

Sober Seams, stitching culture, community and connection together

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

A needle and thread can make more than a ribbon skirt.

A handful of beads can become more than a necklace.

A piece of cloth, a paintbrush, a gourd or a simple sewing project can become a way to reconnect with culture, meet new people and, for a little while, simply slow down and enjoy the company of others.

That is the heart of Sober Seams, a community-centered effort through the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Office of Recovery (TOR) that is bringing people together one stitch, bead,

brushstroke and piece of handwork at a time.

On Sept. 15, TOR hosted a Sober Seams event at the Dept. of Health building in El Reno, Okla., where participants gathered around tables to learn, create and share.

Some were learning how to make a gourd. Others were beading necklaces or sewing ribbon skirts. Youth worked on paintings while participants visited with one another, shared techniques and enjoyed an evening centered around creativity and culture.

The details may have been small, but the impact

See **SOBER SEAMS** pg. 4



Tribal youth Jordana Hawk, 9, Winter Beaver, 10, Ember Beaver, 6, and Journie Beaver, 8, get creative during the sober seams event creating paintings. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

Buffalo Management Act advances as Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes continue herd restoration

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

CONCHO, Okla. — For generations, buffalo have represented far more than a source of food for the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. The animals are tied to culture, ceremony, history, spirituality and the responsibilities of caring for the land.

Today, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are among the Native nations actively rebuilding and managing buffalo herds, while federal legislation moving through Congress could provide additional tools and resources for tribes undertaking that work.

The Don Young Doug LaMalfa Indian Buffalo Management Act, introduced in the U.S. House as H.R. 7954, would direct the Dept. of the Interior to work with Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations on buffalo restoration, habitat management and buffalo-related cultural and economic initiatives on Indian lands. The bill was introduced March 17, 2026, and on Sept. 15 was ordered to be reported by the House Committee on Natural Resources by unanimous consent.

For the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the legislation comes as the tribes continue their own long-term efforts to restore and manage buffalo in western Oklahoma.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes maintain a substantial buffalo operation centered in Concho and on other tribal lands throughout Oklahoma. The herd is managed through the tribes' Farm and Ranch program, with Randy Hawk serving as buffalo pro-



Standing outside the National Museum of Natural History is the giant Bison sculpture in Washington, D.C. (Photo / Randy Hawk)

gram manager.

Hawk also serves as a Region 2 regional director for the InterTribal Buffalo Council, an organization representing tribal buffalo programs throughout Indian Country.

The Tribes' buffalo

program has grown considerably over the years. Most recently, the Tanka Fund reported the Concho herd included approximately 200 buffalo across 5,000 acres and highlighted Hawk's role in managing the annual buffalo roundup.

Herd numbers can change as animals are born, transferred or otherwise managed, making herd counts a point-in-time measure rather than a permanent figure.

The tribes' work has also

See **BUFFALO** pg. 10

Entering into 287(g) agreements harms Oklahoma families and communities

By Gabriela Ramirez-Perez, OKPolicy.org

Immigration enforcement around the country has ramped up in unprecedented ways, and Oklahoma is no exception. Although it may no longer dominate national headlines, these enforcement efforts have not slowed; they have increasingly shifted into local communities and law-enforcement agencies. While news headlines have focused on the mass raids and immigration arrests spearheaded by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in states like Minnesota, immigration enforcement in Oklahoma has been carried out in part by local police agencies collaborating with ICE via 287(g) agreements. 287(g) agreements are a type of law enforcement collaboration created decades ago, when anti-immigrant sentiment in the United States was at record high levels, that deputize local police to carry out immigration enforcement duties. The extent of their authority depends on which 287(g) model they sign onto.

Prior to 2025, Oklahoma only had three 287(g) agreements in Okmulgee, Canadian, and Tulsa counties. Since then, however, the number of these 287(g) programs in Oklahoma has exploded. As of August 2026, more than 95 Oklahoma counties, municipalities, and state agencies have signed 287(g) agreements.

When Oklahoma police departments enter into agreements with ICE, they erode community trust, divert local resources, and harm all Oklahomans, citizens and non-citizens alike. Instead of collaborating with ICE to deport Oklahoma residents, local law enforcement agen-

cies must focus on protecting public safety for everyone.

Cooperation with ICE has skyrocketed in Oklahoma

Dozens of Oklahoma localities have signed 287(g) agreements, from state agencies like the Oklahoma Highway Patrol, whose troopers patrol more than 111,000 miles of state roads and highways, to small towns like Sterling, Oklahoma, with a population of less than 700 people. This means that immigration enforcement is being folded into routine traffic stops. Put simply, the federal government does not have to send ICE agents en masse to Oklahoma because local cops are already carrying out immigration enforcement activities. Last year, Oklahoma had the fifth-highest immigrant arrests per capita in the nation.

Further, Oklahoma's cooperation with ICE has made it a major recipient of federal immigration enforcement investments: the state has received more than \$47.3 million from these partnerships, the second-highest amount any state has received.

Law enforcement can commit to varying levels of immigration enforcement in 287(g) agreements, yet most agreements local law enforcement agencies in Oklahoma are signing are the Task Force Model. This is the most expansive model that allows regular police officers to perform most of the duties of immigration agents, and across the country, such broad authority has resulted in cases of racial profiling where people are targeted on the suspicion that they may be undocumented. Deputizing local law enforcement

See **ICE** pg. 6

SUBSCRIBE NOW TO THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBAL TRIBUNE - \$50/YEAR
"Tribal citizens receive free subscriptions"

PRSKRT STD
US POSTAGE PAID
OKLA CITY OK
PERMIT NO. 823

Member Indigenous Journalists Association
National Native Media Award Winner"



Member Oklahoma Press Association
Award Winner of the OPA Better Newspaper Awards"



Member Society of Professional Journalists/
Oklahoma Chapter
Award Winner of the SPJ/OK Chapter Media Award Winner"

Leadership Through Service: Meet the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Chief of Staff and Executive Directors

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune Staff

Leadership is often measured by the decisions made at the top, but within the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, leadership is also found in the work happening behind the scenes, where plans become action, programs become services and the needs of the people become the driving force behind each day’s work.

As the Fourth Branch of Government convenes for its annual Tribal Council meeting, the *Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune* introduces the leadership team helping keep the tribes’ departments, programs and services moving forward.

Behind every department is an executive director charged with turning the tribes’ missions and goals into action. They guide their teams, develop and monitor strategic plans, measure progress, identify challenges and work to ensure their programs remain focused on serving the people. Their work is coordinated through regular reporting and strategic planning with Chief of Staff Teresa Dorsett, who works with the executive leadership team to monitor departmental progress and keep the tribes moving in the right direction.

Throughout the year, departments come together to evaluate what is working, where progress has been made, where additional work is needed and whether established goals are being met. Once a year, executive directors, alongside their program directors, bring those strategic plans and progress updates before the Executive Office and Legislature for a full day of Strategic Plan presentations.

These are the people who keep the wheels turning, leaders whose work may not always be visible to the public, but whose decisions, dedication and daily service directly shape the programs and services provided to Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens.

Chief of Staff Teresa Dorsett

For Teresa Dorsett, leadership has never been simply about holding a title. It is about service, responsibility and the opportunity to make a difference in the lives of others.

For more than 30 years, Dorsett has dedicated her career to serving the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. Throughout that time, she has served as a leader, public servant, educator and community advocate, building a career centered on helping others and creating opportunities for the people around her.

Today, as Chief of Staff for the tribal government, Dorsett

works closely with executive directors, tribal leadership, employees and community members to advance important initiatives and strengthen the communities she serves.

Her career with the tribes has taken her through a number of leadership roles. She stepped in to serve as lieutenant governor during the administration of former Gov. Darrell Flyingman, advocated for Native American youth and education in Washington, D.C., and later led both the Department of Education and the Department of Administration before becoming Chief of Staff.

Through each position, Dorsett has remained focused on the people behind the work.

She said she is especially proud of the executive directors, leadership team and employees she works alongside, recognizing their dedication, professionalism and commitment to serving the community. Together, she said, they work to support the tribes’ mission, address community needs and create meaningful opportunities for tribal citizens.

Dorsett’s commitment to education is reflected in her own academic journey. She holds a Bachelor of Social Work degree, a Master of Education in Adult and Higher Education, and a Master of Education in Educational Leadership.

Her educational background mirrors a lifelong belief in learning, leadership and helping young people reach their full potential.

Leadership and service have also been important parts of Dorsett’s life outside of her professional career. She believes effective leadership begins with listening, building relationships, treating people with respect and working together to find solutions that can make a meaningful difference.

And long before she became a tribal government leader, Dorsett was making her mark on the basketball court.

Her basketball journey began at Geary High School in 1985 before she continued her playing career at Connors State College. Years later, she was honored with induction into the Connors State College Basketball Hall of Fame, recognizing an important chapter in her athletic career and accomplishments.

Today, Dorsett remains devoted to her family and enjoys spending time with her children. She also has a passion for thrifting, finding unique treasures and giving items a second life.



Chief of Staff Teresa Dorsett

At the heart of it all is Dorsett’s pride in her Cheyenne and Arapaho roots and her gratitude for the opportunity to serve tribal citizens.

Her approach to leadership is grounded in compassion, hard work, education, respect and a willingness to help others succeed.

For Dorsett, leadership is not simply about where you stand. It is about who you bring with you and the difference you make along the way.

Dept. of Administration Executive Director Sabrina Norris



Dept. of Administration Executive Director Sabrina Norris

Sabrina Daukei Norris, an enrolled tribal citizen and the executive director of the Department of Administration. She was raised in the Watonga community where she graduated from Watonga High School. Sabrina earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Family Studies and Human Services from Kansas State University where she lived 20 years and worked mostly in retail where she received her supervisory experience. She gained her tribal government experience working for Kaw Nation as a grant research specialist and a domestic violence advocate before finally deciding it was time to move back home.

As long as she can remember, she always knew that she wanted to work for her people.

“I oversee 12 programs in administration that are responsible for the daily operations of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.”

Although most administration’s programs do not provide direct services to tribal citizens, it is the Dept. of Administration’s responsibility to coordinate the administrative and operational functions of the tribal government in order for other departments and programs to operate efficiently and effectively serving our tribal citizens, employees and visitors.

Sabrina’s vision for the Dept. of Administration is to focus on managing the behind the scenes functions that keep the tribes running smoothly while ensuring the tribes stay compliant both financially and administratively with all tribal, federal, state and local regulations.

Dept. of Business Acting Executive Director Tony Maldonado

Tony Maldonado’s career has been shaped by a commit-

ment to serving others, strengthening communities and creating opportunities for the future. From more than two decades in the healthcare industry to his current work in tribal government economic development, Maldonado has built a professional path centered on service, leadership and community development.

Born in Clinton, Okla., and raised in El Reno, Maldonado attended Concho School and El Reno Public Schools before graduating from El Reno High School. He continued his education at El Reno Junior College.

Maldonado spent more than 20 years working in the healthcare industry, where he had the opportunity to assist numerous tribal citizens with medical equipment, prosthetics and nursing home care. His work provided him with firsthand experience in helping individuals and families navigate important healthcare needs.

From 2006 to 2018, Maldonado was co-owner of First Choice Home Medical and Prosthetics. During that same period, he also became involved in long-term care, serving as co-owner of Geary Community Nursing Home from 2014 to 2018.

His professional experience eventually expanded into tribal government and economic development. Since 2024, Maldonado has served as the acting executive director for the Dept. of Business, where he has focused his attention on opportunities that can strengthen the economic future of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and its communities.

One of Maldonado’s key visions for the Dept. of Business is to develop and grow the tribes’ bison herd and cattle ranch with the assistance of department staff. He sees the ranching operations as an opportunity not only to improve tribal lands and agricultural resources, but also to create tangible benefits for tribal citizens.



Dept. of Business Acting Executive Director Tony Maldonado

Among his goals is developing the ability to provide meat products to tribal programs, casinos and tribal citizens. He also hopes to increase tribal revenue and create additional job opportunities for communities.

Improving the tribes’ land base is another important part of Maldonado’s vision. He believes establishing new water sources and improving infrastructure can help strengthen tribal lands and support future economic development.

