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Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes join Arvada for Gold Strike Park ground blessing

ARVADA, Colo. — With the earth beneath their feet and generations of history surrounding them, representatives of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes joined the City of Arvada on Sept. 24 for a Ground Blessing Ceremony at Gold Strike Park, marking the beginning of a major redevelopment of the historic park.

The ceremony was more than the start of a construction project. It was an opportunity to honor the land, its history and the relationships that have helped shape the park’s future.

The Ground Blessing recognized the spirits of the plants and animals connected to the land, as well as the people entrusted with caring for it. The ceremony included an opening prayer, flag and honor songs, remarks from Tribal and City representatives, a Ground Blessing and a groundbreaking.

The partnership between Arvada and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes began in 2023 with the naming of Little Raven Park and continued through the planning and redevelopment of Gold Strike Park.

In June 2025, members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ cultural team spent several days in Arvada working with the city’s Parks and Urban Design team through consultation, storytelling and shared visioning. Their knowledge and cultural perspectives helped guide the way Indigenous connections to the land are represented throughout the park’s redevelopment.

The project will include restored native habitats, new recreational and educational features, opportunities for reflection and healing, and connections to the regional trail system.

Construction is expected to continue through August 2028.

For the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, participation in the Ground Blessing represents an important continuation of a relationship rooted in respect for the land, cultural understanding and a shared vision for preserving history while creating opportunities for future generations.



Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana and Cheyenne Peace Chief Gordon Yellowman take part in the Gold Strike Park ground blessing held in Arvada, Colo. on Sept. 24, 2026. Pictured l-r: Cheyenne Chief Gordon Yellowman, City of Arvada Council Member Sharon Davis and Gov. Reggie Wassana. (Photo / Kelly Flink)

Tribal Council votes against data centers on tribal lands, implementing three-year moratorium for further studies

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

CONCHO, Okla. - The 2026 Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ annual Tribal Council meeting convened Oct. 3 with a strong presence of tribal citizens ready to vote and voice their opinions on various items listed on the agenda.

This year’s meeting included a resolution that raised concerns for many with the ever-growing age of technology ... data centers.

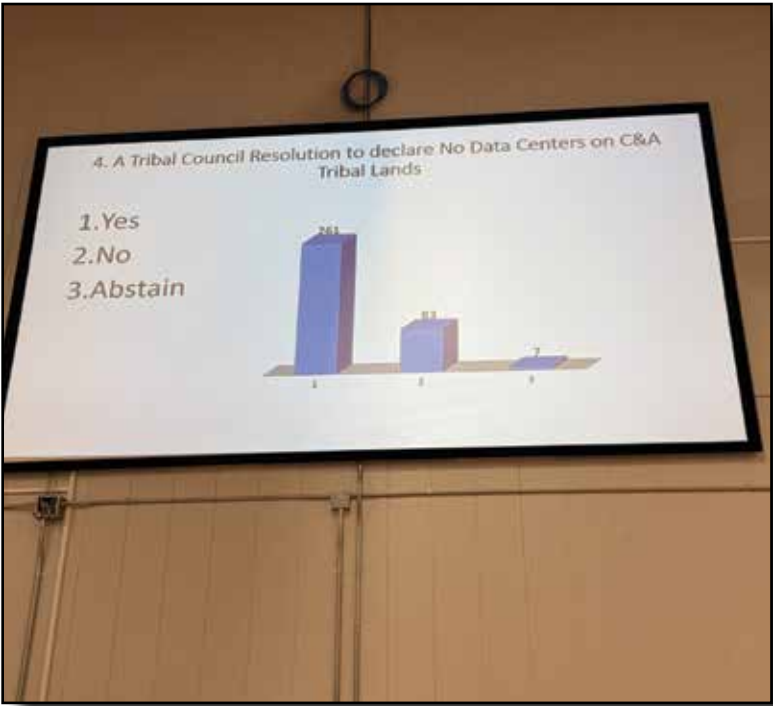
With over 300 in attendance and 21 remote voter participation, tribal citizens were encouraged to vote how they saw fit, as discussions ensued and voices were heard all throughout the 17 resolutions brought before the Tribal Council.

According to the 2006 Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Constitution, Article V, Section 2, the Tribal Council holds the power to set tribal policy, approve the annual budget, authorize treaties and compacts, and establish its own rules of procedure.

