother Nature

7. Praise in Traditional Parenting

8. Choices in Parenting

Thursday

November 5th

9am-4pm

Who Can Attend?

Parents, caregivers, guardians, and community members interested in positive, culturally respectful parenting.

Please complete the Joform to sign up or contact ICW @ 405-422-7495

icwprogram@cheyyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

Please note registration is limited to 30.

https://form.joform.com/262505817864162

Lunch, refreshments and limited transportation provided for class registrants

OCTOBER 2026

hello FALL

EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

CONTACT INFORMATION: 405-422-7662

DREAMSGROUP@CHEYENNEANDARAPAH0-NSN.GOV

The Plains Collective & Tradition Not Addiction Program are looking for models, hairstylists, and makeup artists to be part of our 2nd Indigenous Arts Festival Fashion Show during the Watonga Cheese Festival!

10/09/2026

START AT 5:00 PM

LOCATION

POCKET PARK

115 E MAIN ST

WATONGA, OK

CONTACT US

405-365-7709

zblackowl@cheyyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

REGISTER NOW

SCAN ME

Scan QR Code to download the Tribal Tribune on any mobile device

CONCHO AGENCY PUBLIC NOTICE

The Concho Agency is currently taking landowner nominations for mineral tracts to be presented in the agency’s Winter and Spring Oil and Gas Lease sales. Nominations will be taken year-round.

• Owners may nominate up to 3 tracts.

• Tracts must be without a current lease or have unleased formations.

Each nomination will be used to request a review of the tract’s eligibility and processed as a nominated tract(s) for the next lease sale. To nominate your tract(s), owners can retrieve and complete the form here or for assistance reach out through several options.

• Complete the Nomination form

• Email at IA_Concho_Agency_Realty@bia.gov

• Call and request the form at 405-452-2414, Oil and Gas

• Visit in person or by mail at 1635 East U.S. Highway 66, El, Reno, Oklahoma 73036

Please include the following information in your request: Name, Address, City, State, ZIP, Phone Number and email address.

Calendar of Events

All Nations Rezcovery 2nd annual Pow-wow

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 Tofpi, HLG Lydia West, ADs Brian Felder & Bobby Cometsevah, 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.

Environmental Oversight Committee Public Meeting

10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Sept. 24, 2026 in the large conference room located within the Dept. of Administration building in Concho, Okla. Emergency Management will present ‘Emergency Preparedness’ presentation. For more information contact the Environmental Protection Agency at 405-422-7469.

PUBLIC NOTICE-CONCHO AGENCY

Concho Agency has recently streamlined their communication channels by unifying our telephone and email services. This upgrade is designed to make it easier for everyone to connect and collaborate, ensuring faster responses and a more seamless experience when reaching out with questions or concerns.

There are several convenient options to contact the Agency.

• For those who prefer phone communication, can reach the Agency directly using the soft line feature via Microsoft Teams at 405-452-2414, which offers the familiar automated choices for both Management and Realty matters.

• Julie Anderson
Acting Superintendent
405-247-1576 or
Julie.anderson@bia.gov

• For specific inquiries, three dedicated email addresses are available: Concho_Agency_Probate_Office@BIA.GOV for Probate-related questions
Concho_Agency_Realty@BIA.GOV for Realty issues.
Concho_Agency_SMC@BIA.GOV for Soil and Moisture Conservation

or Natural Resources inquiries.

• For a mailing option, Concho Agency’s address is P.O. Box 68, El Reno, Oklahoma 73036 and for delivery our physical location is 1635 E. Highway 66, in the Canadian Square Shopping Center.

• For the Bureau of Trust Funds Administration Henry Ware, Fiduciary Trust Officer
572-999-4058
Toll Free: 1-888-678-6836

• For the BIA OJS Law Enforcement, please call the Dispatch Roll Over Anadarko Agency (405) 262-4814
Anadarko Direct (405) 247-6712
P.O. Box 152 Concho, OK 73022
778 N. US 81 (FEDEX & UPS ADDRESS

Our team is committed to making this transition as smooth and beneficial as possible for everyone. Should you have any questions or need assistance navigating the new system, please don’t hesitate to reach out.