Maldonado’s commitment to public service extends beyond his professional career. He served as the El Reno Ward 4 City Councilman from 2003 to 2006 and has been involved with Leadership Canadian County. He is also a past president of the United Way of Canadian County and has served on the advisory board for Russell Murray Hospice.

Throughout his career, Maldonado has remained focused on serving people and building stronger communities. His experience in healthcare, business, civic leadership and tribal government has provided him with a broad perspective as he works to advance economic development for the tribes.

Maldonado resides in Edmond, Okla., and is the father of two children, Saige, 17, and Cruz, 9. As he continues his work with the Dept. of Business, his vision is rooted in creating sustainable economic opportunities, strengthening tribal resources and helping build a stronger future for generations to come.

Dept. of Education Executive Director Dr. Carrie F. Whitlow



Dept. of Education Executive Director Dr. Carrie F. Whitlow

Dr. Carrie F. Whitlow is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes as well as a descendant of the Kiowa and Muscogee Creek Tribes. She is the daughter of Dara Franklin and the late Billy Whitlow. Her maternal grandparents are

How Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen Shane Hawk transform personal horror into Indigenous storytelling

By Pam Kragen | San Diego Union-Tribune

A near-fatal battle with COVID in 2020 galvanized the Escondido resident’s determination to write and publish horror anthologies

Halloween has played a big role in the life of horror novelist Shane Hawk.

The 36-year-old Escondido resident’s first memory was when a neighbor in a pig mask jump-scared the 4-year-old Hawk when he was trick-or-treating.

During Halloween week 2020, Hawk, who is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, self-published his first collection of Indigenous horror stories.

And this Oct. 31, he will be speaking in Hawaii on tour for his latest book with co-editor and author Theodore C. Van Alst Jr., “Back for Blood: Never Whistle at Night Part II: An Indigenous Horror Anthology.” It was published Aug. 18 by Penguin Random House’s Vintage Books.

For most of the past six years, Hawk has been juggling his writing, editing and publishing responsibilities with a job teaching history at San Pasqual High School in Escondido.

Since spring, he’s been on a break from school teaching and is instead now mentor-

ing aspiring authors and horror writers at residencies in the Canadian cities of Banff and Calgary. But Hawk said he’s eager to get back to the classroom, where he would especially love the opportunity to teach American history.

“I truly did love teaching and I still would love to go back, whether it’s high school, which I’m credentialed in, or college. I want to be an educator. I’ve always loved helping people,” Hawk said. “A lot of kids need history. But they need history that’s not so biased and leaning a certain way. History really is just a story and who’s telling it.”

Born and raised in Oceanside, Hawk said he grew up “chasing adrenaline” by prank-scaring his buddies and voraciously reading spooky stories, especially R.L. Stine’s grade school-level “Goosebumps” books and Madeleine L’Engle’s children’s novel “A Wrinkle in Time.”

See **STORYTELLING** pg. 5



A Message from the Tribal Council Coordinator Albert Old Crow

Greetings to all of you beautiful Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

October is here, and with it comes one of the most important gatherings of our Tribal government, the annual Tribal Council meeting, which will be held 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Gym in Concho, Okla.

Throughout August and September, the Office of the Tribal Council coordinator has worked to provide tribal members with opportunities to learn about the matters that will come before Tribal Council. Community meetings have been held throughout our communities to discuss the proposed resolutions, the 2027 Tribal Budget, and the candidates for Tribal Council coordinator.

updates have also encouraged members to review these materials in advance and provided information about remote participation.

The annual Tribal Council meeting belongs to the people. Under our Constitution, the Tribal Council consists of Tribal citizens age 18 and older. You do not need to be registered to vote for the Tribal Council meeting, you must only be enrolled. This annual meeting provides an opportunity for members to participate directly in the decisions brought before the Council. This year, handheld voting devices will again assist members attending in person, while remote participation provides another way for eligible members who are not able to travel to Concho to take part.

We also continue to need volunteers to help make the October 3 meeting run smoothly. Volunteers will assist with the sign-in process, the remote voting support table and collecting voting devices following the meeting.

Over the past month, our weekly updates have also highlighted the many services and activities happening throughout our communities, from Public Health Nursing and vaccination services to Social Services outreach, youth activities, Fresh Food Markets and programs for our elders. These activities remind us that tribal government is not simply what happens at a meeting in Concho. It is the work taking place every day throughout our communities and the involvement of tribal members who continue to ask questions, seek information and hold their government accountable.

I want to personally thank everyone who attended these Tribal Council community meetings. Thank you for coming, asking questions, listening, sharing your concerns and taking the time to become informed. Tribal government works best when our people participate. Whether you live near Concho, in one of our other communities, or hundreds of miles away, your voice matters.

I would like to take this opportunity to give a HUGE thank you to the El Reno BIA office personnel, which includes Julie Anderson, Cincie Upchego, and Henry Ware. A representative from their office has attended every Tribal Council community meeting and have shared vital information for all tribal members who have trust land. I learn something new each time I listen to their presentation.

The October 3 agenda includes 17 proposed resolutions, including amendments to the Tribal Council Policies and Procedures, selection of the Tribal Council coordinator, approval of the 2027 Tribal Budget, and proposals concerning data centers, behavioral health services, traditional healing, public notices, remote participation, enrollment records, budget accountability and other matters.

I strongly encourage tribal members to read the resolutions and review the proposed 2027 Tribal Budget before the meeting. These materials can be found on the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes website under the Tribal Council page. The September weekly

As we prepare for October 3, I ask our people to come informed. Read the resolutions. Review the budget. Ask questions. Participate. Vote.

Thank you again to everyone who attended our community meetings, to the staff and volunteers who helped make them possible, and especially to the Tribal members who continue to take an active interest in their tribal government.

I look forward to seeing you at the annual Tribal Council Meeting, 10 a.m., Saturday, Oct. 3, 2026, at the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Gym in Concho.



The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes hosted a voter registration event on National Voter Registration Day Sept. 15, 2026. (Submitted photo)

Why Every Cheyenne and Arapaho Vote Matters

By LaRenda Morgan

Remember the year 1965.

When we step into the voting booth in Oklahoma, we are not simply checking a box on a ballot. We are carrying the voices of our ancestors, honoring our elders, and protecting the future of our children.

Oklahoma is home to deeply rooted tribal families whose daily lives are shaped by decisions made in Washington, D.C., and Oklahoma City. For Tribal Nations, exercising the right to vote is one of the most powerful ways to protect and defend tribal sovereignty.

In Oklahoma, policy is personal. Decisions involving the economy, jobs, gaming, food security programs such as SNAP and FDIPIR, Indian Health Service healthcare, land issues such as Fort Reno, the Farm Bill, the Indian Child Welfare Act, Civil Rights and liberties, public and federal school funding, the Violence Against Women Act, Ida’s Law, transportation infrastructure, and bison management directly affect our families and communi-

ties. Tribal citizens are also impacted by state-tribal gaming and tobacco compacts, jurisdictional disputes, and court decisions that shape the relationship between tribal, state, and federal governments. The effects of these decisions are often felt first in our communities.

By showing up at the polls, tribal voters ensure that local, state, and federal leaders hear and respect the voices of Tribal Nations. We vote to secure a stronger future for the next generation by protecting tribal sovereignty, upholding treaty rights, supporting healthcare services, preserving our languages and cultural traditions, strengthening our schools, and safeguarding our sacred lands.

To help engagement, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have spent the past nine years promoting voter registration, voter education, and candidate meet-and-greet events through the tribes government affairs office. These efforts have encouraged civic engagement, helped citizens better under-

stand the electoral process, and provided opportunities for candidates to meet directly with tribal voters. Just as importantly, these initiatives have demonstrated the significant voting power of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

Other grassroots organizations, including Rock the Native Vote, Warrior Up to Vote, and the Native Organizers Alliance, have also brought attention to Native voter participation. These organizations travel directly to tribal communities, helping citizens register to vote, understand voter identification requirements, and prepare for Election Day. Their efforts have inspired greater participation among first-time voters and younger generations who will help shape the future of Indian Country.

This November presents another important opportunity for tribal citizens to make their voices heard. The decisions made at the ballot box will influence how Oklahoma and Indian Country are

See **NATIVE VOTE** pg. 11

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month: A Time to Remember

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to remember relatives whose lives have been lost to violence, honor survivors and renew the commitment of families and communities to creating safety.

Across Indian Country, the month carries a message that is both difficult and necessary: violence against Native people remains a serious concern, but violence is not traditional.

The National Indigenous Women’s Resource Center (NIWRC) joins advocates and organizations throughout the country each October to recognize Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The organization uses the month to honor those lost to domestic violence, uplift survivors and strengthen efforts to end violence in Native communities.

This year’s message, “With Survivors, Always,” emphasizes the importance of standing alongside survivors and supporting their journeys toward safety, healing and self-determination. NIWRC describes the theme as both a commitment to survivors and a call to action for those working to ensure their needs and rights remain at the center of the response to violence.

For Tribal communities, that work begins with understanding what domestic violence is, recognizing the barriers survivors face and building systems where people can seek help without fear, shame or judgment.

“Violence is not traditional”

Domestic violence can take many forms. It may involve physical, emotional, verbal, sexual, financial, spiritual or digital abuse. Intimate partner violence can occur between current or former spouses and partners, people who are dating, peo-

ple who live together, people who share children or people who have ended a relationship.

The abuse may be visible, such as physical injuries, or less visible, such as threats, intimidation, isolation, stalking, controlling finances or monitoring a person’s phone and online activity.

At the center of many abusive relationships is a pattern of power and control.

For survivors, recognizing that pattern can be an important first step toward seeking help.

NIWRC emphasizes that violence against Native women is not a traditional Indigenous value. Its work connects the history of violence against Native women to the broader impacts of colonization and systems of domination that have affected Native communities for generations.

Violence is not traditional. That message is especially important for young people who are learning what healthy relationships look like. Healthy relationships are built on respect, communication, trust, consent and safety—not fear or control.

The numbers tell a difficult story.

National research demonstrates the scope of violence experienced by American Indian and Alaska Native people.

A National Institute of Justice-funded study using data from the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that 84.3 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native women had experienced violence during their lifetimes.

The study found:

- 56.1 percent had experienced sexual violence.
- 55.5 percent had experienced physical violence by an intimate partner.
- 48.8 percent had experienced stalking.
- 66.4 percent had experienced

psychological aggression by an intimate partner.

The study also found that violence affects Native men at high rates. More than four in five American Indian and Alaska Native men—81.6 percent—reported experiencing violence during their lifetimes.

The figures are national research findings and do not represent a specific measurement of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. They do, however, provide important context for understanding why Native advocates continue to call for culturally appropriate services, stronger community responses and greater access to safety and healing resources.

The research also shows that violence can have consequences extending far beyond the immediate incident.

Among American Indian and Alaska Native victims of physical violence by intimate partners, stalking and sexual violence, 66.5 percent of women reported being concerned for their safety, while 41.3 percent reported physical injuries. Nearly half of female victims reported needing services because of what happened.

One of the greatest challenges facing survivors is access to services.

A person experiencing domestic violence may need emergency shelter, medical treatment, legal assistance, transportation, counseling, financial assistance or help creating a safety plan.

For Native survivors, those resources may not always be nearby.

NIWRC notes that there are 574 federally recognized Tribes and fewer than 50 Native domestic violence shelters nationwide, illustrating the shortage of Native-specific shelter resources across Indian Country.

A survivor living in a rural area may have to travel a significant distance to

reach a shelter, hospital, court or advocate. Transportation may be unavailable. A survivor may also worry about encountering family members or the person who harmed them in a small community.

These challenges can make an already difficult decision even harder.

For some survivors, leaving an abusive relationship can mean leaving behind their home, belongings, employment and financial stability.

It can also mean finding a safe place for children.

The connection between domestic violence and housing is one that communities cannot ignore.

A person cannot always safely leave an abusive relationship without somewhere safe to go.

Housing instability can become part of the cycle. A survivor may remain with an abusive partner because there is nowhere else to live. Leaving may result in homelessness or temporary housing. Finding a new home may require money, employment, transportation, childcare and access to other services.

NIWRC has specifically highlighted the intersection of domestic violence and housing insecurity in Tribal communities and the need for a broader range of housing options for survivors.

Safe housing, therefore, is more than a roof. For a survivor, safe housing can be a safety plan.