The meeting opened with invocation given by Charles Sleeper, followed by roll call. The 75-member quorum was established at 10:22 a.m. Tribal Council Coordinator Albert Old Crow announced nominations for chairperson from the floor.

Roberta “Bobbie” Hamilton was nominated and confirmed as chairperson for the meeting with a vote of 219, over David Levi with 98 votes. Jennifer Bailey was selected as secretary by acclamation.

On the agenda, 17 items were discussed and voted on: A Tribal Council Resolution to amend TC policies and procedures, authored by Ramona Tallbear, passed with a vote of 159 yes, 146 no and 36 abstentions.



A Tribal Council Resolution to select a Tribal Council coordinator. The candidates included incumbent Albert Old Crow, Chris RomanNose, Sarah Pedro and Rachel Curtis. Each candidate was invited to give an introduction to the Tribal Council, candidates explained their goals and views as the next possible Tribal Council coordinator. After voting, Chris RomanNose was elected Tribal Council coordinator with 166 votes, over Albert Old Crow with 145 votes, Sarah Pedro with 55 votes and Rachel Curtis with two votes.

See **TRIBAL COUNCIL VOTE** pg. 6

Office of Veterans Affairs receives VA Suicide Prevention Grant funding for third year



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Veteran Affairs take Veterans and their families on a day hike to Turkey Mountain in Tulsa, Okla., as part of the SSG Fox SPGP Mental and Physical Well Being Program. (Submitted photo)

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Office of Veterans Affairs continue working with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to prevent Veteran suicide in Cheyenne and Arapaho country.

The VA’s Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program (SSG Fox SPGP), a VA prevention program that provides funding to community-based organizations with

innovative approaches toward preventing Veteran suicide, has awarded the Office of Veterans Affairs \$350,000 in grant funding for fiscal year 2027 to support its mission.

SSG Fox SPGP honors Veteran Parker Gordon Fox, who joined the Army in 2014 and was a sniper instructor at the U.S. Army Infantry School at Fort Benning, Georgia. Known for a life

See **VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION** pg. 9

Cutting costs as Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes look to the future of renewable energy

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

The future is bright, as the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Housing Authority goes completely solar, striving for cleaner and renewable energy for tribal communities, reduce their carbon footprint on the environment and seek to eliminate costly electricity bills.

On Sept. 23, tribal leaders and community members gathered at the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal housing administration building in Clinton, Okla., to hold a ribbon cutting ceremony for the finished solar project installation of 128 solar panels on the Housing Authority building.

With the sunrays beaming high from the sky, the solar panels sitting on top of the

Housing Authority building captured all the sunshine of the day’s events as the ribbon cutting ceremony commenced.

The ceremony began with invocation given by Burl Buffalomeat, with Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Housing Executive Director Damon Dunbar leading the welcoming and introductions.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham gave special remarks, explaining how excited he was for the project as he was a strong believer in solar energy.

“Especially when you look at the current climate and things like that in particular, how much it costs to fill up on a tank of gas, how

See **SOLAR PROJECT** pg. 5



Solar project ribbon cutting ceremony held at the Housing Authority building with Housing Board Chairman Patrick Kincaid and Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham about to cut the ribbon, along with other tribal leadership and partners of the Solar Energy project. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

Skeleton - Southern Cheyenne Legends

Subitted by Max Bear, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Four Southern Cheyenne stories collected by Truman Michelson, 1932
Summer National Anthropological Archives, Smithsonian Institution

There were two great camps that were two days’ travel apart.

One day in one of the camps a young man decided to go and visit the other camp. “Mother prepare me a large amount of pounded meat, I am going to take a trip, and I shall take it along with me for my lunch,” said he. So that evening his mother pounded a large amount of meat and stuffed it in a bladder for him to take along for his lunch.

Very early the next morning the young man awoke and ate his breakfast that his mother had made ready for him that evening before. Upon mounting his horse with the pounded meat in the bladder tied to his saddle horn, rode away towards the other camp and he traveled all day long. When the sun was setting, he came to a creek and dismounting his horse near a large dead log with the bark laying all around it on the ground, he made ready his nights camp and staked his horse near the log, gathering up the bark made a shelter for himself to sleep in along the side of the log.