Bobby James

314 S. 16th STREET

Clinton, OK 73601

IG: zhoni2004

lonelypanda1996@gmail.com

Phone: (602) 738-3076

OBITUARIES

Victor White Bird Orange

Victor White Bird (Vé'késóhvó'komaestse) Orange was not born in a hospital, but was delivered by old medicine people of his tribe on Aug. 11, 1945. He passed from this earth on Aug. 25, 2026

His mother was Bertha Orange and his father was Fred Hoffman. He was given to his aunt Maxine Candy, who raised him for the first two years of his life, and then to his great-grandmother Voostah (White Buffalo Woman) and Perry Reynolds, who raised him until about the age of 5 or 6 when they both passed on. From then on, he was raised by his grandma Laura Black Bear and his grandfather Emil Miles.

Victor was a high school basketball star and graduated from Hammon High School

retirement in 1995. He divorced his first wife Janet, in 1996. Victor had his second son Austin in 2000, and his third daughter Hope in 2002, both with his second wife, Prairie Lundberg (now Prairie Boulmier. They married in 2002. In 2005, he was diagnosed with Stage IV lymphoma and was cured of cancer in ceremony that same year. Victor met his third wife, Kayt Schneider (now Kayt Whitebird Orange), in 2006, and they married in 2007, later divorcing in late 2016.

Victor lived with his daughter Carrie and Ezra Lehi in Oklahoma from 2014 to 2024. During that time, he worked for the tribe toward the revitalization of the Cheyenne language. He lived with and was cared for by his son Austin and his daughter

was one of the last fluent language speakers of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. Victor will be dearly missed by all who knew him.

He is survived by his brothers, Melvin, Ricky, and Rector Candy, his sisters, Laura and Veronica Candy and his children, LaDonna Orange, Carrie Lehi, Tommy Orange, Austin Orange and Hope Orange. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Christina Pedersen, Felix Orange, Faith Rodriguez, Ella Lehi, Wesley Lehi, and Solomon Orange and his great-grandchildren, Ares Ira Evans, Ha-lea Faith Evans, and Isla Jane Pedersen.

Wake services were held Aug. 30 at the Hammon Emergency Response Center

in Hammon, Okla. Funeral services were held Aug. 31 at the Hammon School Auditorium under the direction of Lee Hometown Funeral Home. Serving as pallbearers will be Ricky Candy, Wyatt Candy, Collin Candy, Franklin Byrd, Zain Martinez, Jordan Roque, and Andrew Miles, Silas Miles.

OBITUARIES

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Adrian Sean Curley

Adrian Sean Curley, age 27, El Reno resident, was born Sept. 10, 1998, in Denver, Colo., to John William Standingwater and Stephanie Rose Curley. He passed away Aug. 22, 2026, in Billings, Mont.

Adrian was raised in Fort Defiance and Tuba City, Ariz., and attended Tuba City Elementary before later attending school in Elk City, Okla.. He moved to El Reno for his senior year and graduated from El Reno High School.

Adrian was a chapter member of Tadlena and Tuba on the Navajo Reservation in Arizona. His heritage and the places where he was raised remained an important part of his life.

A hardworking young man, Adrian worked in construction whenever the opportunity arose. He was always willing to lend a hand to his family and could be counted on when someone needed help. He enjoyed taking care of the farm and tending to the sheep and was happiest spending time outdoors. He loved camping, swimming, and simply being

outside. Adrian was an Arizona Cardinals fan and enjoyed playing video games, listening to music, and going to concerts. Most of all, he enjoyed spending time with his brothers, family and friends. Those who knew Adrian will remember his kind and accepting nature. He treated people with respect, was friendly to everyone he met, and had a wonderful sense of humor. One of his favorite ways of staying connected with his friends was sending them funny Facebook reels just to make them laugh.