The words “With Survivors, Always” ask communities to consider what it truly means to stand with someone experiencing violence.

It means listening. It means not blaming the survivor. It means understanding that leaving an abusive relationship is not always simple or immediate. It means allow-

See **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** pg. 5

SOBER SEAMS

continued from pg. 1

was anything but.

Sober Seams began in the summer of 2025 in conjunction with TOR’s talking circle. What started with basic sewing techniques, specifically intended to help connect the women’s group more closely with culture, quickly sparked interest.

Then came more requests.

TOR began adding additional crafts, including concho belts, necklaces and bandolier making. Eventually, the offerings expanded again to include painting, gourd making and medicine bags.

With every new craft came another opportunity for someone to learn something new, and perhaps teach it to someone else.

“It’s just brought a lot more connection to culture throughout the times, and so we got to see a lot more people come in for the first class, and then the second class,” TOR Project Director Darien Chebahtah said. “By then, they’re teaching the next person, and so that’s exactly what we wanted to see as kind of mentorship and just community building, so that’s kind of where it took off.”

And take off it did.

TOR often holds Sober Seams events once a month in El Reno, with a goal of eventually offering one Oklahoma City craft event each month as well as an event in the western communities.

The crafts offered are shaped by surveys, community input and what participants want to learn.

The response has been strong. Chebahtah said the events typically draw around 90 people, with the largest participation reaching more than 125.

For TOR, however, the number of people in the room is only part of the story. The bigger goal is culture and prevention. Chebahtah said Sober Seams demonstrates how culture can become an important part of both prevention and recovery.

“How culture ties into prevention, but also recovery, culture kind of gives us a sense of purpose,” Chebahtah said. “So doing these crafts, we’re creating something that we’re proud of, that the community can share with one another, and so we just want to build that sense of identity and bring it back to our traditional roots.”

At the Sept. 15 event, that sense of identity could be seen in the work taking shape around the room.

Hands were busy. Fabric was being measured and sewn. Beads were being strung. Gourds were being transformed. Paintings were taking shape and conversations were happening alongside the crafts.

For some, it was about learning a skill. For others, it was about rediscovering something

they had seen their families do while growing up. For still others, it was simply a chance to get out of the house, meet people and spend time doing something positive.

Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen Jackie Turtle came to the event after seeing the flyer on social media. Curious about what Sober Seams was all about, she decided to come check it out.

“I think it’s a really nice event,” Turtle said. “A long time ago, it used to be where people used to do that at families, but because of our dysfunction, it has to be this way now, so I think it’s really nice.”

Turtle spent the event working on sewing a ribbon skirt. It was her first time participating in Sober Seams.

“I seen a lot of things growing up like this when I was at home, but that happened in our home,” Turtle said. “I know that a lot of our homes are broken, so the younger generation wants to come in and learn or bring in their parents and learn because of the way things are right now, but I think it’s nice.”

For Turtle, the value of the event goes beyond learning how to sew.

She believes creating opportunities for people to stay busy, learn and connect can make a difference, particularly when life becomes difficult.

“Just staying busy, and they make connections with other people, other families, and because this life sometimes it gets hard, and this little break helps, it may help somebody that needs it,” Turtle said.

Another participant, who wished to remain anonymous, was attending Sober Seams for the second time.

She said she enjoyed learning the tools and techniques that could eventually be taken home and practiced there.

“I enjoyed it,” she said. “I think it’s a good event to get out of the house and get a break, and to get to know your community.”

For Robbi Tahlo, the craft table offered something just as important, a little peace.

Tahlo had previously learned how to make a ribbon skirt while attending George Hawkins. She returned to participate in Sober Seams because she felt working with crafts could help keep her mind at peace.

“I liked it. It was real soothing and real calm,” Tahlo said.

Her project that day carried a special purpose. Tahlo was sewing a ribbon skirt for her brother’s granddaughter, who was just 9 months old. As she worked, she reflected on where her own interest in sewing and bead-work began.

“When I was growing up, I seen my grandmother doing bead work and a lot of sewing,” Tahlo said. “So, seeing her kind of



Kathryn Toahly, from Oklahoma City, enjoys beading necklaces during the sober seams event. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)

helped me get into being able to do something like this.”

For Tahlo, that connection between generations is one of the reasons events like Sober Seams matter. She believes bringing people together gives them an opportunity to open their minds, try something different and learn from one another.

“So, it’s a very good opportunity for people to do things and come together and meet with people and new friends,” Tahlo said.

Around the room, the projects may have looked different. A ribbon skirt here. A necklace there. A painted canvas across the table. A gourd taking shape in another corner. But underneath it all was something shared. Sober Seams is creating a space where culture can be practiced rather than simply talked about, where traditional skills can be passed from one person to another and where a participant who arrives to learn can eventually become the person teaching someone else.

That is the kind of growth Chebahtah said TOR hoped to see when Sober Seams first began.

What started with sewing has grown into something much larger: mentorship, community building, cultural connection and an



Christian Shorteeth, 10, makes a gourd with assistance from family members during the sober seams event.

opportunity to pause from the challenges of everyday life. Sometimes, it starts with something as simple as picking up a needle, sometimes it is a strand of beads or a paintbrush, and sometimes it is simply sitting down at a table with people from your community and discovering that there is still plenty of good work to be done together.

continued from pg. 3

continued from pg. 4



ICE

continued from pg. 1

to carry out federal immigration duties may drive up the number of detainments and bring money to localities, but the fact is that when local police sign up for 287(g) agreements, they cause a myriad of other negative effects for the very people they are supposed to serve and protect.

Punitive immigration enforcement directly harms families and children

In addition to leading to more arrests of immigrants, the vast majority of whom have no criminal convictions, 287(g) agreements and heightened immigration enforcement in general are also linked to other negative spillover effects.

For instance, when a family member is arrested, detained, or deported, they are ripped out of their communities. This directly disrupts family stability and can leave families without the primary breadwinner. Families can lose an average of 70 percent of their income within six months of a parent’s immigration-related detainment or deportation. Any Oklahoman can understand how devastating the impact would be on a family suddenly unable to make ends meet on groceries, housing, and other necessary bills.

Increased immigration enforcement also has a negative effect on the mental and physical health of family members, regardless of their immigration status. Studies have found that fear of detainment and deportation alone can contribute to depression, anxiety, and other negative mental health outcomes. If a family member is actually detained or deported, not only do these mental health issues worsen, but an individual’s physical health is also affected. Chronic conditions may worsen, birth outcomes can be affected, and families may delay or avoid accessing health care because of immigration-related fears, further compounding negative health

outcomes.

For children in immigrant households, most of whom are U.S. citizens, the harms of immigration enforcement are particularly pronounced. Oklahoma has one of the nation’s highest rates of citizen children with a parent who has been detained. Being separated from a parent, either from detention or deportation, can create toxic stress that disrupts children’s development and can lead to long-term adverse mental, physical, and economic outcomes. Deportation of a loved one has been associated with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and suicidal thoughts among children. It also damages children’s educational outcomes, contributing to school absences and declines in academic performance.

Cooperating with ICE undermines community trust and local economies

The harmful effects of 287(g) agreements go beyond individuals and families directly targeted by immigration enforcement. These agreements also erode community trust and the overall economy. When local law enforcement agencies sign onto 287(g) agreements, immigrants may be less willing to report crimes they’ve witnessed because they fear that contact with law enforcement could lead to immigration enforcement.

These fears are not unfounded; in states like Florida, where state law requires local agencies to participate in 287(g) programs, police have detained people who called 911 to report thefts or who were involved in minor traffic accidents. When people are too afraid to report crimes, they are more likely to be victimized, and it can affect law enforcement’s ability to investigate crimes.

This fear of interacting with police can also discourage people from participating in public life more broadly, which harms local

economies. Increased immigration enforcement has destabilized small businesses — particularly immigrant-owned businesses — by detaining business owners or workers and scaring away customers who fear being caught up in street arrests. On a broader scale, heightened immigration enforcement has harmed job prospects for U.S.-born workers and has weakened the labor market overall.

Expanding 287(g) agreements is a bad deal for Oklahoma

Years of research and reporting show that entering into more 287(g) agreements will cause irreparable harm to countless Oklahomans. These agreements create fear in our communities that leads to negative economic, health, and public safety outcomes. When local law enforcement carries out the duties of federal immigration officers, it drives a wedge between local police and the very people they are meant to serve.

Oklahoma residents should demand that their local leaders rescind or prohibit 287(g) agreements in their town. Local police should focus their time and resources on protecting all of Oklahoma’s communities and residents, regardless of immigration status.

Gabriela joined OK Policy as an Immigration Policy Analyst in August 2021. Raised in Oklahoma City, she graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies with minors in German, Arabic, and International Security Studies. During college Gabriela had internships at the Council on American-Islamic Relations Oklahoma, the Office of former Congresswoman Kendra Horn, and she took part in events to help educate first-generation Latinx students on how to attend college. Gabriela looks forward to using her skills at OK Policy to work towards a more equitable future for all Oklahomans.

Your Friendly Neighborhood

TREE GUY



Jeremiah Williams

ISA Certified Arborist | MW-6489A

Text 580-618-5857 | Free quotes



DRIVE THRU CLOTHING DISTRIBUTION

Stop by and receive gently used clothing generously donated by members of our community—all from the comfort of your car. All donated clothing has been washed, sanitized, and carefully sorted before distribution.

Clothing will be provided in bundles of 5 items, organized by size and gender to make pickup quick and easy.

This distribution is open to anyone in need—no eligibility requirements, referrals, or documentation needed. Simply stop by, let us know the size you need, and we'll provide a bundle while supplies last.

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 7TH

10:00AM TO 3:00PM

Drive thru location:
1999 Dogpatch Rd
Clinton, OK 73601
(405)766-9742





OSHA 10 Certification

November 4th & 5th

CERTIFYING LABORERS FOR ELK CITY PROJECT

Training Location: Clinton ERC, 2015 Dog Patch Rd

Time: 8:30AM-4:30PM

Lunch will be provided.

Please call to register. **Must bring CDIB and Drivers License or other ID.

A Standby List will be taken in the event open seats become available.



For more information:
Please call 405-422-7797



GED CLASS

MATHEMATICS, LANGUAGE ARTS, SOCIAL STUDIES, SCIENCE, PRE-TESTING, TUTORING, AND SCHEDULING OFFICIAL TEST

WORK READINESS

RESUME WRITING, APPLICATIONS, INTERVIEW SKILLS, AND JOB SEARCHING

WORK READINESS AND GED CLASSES

OCTOBER 7, 2026

10AM - 2PM

CLINTON DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICE @ 10329 N 2274 RD

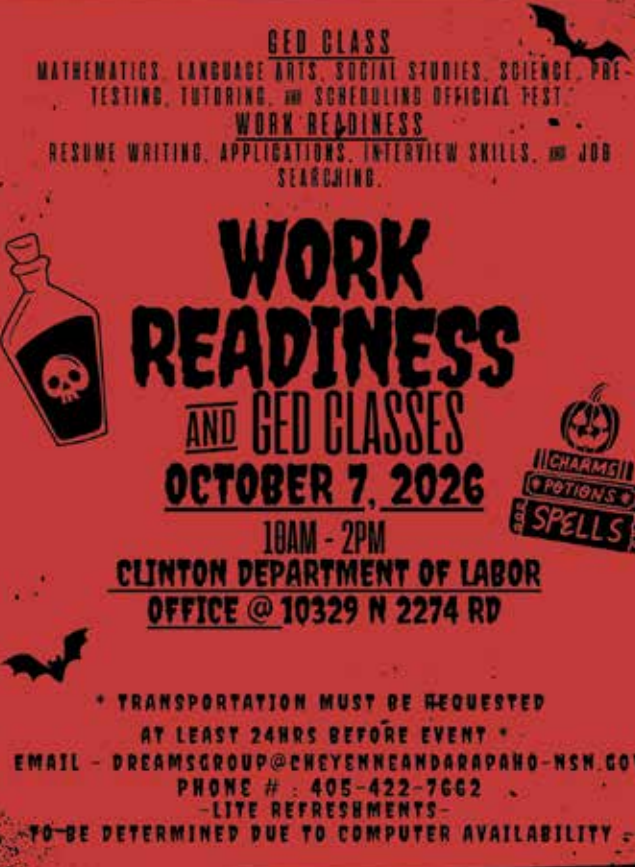
* TRANSPORTATION MUST BE REQUESTED AT LEAST 24HRS BEFORE EVENT *

EMAIL - DREAMSGROUP@CHEYENNEANDARAPAHO-NSN.GOV

PHONE # : 405-422-7662

-LIVE REFRESHMENTS-

-TO BE DETERMINED DUE TO COMPUTER AVAILABILITY -



OCTOBER 2026 EVENTS

hello FALL



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
27	28	29	30	1	2	3 ANNUAL TCM 10AM
4	5	6	7 GED/WR CLINTON DOL BLDG 10AM-2PM	8 TRIBAL NEWSPAPER SUBMISSION DUE	9	10
11	12 HOLIDAY TRIBAL OFFICES CLOSED	13	14 GED/WR WATONGA ERC 10AM-2PM	15 SAGE CLUB CONCHO - 10AM-3PM DOL OUTREACH OKC 10AM-2PM	16	17
18	19	20	21 COLLEGE & CAREER FAIR FRISCO CENTER CLINTON, OK 9AM-2PM	22 GED/WR CONCHO FOOD PANTRY 10AM-2PM	23 TRIBAL NEWSPAPER SUBMISSION DUE	24
25	26	27	28	29	30 EMPLOYEE HALLOWEEN TRUNK R TREAT	31 HAPPY HALLOWEEN CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