The air was chilled and he made a campfire and stood facing it warming his hands. His horse nearby began to act excited and frightened holding up his head high and snorting as if scared. The young man turned his face away from the fire to his horse and watched him closely still holding his hand out before him to the fire warming and when he turned his face back to the fire, he noticed on the opposite side of the fire a skeleton with its bony hands out in front of it warming.

The young man was very frightened and stared at the skeleton not knowing what to do. But he stood still and many ideas came to him. Then the skeleton spoke, “My friend do not be afraid of me I will not harm you. We will gamble and wrestle, you will bet your lunch of pounded meat, and I will bet something beautiful”. The

young man consented. They wrestled for a long while. Then finally the young man threw down the skeleton and over came him. They arose and the skeleton was defeated. “You have won my bet and tomorrow you must not continue on to your trip but go back to your home, and on your way, you shall come to a high hill and on the other side at the bottom you will find my beautiful bet. When you reach your camp tell your fellow friends for some may want to challenge me. Do not be afraid I will leave you and will not return anymore,” said he.

So, the young man laid down to rest and sleep but for a long time he was unable to sleep. Finally, he fell asleep. The next morning the sun had risen high when he awoke. He then ate his breakfast when he had eaten, he mounted his horse watered it and rode away returning to his home.

While traveling he came to a high hill and, riding to the top, looked down on the other side for his prize. At the bottom of the hill stood a beautiful black horse. So, he went down and tied a rope around his neck and led it home.

Upon reaching the camp he dismounted his horse and staked both horses nearby his tipi. After eating his supper, he went out walking through the camp and met a group of his fellow friends. “Friends I camped and stayed all night with a terrible person,” said he.

In this group of young men was a young man known as Toughy and he answered. “Where is that terrible person I will go see him,” said he. Then the young man related his experience to them. “I camped at a creek by a large dead log made a fire. While I was warming my horse became frightened, I turned my face to him and watched him and when I turned my face back towards the fire I saw on the other side facing me a skeleton standing in the same position as I was and he asked me to gamble

and wrestle him, betting my lunch of pounded meat, he is very strong I just barely got him down winning the black horse I led into the camp. Come and see it,” said he. So, the young men went to see the beautiful black horse.

The young fellow known as Toughy said, “Where is this terrible person I will go and see him and break him into many pieces, I will have mother prepare a large amount of meat,” said he. That night the young man asked his mother to prepare for him a large amount of pounded meat for his lunch on a long trip. So, the mother pounded a large amount of meat and stuffed it in a bladder. Very early the next morning the young man arose from his bed, ate his breakfast. Mounting his horse with the bladder of meat tied to his saddle horn rode away toward the creek. He traveled all day reaching the creek just about sundown. He then found the dead log with the bed of bark and nearby was the ashes of the other young man’s fire. He staked his horse nearby and made a fire, standing with his hands out before him warming, facing the fire. His horse nearby began to act excited and frightened, and he turned his face towards it watching closely. The horse held his head high in the air and snorted as if some person was approaching.

The young man then turned his face back towards the fire he noticed the skeleton on the opposite side facing him and standing in the same position as he. Then the skeleton spoke. “My friend do not be afraid of me, I will not harm you. Let us gamble and wrestle, you bet your lunch of pounded meat, and I will bet something most beautiful. If I throw you down first, I will win from you your lunch of pounded meat and I shall eat it all,” said he. So, the young man consented, thinking he is only bones, “I can just break him into many pieces. He cannot be strong,” thought he. So, the skeleton came

towards him and he started towards it. Then again, he thought, “He cannot be strong I will throw him down easy.”

So, they met, grabbed each other and started to wrestle. The young man could not move the skeleton, and they wrestled until the young man was down and defeated.

“Take my lunch of pounded meat you won it,” said he. The Skeleton replied, “no keep your lunch I have won your body. Do not continue your journey but turn back to your home, and tomorrow when the sun has risen halfway to noon. Have your mother prepare a big feast and invite all your fellow friends to eat with them for the last time, about noon lay down and you will be with me thereafter. Go to bed now, I am leaving you and I will not return anymore,” said he.