Adrian was preceded in death by his grandmother Donna Youngbull, his great-grandparents, John and Lucille Youngbull and Elliott Sr. and Christine Curley and Rachel Curley.

He is survived by his mother Stephanie Curley of El Reno, his father John Standingwater of Elk City, Okla., his grandfather Elliott Curley Jr. of Zuni, N.M., his aunt, Stella and her husband Steve, of Arizona and his brothers, Karl Craig of Denver, Elton Standingwater of Kingfisher, Okla., John



Standingwater of El Reno, and Jordan Standingwater of Clinton, Okla. He also leaves behind many other relatives, friends and loved ones who will deeply miss his kindness, humor and caring spirit.

A traditional all-night wake was held Sept.8 at the Hammon Emergency Response Center in Hammon, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 9, at the same venue, with John Youngbull officiating, under the direction of Lee Hometown Funeral Home.

Funeral services for Adrian will be held Wednesday, September 9, 2026, at the ERC Building in Hammon, with John Youngbull officiating.

Eugene Bearhead Jr.

Eugene Bearhead Jr., age 77, Clinton resident, was born Nov. 30, 1948, in Clinton, Okla., to Eugene Sr. and Erma (Calf) Bearhead. He passed away Sept. 8, 2026, at his home in Clinton.

Eugene was raised in Clinton and attended Concho and Chilocco Indian Schools. He was a member of the Clinton Indian Baptist Church and was a familiar face in the community. He worked for Bar-S Foods for many years before retiring in 2013.

Eugene enjoyed the simple things in life and especially treasured time spent with his family. He loved watching old black-and-white cowboy movies and Gunsmoke, attending powwows, and going to church. He looked forward to going out for breakfast and search-

ing through garage sales with his sister, Viola. Above all, Eugene loved spending time with his grandchildren and family. He was especially fond of his daughter Nova’s fry bread and Indian tacos.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Eugene Sr. and Erma Bearhead, his sisters, Mary Ann Bearhead and Betty Bearhead, his brothers, Mark Bearhead and Arnold Bearhead and his nephews, Marvin Hines and Joshua Hines.

Eugene is survived by his daughters, Nova Washa of Clinton, KC Warledo of Weatherford, Alexis Warledo of Clinton and Ashley Warledo and her companion, Joseph Herrera, of Weatherford; his sister Viola Hines of Clinton, 16 grandchildren, and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, extended fam-



ily members and friends. A traditional wake service was held Sept. 10 at the Clinton Indian Baptist Church in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 11 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center, officiated by Rev. Gerald Panana, followed by an interment at the Clinton City Cemetery under the direction of Lee Hometown Funeral Home.

Maria Rene’e Meat

Maria Rene’e Meat, 78, of Canton, Okla., was born on July 5, 1948, in Clinton, Okla., to Hutchinson Finley and Pauline Meat. She passed away on Sept. 3, 2026, in Oklahoma City, surrounded by her family and friends.

Rene’e was a longtime resident of Canton and worked as a cook for Canton Head Start until her retirement. She spent much of her life caring for others and raised many of her grandchildren as her own. She was the heart of her family, the one who held everyone together, kept family traditions alive and made sure the people she loved were always taken care of. Renee loved attending powwows, playing bingo, going to the casino and watching her grandchildren and great-grandchildren participate in their many sports and activities. She was a devoted fan of OU football and Thunder basketball. She also loved music, especially George Strait, and enjoyed attending concerts whenever she could. Renee had a love for traveling and making memories with her family. She especially enjoyed the family’s summer trips to Wyoming for ceremonies, along with the many other road trips they took throughout the years. Before the passing of her beloved hus-