CONTACT INFORMATION:

 405-422-7662

 DREAMSGROUP@CHEYENNEANDARAPAHO-NSN.GOV

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

continued from pg. 2

the late Arapaho Chief Virgil Franklin Sr. and Violet Bernice Youngbear Franklin, and paternal grandparents are the late William Joseph Whitlow and Geraldine Tallbull Morton. She currently resides in El Reno, Okla., with her family Milan and Violet Roman Nose.

Dr. Whitlow serves as the executive director for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Dept. of Education. She has served in a management/leadership capacity for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for the past 20 years. Whitlow earned her bachelor’s and associate degrees from Haskell Indian Nations University in American Indian Studies (AIS) and Liberal Arts. She has earned her master’s degree in education from the University of Oklahoma in Adult and Higher Education with an emphasis in Intercollegiate Athletics Administration.

Dr. Whitlow earned her Doctor of Philosophy in Adult Learning and Leadership from Kansas State University in December 2025. Her study extends the work of Cheyenne scholar Dr. Henrietta Mann, using Indigenous storywork that focuses on how the Cheyenne and Arapaho Dept. of Education has built capacity and asserted sovereignty over decades of time, with a focus on the leadership stories and experiences of six Cheyenne and Arapaho female educational leaders. She currently serves as the treasurer for the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) Executive Committee, the University of Oklahoma Jeaninne Rainbolt College of Education Tribal and Indigenous Education Advisory Board and is a school board member for Riverside Indian School.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Dept. of Education’s vision is to cultivate an inclusive and respectful education environment centered on uplifting families by reflecting the Cheyenne and Arapaho cultures and traditions. Furthermore, our role as a tribal education department is to support the education of our tribal citizens through program services.

Within the past two years the Dept. of Education has received discretionary grants from the U.S. Dept. of Education, Office of Indian Education, and the Bureau of Indian Education. The Dept. of Education has also partnered with the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) for a discretionary grant from the Office of Indian Education. Over the next five years the Cheyenne and Arapaho Dept. of Education will administer \$15,255,000.00 in discretionary grants that will provide services to Cheyenne and Arapaho students and families.

Dept. of Enrollment Executive Director Jerrie Oglesby



Dept. of Enrollment Executive Director Jerrie Oglesby

One of five children born to Nick and Emily Ramirez, Jerrie Oglesby comes from a family deeply rooted in faith, resilience, and strong values. Her grandparents were Fred and Dulcie Whitebird Bushyhead. Much of her adult life was spent navigating the challenges of being a single mother of four children. Through many difficult and uncertain times, she was blessed with the support of a loving and forgiving God, her family, and a small but strong network of loving and forgiving friends. She relays she made her share of mistakes along the way, but each one provided an opportunity to learn, grow, and become a better person.

Her parents, siblings, and especially her children kept her grounded and moving forward. After becoming content with the idea that she was well on her way to becoming the “old cat lady,” life pleasantly surprised her. At 47 years old, she married Thomas Oglesby, a man willing to join in the wonderful chaos that was her life. Together they share a blended family of six children and five grandchildren. Today, they enjoy a mostly quiet life as empty nesters. Their faithful dogs complete their circle, while three felines graciously permit the four of them to live under their roof.

As she has come to terms with becoming part of the “older generation,” she has embraced the possibilities that lie ahead. She remains excited about the opportunities before her and is committed to serving her tribe and community.

Jerrie attended El Reno Public Schools and graduated in 1982. She later earned an Associate of Arts degree in Psychology and developed an extensive background in Graphic Design through both formal education and professional experience.

She has worked since the age of 15, and 20 of those years have been spent serving the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in various positions. Throughout her career, she has gained valuable leadership and service-oriented experience from every role she has held. She developed a strong work ethic from her parents, who taught her that hard work, perseverance, and a commitment to continuous improvement are values worth passing on through example. These extensive real-world ex-

periences have complemented her educational foundation and continue to guide both her personal and professional life.

Throughout her career, she has learned as much from ineffective leaders as she has from effective ones, drawing valuable lessons along the way and applying them to her own leadership approach. These experiences have shaped a leadership style grounded in respect, accountability, empathy, and continuous improvement. She says that when she leaves work for the last time, she hopes her legacy will be a team that embodies those same values, leading by example, striving for excellence, and continuously growing in service to tribal members.

She is passionate about helping shape how tribal citizens experience and envision Enrollment services. Rather than being seen as simply a records office or administrative function, she believes Enrollment should be recognized as a trusted, responsive, and member-focused resource that strengthens the connection between tribal citizens and their tribe.

With the invaluable support, expertise, and collaboration of a dedicated accountant and an equally committed Planning and Development director, progress is already being made toward that vision. The establishment of a dedicated file room for the preservation and security of historical records and member files is becoming a reality. Additionally, a proposal to retain a contractor for the development of a Membership Ordinance has been obtained, representing an important step toward strengthening membership governance through clear, consistent policies and procedures for future generations.

Ultimately, she wants Enrollment to be known not only for maintaining records, but for preserving tribal history, protecting tribal identity, and providing exceptional service to every tribal citizen. Her goal is to help build a department that is respected for its professionalism, trusted by its citizens, and committed to serving future generations.

As both a tribal citizen and an Enrollment professional, she understands how important it is for citizens to receive notices, services, and distributions in a timely manner. Over the years, she has seen how something as simple as an address change can make the difference between a tribal member receiving benefits or being missed entirely. That is why maintaining accurate records remains one of Enrollment’s most important responsibilities. She encourages every tribal member to partner with Enrollment by keeping contact information current and notifying the department whenever changes occur.

She also reminds tribal members that updating an address with another tribal program, such as Elder Care or other service-oriented departments, does not automatically update an address within the Enrollment database. Whenever a tribal member moves, it is important to notify Enrollment directly. Enrollment provides reports to tribal programs daily, and those reports reflect the most current address on file with the department.

Tribal citizens should also be aware of the following annual deadlines:

Gaming Distribution (August Per Capita): Address changes must be submitted by June 1.

Minerals Distribution (December Per Capita): Address changes must be submitted by October 1.

Keeping contact information current with Enrollment helps ensure tribal citizens receive important communications, distributions, and services without interruption.

Dept. of Health Executive Director Connor Bushyhead



Dept. of Health Executive Director Connor Bushyhead

Connor Bushyhead has served as Executive Director of Health for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes since May 2024, bringing years of nursing, clinical leadership and health-care administration experience to her role.

A lifelong resident of El Reno, Okla., Bushyhead is the daughter of Clara Bushyhead and Sam Blackowl. She was raised in the community and graduated from El Reno High School. From an early age, she was involved in Cheyenne and Arapaho activities and volunteered at community events. Those experiences helped shape her commitment to serving her community and strengthening the health and well-being of the people she serves today.

Bushyhead’s decision to enter the nursing profession was influenced by the loss of several family members to substance abuse. Those experiences gave her a personal understanding of the importance of compassionate and accessible health care, as well as the effects behavioral health challenges can have on individuals and families.

Her experiences also shaped her belief that patients are more likely to participate in their care when they feel com-

fortable, heard, respected and supported by their health-care providers.

Bushyhead attended Redlands Community College and Southwestern Christian University before completing the Licensed Practical Nursing program at Canadian Valley Technology Center in 2016. She has continued to expand her professional knowledge through numerous trainings and continuing education opportunities, with particular emphasis on mental and behavioral health.

Following nursing school, Bushyhead relocated to York, Penn., where she spent approximately eight years developing her clinical and leadership experience. Her work included long-term care, residential care, inpatient psychiatric services, and drug and alcohol detoxification.

Throughout her career, she served in several leadership positions, including Nurse Manager and Director of Nursing. She also continued caring for patients and supporting health-care teams during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Bushyhead later provided regional oversight of nursing services across a network representing more than 300 beds. In that position, she supported nursing operations, staff and quality-of-care efforts throughout the region, further strengthening her experience in clinical leadership, coordination and health-care administration.

Following the passing of her mother, Bushyhead returned home to El Reno and continued her career with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Dept. of Health.

She currently represents the Clinton Service Unit on the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board, where she contributes to broader efforts focused on strengthening Tribal health services and access to care.

As Executive Director of Health, Bushyhead is focused on developing a sustainable and responsive health-care system capable of growing and adapting to the changing needs of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

Her work has centered on establishing a strong foundation for a health-care system that meets the needs of the community and reflects the quality of care its citizens deserve.

Bushyhead believes health care should be holistic, culturally sensitive and centered on the individual. That approach includes respecting each person’s values, experiences and unique needs while recognizing the connections among physical, mental, emotional and social well-being.

Under her leadership, priorities for the Health Department include improving access to health services, expanding mental and behavioral health services, recruiting and retaining dedicated employees, and strengthening coordination among Tribal programs.

At the heart of Bushyhead’s leadership philosophy is a simple belief: every person should know they matter.

“As executive director, I want every person who interacts with the Health Department to feel valued, heard, and supported,” Bushyhead said. “My goal is for individuals to know that their needs have been fully addressed and to feel comfortable, informed, and empowered to actively participate in their care plan.”

Through her leadership, Bushyhead hopes to build a Health Department that the community can trust, one that provides compassionate, accessible and comprehensive care while continuing to grow alongside the needs of the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

For Bushyhead, serving as Executive Director is more than a professional responsibility. It is an opportunity to give back to the community that helped shape her and to help build a healthier future for the people she calls home.

Dept. of Housing Executive Director Damon Dunbar



Dept. of Housing Executive Director Damon Dunbar

Over the past five years, Damon Dunbar, Executive Director of the Dept. of Housing, has leveraged his Master of Science in Native American Leadership and his practical experience in construction to lead significant housing and development projects. His recent role as the tribe’s Planning & Development Director from 2014 to 2021 underscores his relevance to the current tribal administration. Notably, Dunbar has served as the tribes Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG) contact, bridging communications with the HUD Oklahoma City Area Office, and ensuring compliance and successful project outcomes.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

continued from pg. 7

Under Dunbar’s direction, several CARES Act projects were completed on schedule and within budget, totaling over \$18 million in project costs. These projects, ranging from emergency response centers to food pantries, all bear the mark of his commitment to efficiency, community engagement, and strategic planning.