The young man laid down and could not sleep at all that night knowing he was to die. Early the following morning he arose, mounted his horse and hurriedly rode away towards his home. Upon reaching home that evening he could not sleep again. In the morning when the sun had risen halfway to noon, he told his mother to prepare a big feast for his friends telling her about his experience. When the mother finished preparing the feast all the young man’s friends were invited into his tipi. He was dressed in his costume, and he sat alone on his bed. His friends sitting down in front of him in the tipi. “My friends this shall be my last meal with you. I wrestled with the skeleton, and he threw me down, winning from me my body. I am going to live with him,” said he. When the sun nearly reached noon, he began to yawn and when the sun reached noon, he laid down and died before any of his friends could touch him. They then wrapped his body up in robes and hung it upon a tree.

His skeleton went to live with the other skeleton at the creek.



Fred Mosqueda, a descendant of Chief Little Raven, visits the school annually to welcome students back. Above the students wound around the gym for the Snake Dance turning the whole school into one long snake. (Photo / Lillian Fuglei)

Little Raven Elementary School students learn school history

Lillian Fuglei, Littleton Independent

For students at Little Raven Elementary School, starting off the school year meant one thing — dancing.

Students gathered in the school gym for a beginning-of-the-year assembly to learn from Fred and Mary Mosqueda, members of the Arapaho Tribe from Oklahoma and descendants of Chief Little Raven.

Little Raven Elementary is named after Chief Little Raven, an Arapaho leader who was known for his commitment to maintaining peace. As the school was created, Fred was “an integral part of the process,” according to Principal Lyndsey Case, who said he helped educate the school on Chief Little Raven and their traditions.

“We have maintained a great relationship with Fred and his family since we opened four years ago,” Case said. “Fred and his family have made the journey from Oklahoma for the past four years to help us kick off our school year.

“He always has a wonderful story to tell the kids and a song and dance to

teach us,” she continued. “Our students and staff look forward to this each year.”

This year, Fred taught students two dances, the Snake Dance and the Buffalo Dance. First, students wound their way around the gym to a drumbeat, played by Fred, as the school became one long snake. Then Fred played another beat for the Buffalo Dance, and students danced around the gym as buffalo.

The beginning-of-the-year assembly has become an integral tradition at the school, as Case believes it’s important for students to understand and stay connected to their school’s history.

“It is important that we maintain this relationship to ensure our students, staff and community understand the significance of the name of our amazing school, Little Raven Elementary,” Case said. “Little Raven Elementary is a special community that has a strong sense of belonging among our students and staff. The history and connection of our naming plays a big role in this.”



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Darlington’s girls cross country team celebrates after capturing the school’s first girls state championship at the 2026 ORES Cross Country State Tournament Oct. 3 at North Rock Creek High School in Shawnee. The team’s championship was fueled by years of friendship, teamwork and determination. Pictured l-r: Coach Carrie ‘KK’ Whitlow, Rosalina Brown, Liberty Morton-Hatten, Breanna Gray, Mahli Adair, Leelo Sandoval, Violet Roman Nose and Glory Gray. (Photos / Adriel Clements)

They Were the Pack

Darlington girls cross country team turn friendships, perseverance and miles on the course into the school’s first girls’ cross country state championship

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*

The rain came down softly over the course at North Rock Creek High School, soaking the earth and bringing relief to ground that had been scorched by the heat.

Beneath that gray October sky, runners gathered for one final race, shoes tied tightly, jerseys pulled into place, nervous smiles exchanged and coaches offering those last few words of encouragement.

“During the race I told the girls run with the pack and stay with the pack. After the race my daughter Violet told me, ‘You kept saying run with the pack, but I was thinking we are the pack,’” Darlington School Cross Country Coach Carrie ‘KK’ Whitlow said.

For approximately 680 young athletes, the finish line represented more than the end of a race. It was the culmination of months of early mornings, practices, miles and determination. Some would leave hoping to be among the top 10. Others would run for their teammates and their school, chasing the trophy that represented the best of the best.

On Oct. 3, the Oklahoma Rural Elementary School (ORES) 2026 Cross Country State Tournament brought runners to North Rock Creek High School in Shawnee, Okla., where they competed for state championship titles.

For the Darlington girls, the rainy Saturday would become a day of history. The team captured Darlington’s first girls’ cross country state championship, a milestone built not in a single race, but through years of friendship, commitment and growing together.

The story of Darlington’s cross country began in 2017 when the school started its program with Reggie Island and Parry Roman Nose being selected to coach. That first year, Whitlow came to a race for a very different reason. She was there to support her



nephews, Evan and Carter Roman Nose.