band, Charles, the two spent much of their time traveling, chasing after grandchildren, and making as many memories together as possible. Rene’e will be remembered for her strength, her generous heart, and the way she welcomed others with open arms. She was always there when someone needed her, even when she did not have to be, and she would do anything she could for anyone. Her family was the most important part of her life, and the love and traditions she gave them will continue for generations.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Pauline Meat and Hutchinson Finley, her beloved husband Charles Surveyor, her daughter Dawn Meat, her granddaughter Suni Meat and her siblings, Jimmy Scabbyhorse, Bill Pratt, Ronald Meat, Joyce Meat, Albert Meat, Joe Meat, Eva Meat and Josh Finley. She is survived by her children, Eugenia Surveyor, Janita Meat, Sean Meat, Charity Meat and Paula Meat, her grandchildren, Tia Surveyor, Torre Meat and wife Abbi, Jessica Webster, Megan Guy, Mary Guy, Tirador Pratt, Ryan Surveyor, Staci Pratt, Shaun Surveyor, Jana Pratt, and Theresa Surveyor; and numerous great-grandchildren; her aunt Ernestine White-



bird, her niece Lena Meat, her cousin Frances Bates and many other relatives and friends who loved her dearly. Although her family will deeply miss the woman who held them all together, they will continue to honor Renee by staying close, carrying on the traditions she loved, taking trips together, playing her favorite music, and cheering for the Sooners. Her life was a blessing, her love was a gift, and her memory will remain in the hearts of her family forever.

A traditional all-night wake service was held Sept. 9 at the Canton Emergency Response Center in Canton, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 10, at the same venue, officiated by Pastor Waylon Upchego, under Pierce Funeral Home. Honoring Renee’s wishes, her body will be cremated following the services.

Rita Lavonne Island

Rita Lavonne (Big Medicine) Island was born on June 13, 1952 in Watonga, Okla., to Joseph Big Medicine and Emma Jean (Black Bear) Big Medicine. She passed away on Sept. 2, 2026 in Weatherford, Okla., at the age of 74. Rita was raised in Watonga and graduated from Watonga High School. She then attended Bacone College and later transferred to California State University in Long Beach, Calif. She came back home to Oklahoma and earned her Certified Nursing Assistant certification. Rita spent her working years in nursing homes and doing home health care. Over the years, she lived in El Reno, Watonga, Woodward and Weatherford, Okla., as well as Lane Deer, Mont. Rita was a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and her Native heritage was an important and cherished part of her life. She expressed her love and dedication to her culture through her talent for creating Native American regalia. Rita was skilled in making all aspects of regalia, putting her time, creativity, and craftsmanship into each piece. She especially enjoyed beadwork and creating pieces for others. Rita also danced when she was younger and enjoyed spending time with her mother Emma Jean Blackbear. When she traveled, she often went to Montana to visit relatives and friends on the North-

ern Cheyenne Reservation. Rita was a strong believer in Jehovah’s New System of Things and held firmly to her faith in the resurrection. Her faith was an important part of her life, and she looked forward to the day when she would be reunited with family, friends, and loved ones. Rita enjoyed studying with the Jehovah’s Witnesses whenever she had the opportunity and found comfort and strength in her faith and the hope it gave her. Rita enjoyed traveling, watching television and movies, camping, taking walks, and spending time at the casino. Above all, Rita always made time for her children, who were especially important to her. She made sure her children were fed, clothed, and always had a home, and she consistently put their needs first and was always there to help and care for her family. She especially enjoyed spending time with her grandchildren and would travel to New Mexico and Colorado to visit her grandson Ezekiel Maliek Whiskers and she loved her granddaughter Stormy An-

rita Good Bear of Montana. Rita also spent a great deal of time with her son, Henry Limpy III, making sure he was cared for and looked after. She had a caring heart and often reached out to family members and others who were hurting, always wanting to help in whatever



way she could. Rita believed strongly in family, friends, and relatives and always hoped for the best for everyone. She will be remembered for her kindness, her willingness to help others, and the warmth and care she showed to those around her. She was preceded in death by her parents; brother Joe Big Medicine Jr., son Josh Big Medicine, daughters, Tara and Rikki Big Medicine and sister Roberta Rose Whistling Elk. Rita is survived by son Henry Limpy, III of Weatherford, son Anthony Limpy of El Reno, daughter Emma Limpy of Lane Deer and son Keith Island Jr. of Custer County, Okla.