Under Dunbar’s direction for Housing in FY 2021, he effectively managed the \$1,418,649 Indian Housing Block Grant ARPA grant, which included housing renovations and infrastructural improvements. This exemplifies his skill in administering funds to enhance living conditions for the tribal populace, including families, elders, and individuals with disabilities. Housing was awarded the FY 2023 HUD Ross Grant that employs one staff member for \$156,021. FY 2023 Federal Communications Commission-Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program for \$241,200 that employed three staff. FY 2024 HUD Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive for \$6,000,000 that will be used for new construction of low-income elder and family duplexes at Concho with completion in Spring 2027. FY 2024 Grid Alternatives – Tribal Solar Accelerator Fund (TSAF) grant for \$195,680 for capacity building and created a Strategic Energy Plan for housing. Tribal Energy Alternatives grant for \$459,280 that was used for workforce development and solar panels systems for 13-tribal low-income homes. Tribal Energy Alternatives grant of \$311,817 to be used for workforce development and solar panels systems for housing administration facility to be completed by September 30, 2026. FY 2025 Federal Home Loan Bank – Native American Housing Initiatives Grant Program for \$500,000 to be used for three veterans’ tiny homes, Down Payment Assistance, and Rental Assistance that has begun.

Dunbar’s vision is to assist the housing authority staff capacity in a well-run organization that provides direct services to all tribal citizens. Set goals and objectives to maintain the Tribal Strategic Plan once enacted by the Tribal Administration, and meet the goals and activities set in the Housing Strategic Plan. Seeking new funding that will help tribal homeowners with homebuyer education so they may learn home maintenance to become empowered with knowledge that they can pass down to their family members. Seeking new renewable energy grants for systems that will offset the utility costs for elders, families, Veteran’s, and individuals with disabilities. Building rental homes or duplexes in areas that are lacking rental units for any low-income tribal member to help support the growing number of new economic gaming enterprises to house the workforce. Stay in communication with all branches of the tribal administration to help support each other.

Dept. of Labor Executive Director Erwin Pahmahmie Jr.



Dept. of Labor Executive Director Erwin Pahmahmie Jr.

Erwin Pahmahmie Jr. is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes whose career has been dedicated to serving the people of the tribes and helping Native Americans achieve their employment and educational goals.

A 47-year-old Gen X individual, Pahmahmie currently lives in El Reno, Okla., with his husband. The couple will celebrate their 10-year anniversary in June.

Pahmahmie is the only son of Erwin Pahmahmie Sr. and Esther A. Pawnee-Pahmahmie. He has two younger sisters and three older half-sisters on his father’s side. His grandparents are Freeman W. Pawnee and Esther Madbull-Pawnee, and Robert Morstof and Elizabeth Pahmahmie-Morstof, who was Prairie Band Potawatomi.

Among the people who had a lasting influence on Pahmahmie was his grandmother, Elizabeth. He credits her with teaching him many important life lessons that he continues to reflect on daily and remains deeply appreciative of her love and wisdom.

Pahmahmie describes himself as friendly, hardworking and determined, with a strong desire to help others. Outside of his professional responsibilities, he enjoys spending time with family and friends, playing online role-playing games such as *Final Fantasy XIV* and *Destiny 2*, and participating in gourd dancing.

For Pahmahmie, one of the most important experiences of his life has been the opportunity to work for the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. His career with the tribes began shortly after high school and has developed into more than two decades of service, leadership and program development.

Pahmahmie graduated from El Reno High School in 1999 with his high school diploma. That same year, he earned a diploma in Business Computer Technology from Canadian Valley Technology Center.

His commitment to education continued throughout his career. In 2014, he earned an Associate of Science degree in

Tribal Administrations from Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College. In 2015, he earned an Associate of Science degree from Southwestern Oklahoma State University.

In 2019, Pahmahmie graduated from Southern Nazarene University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Organizational Leadership. In 2020, he earned an Associate of Arts degree in Enterprise Development from Redlands Community College.

His educational goals were closely connected to his professional ambitions, particularly his desire to advance his skills and abilities and earn a bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership.

Pahmahmie’s career with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes began after he graduated from El Reno High School. He initially worked for the Job Training and Placement Act (JTPA) as a file clerk in June 1999.

He advanced through several positions, including case manager, job developer and administrative assistant for the Workforce Investment Act (WIA).

His career also included positions in several other tribal programs and offices. He served as administrative assistant for the Child Care Program, computer operator for the Business Committee Chairman’s office under Chairman James Pedro, and administrative assistant for Communication/Information Technology (COMIT).

Pahmahmie later worked for the Dept. of Treasury as a bookkeeping assistant before advancing to accounts payable manager.

In 2006, following the ratification of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Constitution, Pahmahmie was requested to serve as acting WIA Director. He later became WIA Director in 2011.

In 2015, the WIA and Employment Opportunity and Training Services (EOTS) Program were merged into the Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The ETA administered federally funded employment and training programs through the U.S. Dept. of Labor, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and U.S. Dept. of Health and Human Services.

One of the significant milestones in Pahmahmie’s career came in 2018, when he worked closely with Gov. Reggie Wassana to help create the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Dept. of Labor.

Pahmahmie was nominated by the governor and confirmed by the 7th Legislature to serve in the new department.

Under the Dept. of Labor, several programs were brought together, including the BIA Adult Education Program, the DOL/BIA/EEO/HHS Employment and Training Administration Program, the GAM Office of Veterans Affairs Program and the EDU Vocational Rehabilitation Program.

The programs work together to provide services to eligible Native Americans seeking employment and training opportunities, with the goal of helping individuals advance their careers and improve their overall wellness.

The ETA and Adult Education programs were subsequently reorganized into the Developing Responsible Employees Aptitude for Marketing Success (DREAMS) Program. In 2020, tribal leadership approved the DREAMS Program to enter and accept the Public Law 102-477 Plan.

The 477 Plan integrated federal funding sources from the U.S. Dept. of Labor, BIA and HHS into one program plan, one budget and one annual report.

Before implementation of the 477 Plan, the ETA Program operated under three separate plans and budgets and was required to produce multiple quarterly, semi-annual and annual reports. Pahmahmie noted that the administrative burden made it more difficult for the program to provide fluid services to adults and youth.

In 2022, the Tribal Employment Rights Ordinance (TERO) was separated from the DREAMS Program. The change was intended to ensure the tribes continued exercising their sovereignty and promoting the hiring of eligible Native Americans within tribal jurisdiction.

That same year, the Dept. of Labor wrote and obtained a three-year Environmental Protection Agency Brownfields Job Training Grant. Through the grant, individuals received training in work readiness, Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requirements, and Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER). The grant was administered through the DREAMS Program.

The Dept. of Labor and Office of Veterans Affairs also worked together to write and obtain the Dept. of Veterans Affairs Sergeant Fox Suicide Prevention Grant. The one-year grant performance period began in 2025, and the program received an extension into 2026.

As Executive Director of the Dept. of Labor, Pahmahmie continues to focus on building opportunities for the people he serves.

His vision for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Dept. of Labor is to continue its mission by cultivating a thriving, empowered and equitable Native American workforce within the service area.

That vision includes ensuring employees and job seekers have access to meaningful opportunities, career advancement, fair labor standards, and protection of their rights and benefits.

Pahmahmie said he values the people he works with and is grateful to the tribal leadership, both past and present, for the opportunities he has been given throughout his career.

He considers it especially meaningful to continue serving the people as Executive Director of Labor and said it warms his heart to see new employees taking up the call to help others and succeed within the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Pahmahmie’s professional development has also included participation in organizations and conferences both within and outside the Tribes. Working alongside other tribes and Oklahoma state partners has provided him with valuable experience in leadership, team development and a broader understanding of the world outside the Tribes.

Since 2011, he has participated in the National Indian and Native American Employment and Training Conference. He served as a member from 2011 through 2018 and served as a co-chair in 2019.

He has also participated in the Mid-Western Regional Conference since 2011. He served as secretary from 2011 through 2017 and has served as chair since 2018.

From 2018 through 2025, Pahmahmie was involved with the Native American Employment and Training Council (NAETC), serving as a member from 2018 through 2023 and vice-chair from 2024 through 2025.

Since 2019, he has also served with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Veterans Board as the Executive Office representative and OVA supervisor.

In 2025, Pahmahmie served as a member of the Oklahoma Workforce Board.

Through more than two decades of tribal employment and leadership, Pahmahmie has built his career around education, professional development and service. His journey from a file clerk beginning his career with the tribes to Executive Director of Labor reflects his determination to continue learning, advance his abilities and, most importantly, serve the Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

Dept. of Language & Culture Acting Executive Director Gordon L. Yellowman Sr.



Dept. of Language & Culture Acting Executive Director Gordon L. Yellowman Sr.

Gordon L. Yellowman Sr. was born in Clinton, Okla. to June Amos Yellowman/White Plume Woman (Northern Arapaho) and Everett Yellowman/Spotted Skunk (Southern Cheyenne). At a young age he began taking part in the Cheyenne ceremonies learning from his father, who was the head priest for the Cheyenne for 35 years. At 16, Yellowman was selected to become a Cheyenne Chief. Over the course of his career, he has devoted 34 years of service to tribal government, education, community outreach, and the promotion of Cheyenne and Arapaho art, history, and culture.

Upon graduating high school, Yellowman pursued higher education in commercial and graphic arts, studio arts, art history, and Native American studies at Canadian Valley Vo-Tech, Oklahoma State University, and the University of Oklahoma. He credits his parents with encouraging him to cultivate his artistic practice. Heeding this call, Yellowman has created art all his life, exhibiting in museums and galleries across the country. He is known especially for his signature contemporary ledger art style, which is informed by his meticulous study of nineteenth-century ledger art. Yellowman has used this expertise to curate exhibitions of his own design as well as to bring forth scholarship that is informed by Indigenous knowledge. In 2012, he was selected as the Red Earth Honored One, the youngest artist to receive this prestigious award. His message to young Native artists is, “Always share that gift. Don’t ever keep it to yourself, because it doesn’t just belong to you, it belongs to the People.”

In 1995, he made history by being appointed the first official Cheyenne representative for NAGPRA. This work has not only resulted in numerous repatriations of Cheyenne and Arapaho ancestors but also created a multitude of partnerships with Indigenous and non-Indigenous agencies and institutions. For Yellowman, establishing and maintaining these relationships constitutes a key part of his work as a Cheyenne Chief, which requires collaboration, integrity, leadership, and respect. Yellowman has applied this vast scope of skills and expertise to a wealth of projects, which share one aim above all else: serving, honoring, and uplifting the Cheyenne and Arapaho People. He currently serves on the Repatriation Review Committee of the Smithsonian Institution and is internationally sought after as a Knowledge Keeper and Culture Bearer for Cheyenne and Arapaho history and traditions. Most recently, he co-curated the exhibition Cheyenne Ledger Artists of Fort Marion at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, and he served as a cultural consultant for the award-winning BBC mini-series The English.

For Yellowman, being a Cheyenne and Arapaho person means engaging in all this work, which ultimately is a gift. This commitment stems from his strong conviction that building bridges, fostering dialogue, and nurturing relationships between Nations is necessary for creating a future defined by Indigenous abundance. He is dedicated to promoting and advancing the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Language and Culture as a key player for perpetuating Cheyenne and Arapaho culture and sovereignty both at home and around the world.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS

continued from pg. 8

Dept. of Parks & Recreation Executive Director Ronald Redshin



Dept. of Parks & Recreation Executive Director Ronald Redshin

The executive director over the Dept. of Parks & Recreation for the past six years is Ronald L. Redshin, commonly known as Sonny.

Redshin enjoys being able to contribute a valuable service for the tribes and the tribes’ properties.

He maintains 12 buildings, four powwow grounds, along with three ceremonial properties which his department takes care of year-round. Currently Redshin supervises 18 full/part-time employees, who he commends for all doing a good job of keeping the tribe’s buildings clean and safe for use.

He said the department is looking forward to more improvements in the near future.

Sonny graduated from Clinton High School in 2000. He possesses 18 years of construction experience and has worked five years in management and leadership positions.

Redshin said he can see the Dept. of Parks & Recreation playing a major role within the tribes, ERCs and powwow grounds, with new equipment and structures that would greatly benefit all tribal citizens in the years to come.

“I really enjoy coming to work every day and working alongside my employees.”



Dept. of Social Services Executive Director Winona Youngbird

Dept. of Social Services Executive Director Winona Youngbird

Winona Youngbird is a proud citizen of Cheyenne heritage, with Northern and Southern Cheyenne ancestry as well as Hawaiian heritage. Her Cheyenne name is Hoh-ouitziyoh, and her Hawaiian name is Leihuanani.

Youngbird is a 1992 graduate of Watonga High School. She attended Haskell Indian Nations University and earned an associate degree in Criminal Justice from Redlands Community College in El Reno, Okla. She later earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Criminal Justice from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford, Okla. She also attended graduate school at Southeastern Oklahoma State University in Durant, where she studied Native American Leadership.

Youngbird began her career with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in March 1998 as a warehouse aide with the Food Distribution Program in Watonga. In August 1999, she became a tribal police officer with the Tribes’ Law Enforcement Program. She returned to Food Distribution in February 2004 as an office clerk and held a variety of positions within the program before leaving in April 2015 to become office manager at Economic Development.

She returned to the Food Distribution Program in June 2018 as program director. In January 2020, she was confirmed as Executive Director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Social Services Department, a position she continues to hold.

Youngbird’s family roots include her grandparents, John Youngbird of Lane Deer, Mont., and Annette Tobacco Youngbird of Watonga. Her birth parents were the late Hubert Youngbird and Daisy Tailfeathers of Lihue, Hawaii. She was raised by the late Colonel Braxton and the late Rhoda Youngbird-Braxton, respectfully.

Youngbird grew up in Moore, Okla., and now makes her home in Watonga. She is the proud mother of four children, her daughter Sierra Seneca of Angola, New York, her three sons, the late Seth Youngbird, Creighton Levi Youngbird-Pedro, and Tracy Hornsby Jr., who are of the home in Watonga.

As Executive Director of Social Services, Youngbird oversees a broad range of programs serving tribal citizens. These include Indian Child Welfare, the Emergency Youth Shelter, which provides short-term emergency placement and long-term tribal foster homes; Social Services programs such as Foster Care, Supervised IIM, LIHEAP, Victims Services for domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking, General Assistance, Tribal Family Advocacy and Prevention, and Adult and Child Protection Services.

Her department also encompasses Food and Nutrition Services, including the Food Distribution Programs in Clinton and Watonga; food pantries in Oklahoma City, Concho, Clinton and Watonga; Nutrition Education; Elderly Nutrition; Elder Care; and the HOPE Program, ‘Helping Our People Excel.’

Youngbird’s vision for Social Services is centered on helping tribal citizens achieve self-sufficiency. She believes the services provided by the department should serve as a temporary means of assistance while helping individuals and families work toward long-term stability. The department strives to meet immediate needs for food and shelter, provide support when tribal families face challenges, and create opportunities that can help families become more stable and self-sufficient.

“We serve our people as they are going through some of the most challenging and difficult times in their lives,” Youngbird said.

She emphasizes dignity, respect, empathy and communication when working with both tribal citizens and employees. She frequently reminds her staff that how something is said can be just as important as what is said and stresses the importance of treating others as they would want to be treated.

Through her years of service to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Youngbird said she has learned valuable lessons about leadership, communication and service. She believes in leading by example, asking questions when answers are not readily available, and being present for those who need help most, including the employees who carry out the tribes’ many programs and services.

For Youngbird, the work of Social Services does not fit neatly into an 8-to-5 schedule. Meeting the needs of tribal citizens often requires flexibility, dedication and a willingness to respond when help is needed.

Putting the needs of tribal citizens first, she believes, can sometimes make the difference between someone having food to eat or a place to sleep, and not having those basic necessities.

Dept. of Transportation Executive Director Angela Plumley

Angela Plumley began her career working for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes 33 year ago where she began working as an administrative assistant under the Housing Improvement Program (HIP) in 1993. During this time, Plumley was attending Redlands Community College where she attained her Associates of Arts Degree in 1997. Through her employment with the Tribes’ HIP Program, she has gained valuable knowledge in grant and contract management, budgeting and compliance.

In 1998, Plumley transferred to become the Job Developer under the direction of the late Doyle Lonelodge who was Director of the Employment and Training Services (EOTS)



Dept. of Transportation Executive Director Angela Plumley

Program. Through the mentorship and direction provided by Mr. Lonelodge, Plumley gained experience in assessing individual skills and abilities and learned the importance of work ethic and ensuring policies are not only applied consistently but to ensure compliance. She assisted in developing and deploying the Welfare-to-Work program where she advocated for the clients she served through establishing training sites to provide skills-based training and various worksites for job placement.

In 1999, Plumley accepted a project officer position for the tribes’ Roads Construction Program. Throughout her tenure, Plumley learned more about the Indian Reservation Roads, or IRR, Program (now referred to as the Tribal Transportation Program). As the project manager, she gained skills in procurement, compliance, and negotiating contracts. Plumley also learned the relevance of Environmental Assessments and Archeological Surveys to road improvement projects. In 2006, Plumley joined the tribes’ Planning Task Force where she assisted in fulfilling ICDBG requirements to ensure compliance with HUD Grants while retaining her position as a project manager for the Roads Program.

In 2008, Plumley believes it was her calling when offered the program director position and right away, she got busy applying for grants through FTA. In 2008 and 2009, the tribe was successfully awarded planning, capital assistance, and operating assistance grants for Tribal Transit. The Transit Program began a fixed route system that would provide transport services to the public for employment, education, or for medical appointments across the tribes’ nine-county service area located in Western Oklahoma in 2010. In December 2025, the Dept. of Transportation celebrated the Tribal Transit Program’s 15th year of services (with exception to 2020 where a closure was realized due to COVID-19). Plumley also strived to transform the tribes’ relationship through effective collaboration with counties to improve roads and transportation infrastructures. Over the next several years, she would focus efforts to improve safety to the public through comprehensive planning, actively improving roads, establishing safety education and awareness activities, and applying for various grants.

Plumley also actively served on the Oklahoma Tribal Transportation Council (OTTC) as secretary for four years, the Intertribal Transportation Association (ITA) as treasurer for two years, and on the IRR Program Coordinating Committee for the Southern Plains Region as the alternate representative for two years before she became the primary representative for three additional four-year terms. One of Plumley’s most memorable moments while serving as a steward was when she served on the Coordinating Committee and attended an Oversight Hearing on Tribal Transportation before the US Senate Committee of Indian Affairs in Washington DC in September of 2011, at which time the discussion focused on, “Paving the Way for Jobs, Infrastructure, and Safety in Native Communities.”

In 2018, through the support of the tribes’ leadership, the Dept. of Transportation was established by legislative action and further supported by Tribal Council. Soon after, Plumley was confirmed by the tribes’ Legislature to the executive director position. As Executive Director, Plumley remains focused on improving safety to all tribal citizens and actively strives to advocate pool resources through collaborative and coordinated efforts with other programs and departments. In addition, Plumley strives to further reach outlying areas in the field of tribal transportation.

**FLYING OUT**
COMMERCIAL & RESIDENTIAL ROOFING

**“The Alpha and Omega
of all your roofing needs”**

Ty Flying Out
 (405)487-7893
Flyingoutroofing.com

Or find us on Facebook! 

Dixon O. Palmer
Custom Hay Cutting, Baling & Sales



405-933-4700
34174 CS 2600-Anadarko, OK 73005

**TENESHA ALVAREZ** REALTOR®

**Bowers**
REALTY GROUP

 405.206-4833

 teneshaalvarez.realtor@gmail.com

 https://www.facebook.com/TeneshaRealEstate

 bowersrealtygroupokc.com

 708 S Main St, Suite A - Newcastle OK 73065

BUFFALO

continued from pg. 1

included receiving buffalo from other organizations and public herds. In 2022, the City and County of Denver transferred 17 buffalo to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 14 yearlings and three adult females, as part of an effort to return buffalo to tribal nations. Hawk and other tribal agriculture personnel traveled to Colorado to help transport the animals to Oklahoma.

Those transfers are part of a broader movement among Native nations to restore buffalo to tribal lands and strengthen tribal management of an animal that has long been central to Indigenous communities.

The Don Young Doug LaMalfa Indian Buffalo Management Act recognizes the historical, cultural, spiritual, subsistence and economic importance of buffalo to many tribal nations.

Under the legislation, the Interior Department would be authorized to enter into contracts, cooperative agreements and grants with tribes and tribal organizations for buffalo restoration and management activities. Those activities could include, buffalo herd management, habitat planning and restoration, development of tribal buffalo programs, commercial and economic activities involving buffalo, technical assistance and training, development of integrated resource management plans and other activities supporting tribal buffalo restoration and management.

The bill would also authorize agreements allowing surplus buffalo from federal lands to be transferred to tribal lands. The legislation provides that charges for those buffalo, including certain deposits or service payments, may be waived.

Another provision addresses information provided by tribes to the federal government. Information identified by a tribe as culturally sensitive, proprietary or confidential would receive protection from disclosure under the bill.

The legislation also specifically states that nothing in the act would

alter, modify, diminish or extinguish existing tribal treaty rights.

A central theme of the legislation is tribal involvement in buffalo management.

Rather than treating buffalo restoration solely as a federal wildlife-management issue, H.R. 7954 would establish a framework for the federal government to work directly with tribal governments and tribal organizations.

The Dept. of the Interior stated during a May 2026 congressional hearing that the legislation is intended to support buffalo restoration, habitat management and tribal buffalo-related economic and cultural initiatives. The department also said the bill would promote tribal capacity to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat and support tribal self-determination in resource management.

That approach reflects the work already taking place in Concho, where tribal employees are responsible for the day-to-day care and management of the herd.

For Hawk and the tribal buffalo crew, management involves much more than simply maintaining a herd. Buffalo require appropriate pasture, fencing, water, nutrition, veterinary care, transportation and careful monitoring. Annual roundups provide opportunities for animal management and health work while also bringing tribal staff and buffalo advocates together to share knowledge.

The work also reflects a balance between allowing buffalo to maintain their natural behaviors and providing the management necessary on a finite amount of tribal land.

The return of buffalo to tribal lands is also part of a larger effort to reconnect Native communities with an animal that was once central to everyday life across the Plains.

For the Cheyenne and Arapaho people, that relationship reaches into traditional teachings, foodways and ceremonial life.

Federal legislation cannot create

that relationship; it is already present. What legislation such as H.R. 7954 could provide is additional federal support for tribes working to strengthen their own buffalo programs.

The bill's stated purposes include increasing tribal capacity to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat, developing herds to meet tribal subsistence, health, cultural and economic-development needs, and encouraging tribes and tribal organizations to participate in buffalo-related decision-making.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' experience demonstrate that tribal buffalo restoration is already underway.

From the herd in Concho to transfers from other buffalo programs, and from the work of managers such as Hawk to the involvement of tribal citizens and programs, buffalo continue to play an important role in the tribes' efforts to care for their land and maintain connections to their cultural heritage.

As H.R. 7954 moves forward, its potential impact will depend on the legislation's continued progress through Congress and, if enacted, how the federal government implements its provisions in partnership with individual tribal nations.

As of Sept. 15, 2026, the bill had been advanced by the House Natural Resources Committee after committee consideration. It has not become federal law and has not yet completed the congressional process.

For tribal buffalo programs already doing the work, however, the legislation represents a federal recognition of something tribal communities have long understood, restoring buffalo is about more than increasing animal numbers. It is about restoring relationships. It is about food, land, culture and education.

And for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, it is about continuing the responsibility of caring for buffalo and passing that relationship on to future generations.

\$

12⁹⁹

TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY

HAIRCUTS

Great Clips®

El Reno, Yukon - 3200 S. Mustang Rd.
Mustang, Deer Creek, Edmond I-35

F2223DLM

 Now Hiring Great Stylists - Apply today

DEAN'S

Drive  Thru

PAWN SHOP

NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN GOODS



Dean's Drive-Thru Pawn Shop

2617 S Robinson-OKC, OK

www.deanspawn.com

405.239.2774

"OKC's Oldest Pawn Shop"

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Toby Jon Standing Bird

Toby Jon Standing Bird, age 65, of Albuquerque, N.M., formerly of Clinton, Okla., was born March 19, 1961, in Denver, Colo., to Roger Reynolds and Janice Prairiechief-Oldcrow. He passed away Sept. 3, 2026, at his home in Albuquerque.

Toby was raised in Clinton and attended schools in Clinton and Hammon. He later attended Indian Southern Plains (ISP) School, graduating in 1978.

Toby dedicated many years of his life to law enforcement, serving as a Navajo Tribal Police Officer. During his career, he was promoted to detective and criminal investigator, positions he proudly held while continuing to serve his community. Following his retirement from law enforcement, he continued his career with another 15 years with the BIA Land and Trust in Albuquerque. He also worked for six years as a diesel mechanic. His mechanical skills stayed with him throughout his life, and he enjoyed working on

his own vehicles as well as helping friends with theirs.