An all-night wake service was held Sept. 9 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 10, at the same venue under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home. Rita’s final resting place will be in Montana.

Charlotte Lumpmouth

Charlotte (Woo ta noo) Lumpmouth was born April 9, 1939, to Jimmie Doty Lumpmouth and Flora (Geary) Lumpmouth in Concho, Okla.. She passed away Sept. 5, 2026, at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital in Yukon, Okla., at the age of 87.

Charlotte graduated from Geary High School in 1957. Throughout her career, she worked as an accountant and computer clerk for the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Indian Health Service, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. She also worked as a 911 operator for the Ute Tribe. Charlotte was a member of the Native American Church and the Northern Arapaho Rabbit Lodge in Ethete, Wyo.

She is survived by her children, Teresa Lynn Murray and husband Michael of

Geary, Okla., Michael James Kodaseet and wife Katie of Geary, Okla., Francine Louise Williams and husband Leonard Williams Jr. of El Reno, Okla., and Elaine Marie Matanane and husband Juan of Geary, Okla., stepdaughter Jennifer Cesspooch of Utah, 13 grandchildren, numerous great-grandchildren, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Charlotte was preceded in death by her parents, Jimmie Doty Lumpmouth and Flora Geary Lumpmouth, one son, Kevin Kodaseet, four grandsons, Lonnie Williams, LCPL Henry Wetselline, Zachary Two Lances Kodaseet and Frank Anthony Williams; two brothers, Thomas Edward Lumpmouth and Bruce Lumpmouth and two sisters, Dorothy Lumpmouth and Betty Lumpmouth Bai-



ley. An all-night wake services was held Sept. 8 at Charlotte’s home. Graveside services were held Sept. 9 at the Lumpmouth Family Cemetery in Geary, with Rev. Marilyn Bread, Vernon Yarholer and Francine Williams officiating, under the direction of Turner Funeral Home.



WELCOMING IN THE NEW 2026-2027 LABOR DAY POWWOW
CHEYENNE PRINCESS EMILY LA’MIYAH GRAY (left)
AND
ARAPAHO PRINCES MIKLYN LUMPMOUTH (right)

ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Andre Lime, Clinton High School

CLINTON, Okla. - Lining up on the defensive end, Cheyenne and Arapaho youth, Andre Lime, 18, is a force to be reckoned with in his senior year on the football field.

Standing 6'2, Lime plays right tackle and defensive tackle for the Clinton High School football team.

Born in Woodward, Okla., and raised in the Clinton, Okla., community, Lime began playing football



in the second grade when his father signed him up.

"I just really fell in love with the game," Lime said.

Playing football, what Lime has come to love the most is creating bonds with the people he's met through playing and winning games.

His biggest motivation for continuing to

play comes from his family.

"My parents, my family and just being supported, the decisions I make," Lime said.

With his senior year kicking off, Lime looks forward to enjoying the season ahead as he grew up playing football and it's all he's ever known. It's the only sport he's ever stuck with and isn't sure how he feels knowing this will be his last year playing in high school.

"I hope to try to take it to the next level if I can, but if not just be good and just work hard really," Lime said.

Growing as a football player through the years, Lime credits learning everything as much as he could as he's gotten used to it playing the sport as much as he did.

"Being coachable and able to learn new things," Lime said.

Maintaining a 3.0 GPA, Lime best juggles school and football by staying on top of his school work.

"I try to get it done in class that way if I can't, I barely have any to do at home, just staying focused really," Lime said.

Training all week for football during school practices, Lime focuses more of his time training to get better at using his hands on the field. And the best way to improve his game is working at it.

"Just getting off blocks better," Lime said.

As a football player, Lime believes it's

important to have good health by watching what you eat and to be able to learn on the field.

"If you don't watch your health you can get hurt really bad, and then being able to learn because there's a lot to learn and it's not easy, they got to be coachable," Lime said.

With this being his senior year of football and final season of playing, Lime hopes to leave the field and be remembered as the player with a hard work ethic and who was always there for others.

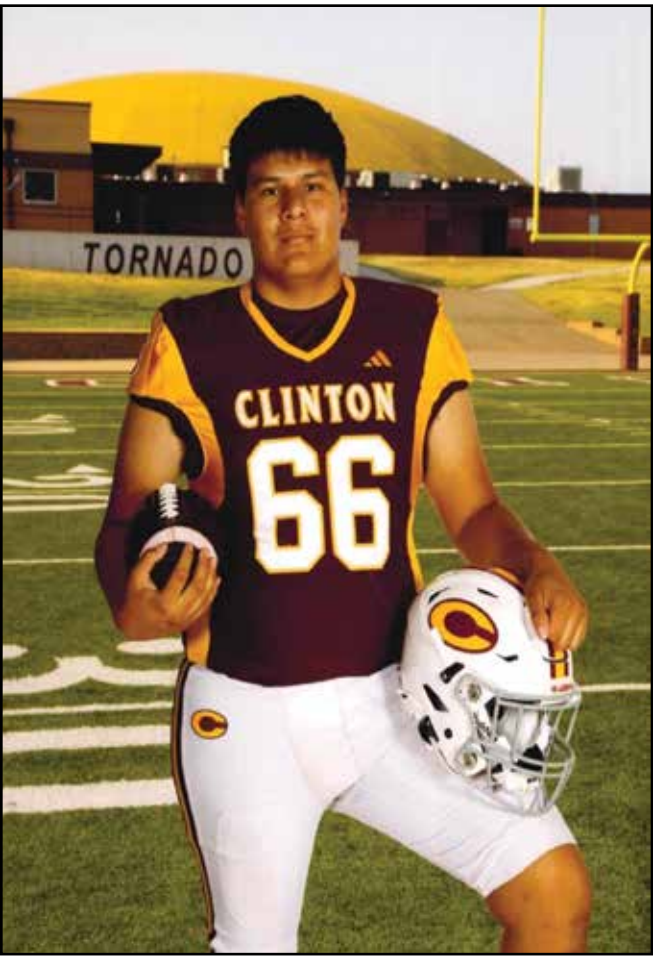
What football has taught Lime the most is his work ethic and being able to learn, which he believes will take him far in the long run.

Overall, when he's out there playing on game nights, playing football makes Lime feel the thrills and excitement of being out on the field under the Friday night lights.

"It makes me excited, just everybody being there, it's just fun," Lime said.

After graduating in the spring of 2027, Lime plans to further his education and attend college to study business.

Andre's parents are Robert Lime and



Vivian Lime. His grandmother is Charlene Mendoza. His siblings are Lillian Lime, Cam'Ron Lime and Kyiah Lime. Andre's uncle is Victor Mendoza.

Lucky Star CASINO



Tailgate Takeover

TAILGATE BUNDLE GIVEAWAYS

SATURDAYS IN SEPTEMBER!

One (1) name will be drawn at **10PM** and **11PM** at Lucky Star Casino locations in Concho, Clinton, Canton, Watonga, Concho Travel Center and Hammon. Lucky Star Geary will have one drawing at **11PM**.

PRIZES INCLUDE:



YETI COOLERS



ONE PUSH CANOPY



FOLDING ROCKERS



PROPANE GRILL

Earn entries beginning **MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 2026** • Ten (10) slot points equals one (1) entry
Five (5) times entries on Fridays • Winner must be present to win and may only win once per promotional period.

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.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

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