Toby enjoyed the outdoors and especially loved deer hunting. He was proud of the deer he harvested, including two that remain mounted on the walls of his home, and he would process his own deer to provide meat for later. He also enjoyed traveling, with Las Vegas being one of his favorite destinations.

His traditional way of life was very important to him. Toby participated in traditional Seiling/Cheyenne Sundance ceremonies and was a member of the Dog Soldier Society.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Roger Reynolds and Janice Prairiechief-Oldcrow, his brothers, Alvin Rush Reynolds and Tony Kim Reynolds and his sisters, Barbara Ann Reynolds and JoAnn Reynolds.

Toby is survived by his children, T.J., Tiffany, and Kaitlin, his sister Angeline Reynolds-Lime of Clinton, his brother Sheldon Ray



Reynolds of El Reno and his special aunt Viola Hines, many beloved nieces, and nephews, as well as other extended family members and friends.

A traditional all-night wake service was held Sept. 12 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 13, at the same venue, with Rev. Gerald Pannana and Rev. Mona Bearshield officiating, followed by an interment at the Clinton Indian Cemetery under the direction of Lee Home-Town Funeral Home.

David Vincent Raya

David Vincent Raya, 59, passed away on Sept. 7, 2026, in Huntsville, Ark. David was a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. He was born on June 8, 1967, in Los Angeles, Calif., to Alfred and Shirley (Alvarado) Raya.

David and his family later moved to Hammon, Okla., where they made their home. He graduated from Hammon High School in 1986, where he played baseball. David was a talented baseball player who truly loved the game.

After high school David began working in the oilfield as a pipeline worker. He later found a career in wildland firefighting and most recently served with the Black Kettle Wildland Fire program as an Engine Boss. David took great pride in his work and in the responsibility of helping to protect the land and the people around him.

David had a personality that was hard to forget. He loved to joke, laugh, and spend time with his friends and family. He enjoyed fishing, exploring, going to the casino, and spending time

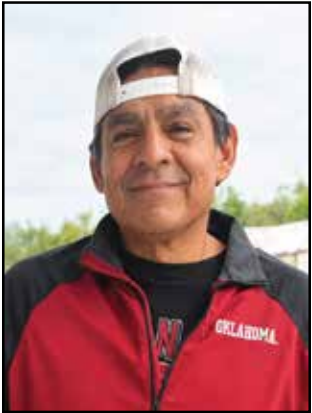
outdoors. He never minded being loud and having a good time, and his sense of humor could fill a room.

More than anything, David loved his grandchildren. His 18 grandchildren brought him tremendous joy, and he loved playing with them, spending time with them, and making memories together. His family was the center of his life, and he will be remembered for the love, laughter, and memories he shared with those around him.

David was preceded in death by his daughter Danielle Raya.

He is survived by his parents, Alfred and Shirley Raya, his son Timothy Raya of El Reno, Okla., his daughters, Mia Raya of Hammon and Rena Raya of Austin, Texas, his brothers, John Ricker of Rogers, Ark., Richard Guzman of El Reno, and Gino Raya of Los Angeles, Calif., his sister Gina Raya of Los Angeles, 18 grandchildren and a host of other family members, friends and loved ones.

David will be remem-



bered as a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, a hard-working man, a dedicated firefighter, a loyal friend, and, most importantly, a loving father and grandfather. His laughter, his stories, his larger-than-life personality, and the memories he made with his family and friends will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him.

Wake services were held Sept. 11 at the Hammon Emergency Response Center in Hammon, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 12, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Hammon Mennonite Cemetery under the direction of Kie-sau-Lee Funeral Home.

Michael Lee Sankey

Michael Lee Sankey was born May 15, 1975, to Dushane Sankey in Tulsa, Okla. He passed away Sept. 15, 2026, at his brother's home in Chickasha, Okla., at the age of 51.

Michael attended Geary Schools and lived in Geary and El Reno for most of his life. He enjoyed playing hand games and spending time with family and friends. Michael was known for his sense of humor and was always joking around. He was quite the jokester and enjoyed making those around him laugh.

Michael is survived by his children, Clifton Sankey of Geary, Jacob Sterling, Jamie Yellowfish of Enid, Justen Sankey of Anadarko, stepchildren, Fantasia Martinez of Blanchard, Ashley Leake of Enid, and Leotis Richey of El Reno, grandchildren, Ural, Rose, Isaiah, D'Angelo, Chevy, Penelope, and one on the way; one brother, Nathaniel WhiteBear of Chickasha, aunt Marilyn Jones of El Reno, uncle Ira Sankey of Oklahoma City as well as many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his mother Du-

shane Sankey, sister Fashane WhiteBear and grandparents, Mary Lou and James Blackbear, Jabo Sankey and aunts, Mary Sankey, Lorraine Campbell and Daisy Blackbear.

An all night wake service was held Sept. 22 at the Gib Miles Emergency Response Center in Geary, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 23, at the same venue, officiated by Rev. Waylan Upchego, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Turner Funeral Home.



CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED SEP 15 2026
ON THE TRIAL COURT

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

DOCKET _____
PAGE _____
IMAGE _____
COURT CLERK _____
DEPUTY _____

Tammy Melendez

In the Matter of the Guardianship of: _____)
)
A.M.G.)
M.G.G.)
)
)

Case No. PG-2026-0036

Minor Children,

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **ROGELIO GAYTAN**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

TAKE NOTICE that **Lori Escobedo**, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Children, A.M.G., and M.G.G., 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 **2nd** day of **DECEMBER, 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.

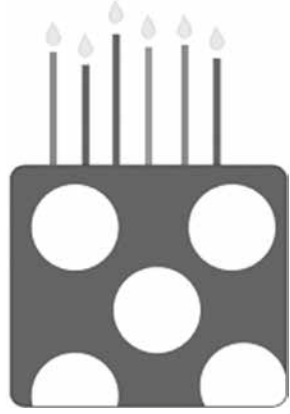
- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - o Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85424251494?pwd=S2RCeUJ2WDVlOFhMcUo5O3RlcTdlT0t09orhttps://zoom.us/join>
 - o Meeting ID: **452 425 1494**
 - o Passcode: **Court2021**
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: **1 (346) 248-7799**
 - o Meeting ID: **452 425 1494**
 - o Passcode: **854454251**

Dated at the Trial Court this 15th day of September, 2026.

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



Happy 25th Birthday to my crazy, hilarious and talented son RJay Reyes October 30
Have a good day son and just know we all Love you and miss you so very much! You wasn't supposed to see your 1st birthday but Maheo has been by your side your entire life! Sending hugs and love and prayers to you



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.

Public Notice

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Child Care and Head Start Program announces their participation in the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP). All participants in attendance are served meals at no extra charge to the parents. In accordance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, this institution is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), disability, age, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity. Program information may be made available in languages other than English. Persons with disabilities who require alternative

means of communication to obtain program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language), should contact the responsible state or local agency that administers the program or USDA’s TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877- 8339. To file a program discrimination complaint, a Complainant should complete a Form AD3027, USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form which can be obtained online at: <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20P-Complaint-Form0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax-2Mail.pdf>, from any USDA office, by calling (866)

632-9992, or by writing a letter addressed to USDA. The letter must contain the complainant’s name, address, telephone number, and a written description of the alleged discriminatory action in sufficient detail to inform the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights (ASCR) about the nature and date of an alleged civil rights violation. The completed AD-3027 form or letter must be submitted to USDA by: mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; or fax: (833) 256-1665 or (202) 690-7442; or email: program.intake@usda.gov This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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.

LEGAL NOTICES

CIV-2026-0063

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED SEP 14 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA COURT CLERK
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 DEPUTY

In the Matter of:

ALAN ORANGE)
Petitioner,)
VS.)
MONICA CARDENAS)
Respondent,)

Case No. CIV-2026-0063

CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES TO: MONICA CARDENAS
Address Unknown

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

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

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

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

Dated this 14th day of SEPTEMBER, 2026.

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

JFD-2026-0019

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED SEP 08 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA COURT CLERK
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 DEPUTY

In The Matter of The Dissolution Of Marriage of:

TIARA OSAGE)
Petitioner,)
vs.)
DONOVAN OSAGE, JR.)
Respondent,)

Case No: JFD-2026-0019

CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES TO: DONOVAN OSAGE, JR.
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

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

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

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

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

Dated this 8th day of September, 2026.

Lajada Whitcor
Lajada Whitcor, Chief Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PETITIONER:
Tiara Osage

JFD-2026-0009

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED SEP 21 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA COURT CLERK
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Dissolution of Marriage of:

MELISSA SLEEPER)
Petitioner,)
and)
JAMES SLEEPER)
Respondent,)

Case No. JFD-2026-0009

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: JAMES SLEEPER
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 21st 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:
 - o Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/854524251494?pwd=S3R0enU2WDV0Q0FhMnMlSQ3RxeTlR0OT09> or <https://zoom.us/join>
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

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

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

PG-2011-0018

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED SEP 14 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA COURT CLERK
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

N.N.S.)
Minor Child,)

Case No. PG-2011-0018

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: DYLAN SWEETZ
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

TAKE NOTICE that Tawanna Barnett, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child, N.N.S., 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 14th 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:
 - o Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/854524251494?pwd=S3R0enU2WDV0Q0FhMnMlSQ3RxeTlR0OT09> or <https://zoom.us/join>
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 14th day of September, 2026.

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

PG-2018-0013

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED SEP 21 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA COURT CLERK
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

L.K.)
Minor Child,)

Case No. PG-2018-0013

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: KEVIN KODASSETT AND TIA WHITLOW
UNKNOWN ADDRESSES

TAKE NOTICE that Francine Williams, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child, L.K., 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 21st 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:
 - o Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/854524251494?pwd=S3R0enU2WDV0Q0FhMnMlSQ3RxeTlR0OT09> or <https://zoom.us/join>
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

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

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

PG-2023-0068

CHEYENNE & ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED SEP 15 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAH0 TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA COURT CLERK
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022 DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

K.W.)
Minor Child,)

Case No. PG-2023-0068

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: DARYLYNN WILLIAMS
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 14th 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:
 - o Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/854524251494?pwd=S3R0enU2WDV0Q0FhMnMlSQ3RxeTlR0OT09> or <https://zoom.us/join>
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 15th day of September, 2026.

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

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Charles Elwood Fletcher

Charles “Charlie” Elwood Fletcher was born on March 10, 1948, in Shreveport, LA, to Samuel Fletcher Sr. and Angeline Reynolds Fletcher. He passed peacefully on Sept. 16, 2026, in Oklahoma City, with his family by his side.

Charlie was raised in Gallup, N.M., and attended Gallup High School. He later attended Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, N.M, and Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo.

Charlie dedicated many years of his life to public service, first in law enforcement and then in healthcare. During his law enforcement career, he served on the New Mexico Mounted Patrol, which was an all-volunteer state law enforcement agency. Upon entering the healthcare field, he worked at the Indian Health Service Navajo Area office in Window Rock, Ariz., as a budget analyst and was known as the “travel guy”. After many years at the Navajo Area Office, he moved back to Oklahoma and became

the administrative officer for the Clinton Service Unit until he retired with 40 plus years of total federal service.

Upon his retirement, he remained active as a healthcare advocate and was nominated to serve on the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Health Board. In 2024, Charlie decided to step down from the health board to focus on his health.

Charlie is preceded in death by his son Marquis Dann, great-grandson Aiden Malloy Fletcher, his parents, Samuel Fletcher Sr. and Angeline Reynolds Fletcher; his brothers Samuel Fletcher Jr. and Randy Fletcher and his sister Patricia Fletcher Slinkey.

Charlie is survived by his wife of 51 years, Sandi Fletcher of the home, one son, Charles J. Fletcher of El Reno, Okla., three daughters, Cee-Jay Fletcher of Durant, Okla., Angie Fletcher of Clinton, Okla., and Dr. Kateri Fletcher-Sahmaunt and husband Jacob Sahmaunt of Blanchard, Okla.



Ten grandchildren, Chanah Fletcher, Jaren Ingram, Ashlynn Fletcher, Mackenzie Pete, Leila Pete, Nauko Fletcher-Whiteman, Courage Fletcher-Whiteman, Kayleigh Fletcher, Marcus Sahmaunt, and Micah Sahmaunt and sister Virginia Chavez of Acoma, N.M. and many nieces and nephews.

A traditional wake service was held Sept. 20 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 21, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of Kiesau Lee Funeral Home.

Marina Jolea Lopez Gaytan

Marina Jolea Lopez Gaytan was born May 7, 1985, in Clinton, Okla., to Francisco Lopez and Patricia Riggles. She passed away peacefully Sept. 13, 2026, at Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City, at the age of 41.

Marina graduated from Watonga High School in 2003 and later attended Canadian Valley Technology Center. She eventually made her home in El Reno, Okla. On Sept. 21, 2007, Marina was united in marriage to Rogelio Gaytan in Concho, Okla. Marina was Baptist by faith. Marina cherished her family, her children and grandchildren held a very special place in her heart, and she treasured every moment she was able to spend

with them. The love she had for her family was an important part of who she was, and the memories she created with them will remain in their hearts forever.

Those left to cherish Marina’s memory include her husband Rogelio Gaytan of Mexico, her four children, Brayan Gaytan, Angelica Gaytan, Martha Gaytan and Riann Riggles, all of El Reno, her three grandchildren, Amilio, Stormi, and Anani Gaytan, her three sisters, Amy Riggles, Jennifer Riggles, and Lori Escobedo, all of El Reno, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Marina was preceded in death by her parents, Francisco Lopez and Patricia Riggles, and her grandmother Norma Riggles.

A viewing was held Sept. 16 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 16, at the same venue, with Gordon Yellowman officiating. Services were held under the direction of Turner Funeral Home.



gles, and her grandmother Norma Riggles.

A viewing was held Sept. 16 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 16, at the same venue, with Gordon Yellowman officiating. Services were held under the direction of Turner Funeral Home.

Antonio Latrell Grass

Antonio Latrell Grass, 27, of Tulsa, Okla., passed away on Sept. 5, 2026, in Evanston, Ill.. He was born on July 30, 1999, in Shawnee, Okla., to Kassandra Yost and Nickolas Grass.

Antonio grew up in Tulsa and attended Memorial High School. He was the oldest of his siblings and grandchildren in his family and was very close to those he loved.

Antonio loved his parents and siblings deeply and enjoyed spending time with the people who meant the most to him.

Antonio was a loving, giving, and caring person who was always willing to help others. He would give the shirt off his back to someone in need without a second thought. He was very family-oriented and would regularly call or text just to check on his loved ones and see how they were doing.

Antonio had a heart of gold and naturally put others before himself. His smile could brighten anyone’s day, and his laugh was contagious. He saw the good and beauty in the world around him.

Antonio liked to joke, laugh, and have a good time no matter what was going on. He enjoyed trying new things, going on adventures, and making memories. He loved football, basketball, and music. Antonio was also a talented artist who enjoyed

drawing and had a very creative mind.

He had a natural ability to tinker with things, put things together, and figure out how they worked. He dreamed of becoming an architect and enjoyed creating, building, and solving problems. If Antonio didn’t know how to do something, he would figure it out and find a way.

Antonio spent time with his grandfather Larry learning the trade of welding. He enjoyed learning from him and, even more, treasured the time they spent together. It was also while spending time with his grandfather Larry that Antonio found his faith. He was baptized with the love and support of his mother, siblings, and grandfather proudly watching as he made that important choice.

Antonio enjoyed the outdoors and was never afraid to get his hands dirty. Even as a child, he would build forts in the backyard for himself and his siblings. At the same time, Antonio had a style all his own. When it was time to dress up and make an impression, he knew how to show up looking his best.

Antonio is survived by his mother, Kassandra Yost; his siblings, Alonna, Zachariah, Malachi, Ka’Lina, and Lydia; his nephew, Aurther; his aunts, Bobbie Mayes and Monica Beverly; and many



other family members and friends who loved him dearly.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents, Larry Grass, Norman Littleman and Sophia Rodriguez.

Antonio was imperfectly perfect-perfectly himself in every way. He had his flaws, his stubborn moments, and his own way of doing things, but those were all pieces of the person his family and friends knew and loved so deeply. He never needed to be perfect to them; he was simply Antonio, and that was more than enough.

There will never be another Antonio. He was uniquely himself, and his place in the hearts of those who loved him can never be filled. He will be deeply missed and lovingly remembered by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Services were held Sept. 18 at the Schaudt’s Funeral Chapel in Tulsa, Okla.

Randel Thomas Greany

Randel Thomas Greany, 64, of Yukon, Okla. was born Aug. 14,1962 in Oklahoma City, to Clifton William Greany Sr and Louise Haskell. Randy passed away on Sept. 7, 2026 at Integris Hospice House in Oklahoma City.

Randy was raised and attended school in Oklahoma City. He made Oklahoma City and Yukon his home throughout his life and worked at various jobs in the Oklahoma City area as a paint technician.

Randy enjoyed playing chess and going out to eat, especially at Earl’s Barbeque, as well as other eateries. He had a special place in his heart for dogs. His dog, Rocky, was a very important part of his life.

Randy was preceded in death by his parents, Clifton William Greany Sr and Louise Haskell, maternal grandparents, Henry T. Haskell and Mayme Logan, paternal grandparents, John Greany Sr and Lula Curtis Greany, brothers, Richard Greany and Clifton William Greany, sisters, Stacy Ferguson and Sue Greany Velasquez, nephews, Jeremy Velasquez, Austin Velasquez, Joseph

Greany and Randel Ben Velasquez, who was named after Randy, niece Luciana Velasquez and brothers-in-law, Abel Velasquez and Joe Velasquez.

He is survived by his sister Brenda Velasquez of Aztec, N.M, nephews, Brandon Velasquez of Aztec, Gus Velasquez of Bayfield, Colo., Tim Velasquez of Denver, Colo., and Roman Velasquez of Ignacio, Colo., nieces, Kelly Velasquez, Cheyenne Velasquez, both of Ignacio, and Susan Velasquez of Denver, cousins, Ruth Maldonado, Clara Goodmiller, Carolyn Levi and Patricia White, all of El Reno, Okla. Randy had numerous grandchildren and other nephews and nieces in both Oklahoma and Colorado.

Randy was very ill the last 6 years of his life and endured great pain. We, as his family honor him for the strength he displayed during his illness. He is no longer suffering and with his loved ones in Heaven.

We thank Janetta Greany for the kindness and assistance she and the kids always showed Randy. They helped to make his life easier to cope with.



Funeral services were held Sept. 12 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla., followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Our many thanks to the following individuals, Gov. Reggie Wassana, the Integris Hospice House for the comfort they provided, Tony Maldonado, Judy DeWitt, Michelle Greany, Joe, Lakota, D’Lynna, Dustin, Georgia, and the numerous other individuals who took a special interest in our loved one. A special thank you to Melinda Miles for the special song for Randy. Our family thanks each and every one who had a part in his life. May God bless each and every one of you.

Michaela Nicole Orange

Michaela Nicole Orange was born in Oklahoma City on June 26, 1996, to Michael Dean Orange and Thirza Margaret Pollock. She passed away Sept. 2, 2026 at the Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Michaela loved to travel and liked music, especially pop and rap. She enjoyed cosmetology. The most important part of her life was being with her son, relatives and friends.

Michaela is survived by her son Trevor Orange, stepfather Howard Priest of Norman, Okla., aunts, Gail Williams of El Reno, Okla., and Monica Perry of Concho, Okla., uncles, Alvin Pollock of Tulsa, Okla., and Dave

Pollock of Los Angeles, Calif., and cousins, A.J., Basil, Gabriel, Alex, Marguerite, Edmond, Marcus, Tina, Diana, Cheryl, Alvin, Jr., Alice, Melissa, Rachel, Jade, and Arion and many nieces and nephews and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Michael Dean Orange and Thirza Margaet Pollock, paternal grandparents, Leroy Perry and Mildred Orange Perry, maternal grandparents, David Pollock and Margaret Mountain Pollock; great-grandparents, Ruth Sittingbull Orange and Nelson Orange Jr., uncle Eugene Charles Pollock, aunt Marcelene “Marcy” Pollock and cousin Dewey Pollock.

Wake services were held



Sept. 7 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 8, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Clayton Daniel ‘Fritz’ Prairiechief

Clayton Daniel Prairie Chief, Jr., affectionately known as “Fritz” to his family and friends, passed away Sept. 18, 2026, in Norman, Okla. Fritz was born Oct.28, 1968, in Clinton, Okla., to Clayton Daniel Prairie Chief Sr. and Louise Thunderbull. He was a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Fritz had a deep love for his Cheyenne traditions, culture, and way of life. His traditions were an important part of who he was, and he carried them with him throughout his life. He especially loved speaking his Cheyenne language and sharing that connection to his culture with those around him. He loved his family, his people, and his community and remained deeply connected to the values and traditions passed down through his family.

Throughout his life, Fritz was dedicated to his family, community, and Tribal Nation. He served as a Gaming Commissioner for Lucky Star Casino and was involved in the early development of gaming regulation and compliance for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. He was also a member of the Oklahoma Indian Nation Powwow Committee.

Fritz will be remembered for his love of family, his dedication to his tribe and community, and his deep love and respect for his Cheyenne traditions, culture, and language. He especially loved speaking his Cheyenne language and carrying on the traditions of his people. His family, including his many grandchildren, held a special place in his heart. The traditions he carried, the language he spoke, and the love he had for his people will continue to live on through his family and all those who knew and loved him.

Fritz is survived by his brothers, Daniel Prairie Chief, Eustace Prairie Chief, Jimmie Broyles, and Andrew Miles, all of El Reno, and Johnny Lee Whiteshirt of Binger, Okla., his sister Patsy Windship of Texas and his nieces, Hannah Prairie Chief, Micaela Prairie Chief, Justina Prairie Chief, Abrianna Prairie Chief, Jordan Prairie Chief, Kelsey Pierson, Ariah

pliance for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. He was also a member of the Oklahoma Indian Nation Powwow Committee.

Fritz will be remembered for his love of family, his dedication to his tribe and community, and his deep love and respect for his Cheyenne traditions, culture, and language. He especially loved speaking his Cheyenne language and carrying on the traditions of his people. His family, including his many grandchildren, held a special place in his heart. The traditions he carried, the language he spoke, and the love he had for his people will continue to live on through his family and all those who knew and loved him.

Fritz is survived by his brothers, Daniel Prairie Chief, Eustace Prairie Chief, Jimmie Broyles, and Andrew Miles, all of El Reno, and Johnny Lee Whiteshirt of Binger, Okla., his sister Patsy Windship of Texas and his nieces, Hannah Prairie Chief, Micaela Prairie Chief, Justina Prairie Chief, Abrianna Prairie Chief, Jordan Prairie Chief, Kelsey Pierson, Ariah



Broyles, Stephanie Wilborn, Tabitha Prairie Chief, Daisy Prairie Chief, and Abigail Prairie Chief. He is also survived by his many grandchildren, whom he loved dearly.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Clayton Daniel Prairie Chief Sr. and Louise Thunderbull; his brothers, Chuck Prairie Chief, Marty Prairie Chief and Aaron Prairie Chief; and his sister Yvonne Wilson.

Wake services were held Sept. 21 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held Sept. 22, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Avery's parents are Alfonso and Alicia Aispuro. Her grandparents are Delores 'Dee' and Charles Howlingwater and her brother is Vincent Aispuro.



Lucky Star CASINO

Pick Your Poison

SATURDAYS IN OCTOBER
GET YOUR SHARE OF OVER \$185,000
IN CASH AND FREE PLAY!

Nine (9) drawings each Saturday
 at all Lucky Star Casino locations!
7PM - 11PM

EARN ENTRIES STARTING MONDAY, SEPT 28TH!

5x FRIDAY
 Ten (10) Points Equals One Entry

Winner must be present to win and may only win once per promotional period. Promotions valid during Players Club hours only. Management reserves all rights to cancel or modify any or all promotions without prior notice. See Players Club for full details on this promotion. ©2026 Lucky Star.

CITY OF CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

LuckyStarCasino.org

f i X