But as she watched the young runners prepare to take their places at the starting line, Whitlow noticed something.

“Once they got on the line waiting for the start I noticed they didn’t know what to do so I stepped in and started showing them stretches and how to prepare for a race,” Whitlow said.

Ever since then Whitlow has just kept showing up to help and assisting with Parry Roman Nose and Island. What started as a simple effort to help her nephews soon turned into years of dedication to Darlington’s cross country program.

“I think by the next year they let me take the lead with practices and on race days,” Whitlow said. “Since then, I started scheduling the races, doing the rosters, making sure we have enough uniforms and getting food and drinks ready.”

What began with two nephews eventually grew into an opportunity to coach four nephews and a niece. And now, Whitlow has the opportunity to coach her daughter.

For Whitlow, however, coaching has never been simply about finishing first. Her



Violet Roman Nose (l) and Leelo Sandoval placed second and third individually at the 2026 ORES Cross Country State tournament.

goals are much bigger. She wants her runners to learn how to run properly, how to breathe properly and, above all, how to enjoy running.

Those lessons were on full display at the state tournament. Before the race, Whitlow wasn’t sure exactly how the girls would perform. Rather than add to the pressure, she gave them a simple

message, stay calm, stay relaxed and enjoy running together.

The words would take on a special meaning by the time the race was over. The Darlington girls ran as a team, and the results were remarkable. Eighth grader Leelo Sandoval finished second individually with a time of 10:10.69, seventh grad-

See **DARLINGTON STATE CHAMPIOSHIP** pg. 4



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ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Kaleb Blackwolf, Del City High School

OKLAHOMA CITY - Known as an elite player on the football field who can play versatile positions, from running back to outside linebacker, Kaleb Blackwolf is making all the noise this football season at Del City High School, out of Del City, Okla.

Blackwolf was born in Yukon, Okla., and raised in El Reno, Okla., for most of his life. He began playing football at the age of 5, because he had a dream of one day making it to the NFL.

“And I’ve been having that dream ever since,” Blackwolf said.

The six-foot-tall versatile player can play almost any position on the field. What he has come to love the most about playing football is how his family supports him and will continue to support him on the field.

“My family, my nana, and my love for the game,” Blackwolf said.



In his senior year, what Blackwolf looks forward to the most is senior night, which will happen on November 6. What makes senior night so special for Blackwolf is getting to be recognized alongside his family.

Goals that Blackwolf has set for himself include breaking record highs for the season.

“Breaking rushing yards in a single game and breaking the most touchdowns in a single game,” Blackwolf said.

Knowing this is his last year playing high school football, Blackwolf knows the time went by fast, as his mom always said, “it just goes by fast, so you better enjoy it.”

Maintaining a 3.2 GPA, Blackwolf best manages his academics and sports by watching his older cousins do it before him.

“They always say, just keep my head low and keep grinding no matter what,” Blackwolf said.

With Del City High School football going 3-2 in the season as of this interview and 1-1 in conference, Blackwolf has high hopes of winning a championship ring at the end of the season. The last time Del City won a championship was in 1976. Blackwolf’s current stats for the season as of the interview were 954 yards, with 84 carries and 14 touchdowns.

Throughout his years playing football, Blackwolf believes he’s grown the most as a player as he’s matured through the years.

“My parents always say, treat life like football. So, if I do anything bad, it really messes me up. So I’ve been treating life like football,” Blackwolf said.

Staying dedicated to his practice schedule Monday through Thursday, Blackwolf goes the extra mile and does extra workouts at home, taking runs around the neighborhood, while also prioritizing push-ups and sit-ups in his daily workout routines, as well as lifting with his team.

As a football player, Blackwolf believes it’s important to prioritize academics and to put God first.

“If you don’t have the academics, colleges don’t want to recruit a kid like that and you don’t play. Second of all, you just need to keep God first because if anything happens to you, you can always pray to the man above,” Blackwolf said.

Ending his high school football career, Blackwolf hopes to be remembered as the player that always put on a show, no matter what. What football has taught him the most is to be hard working and humble at the same time.

Overall, when Blackwolf is out there on the field playing the game he’s come to love, he’s filled with excitement and is always ready to play.

“I just feel more excited because I’m out there with my brothers and I’m just ready to play with them too.”

Robert Jones, head football coach at Del City High School, described Blackwolf as one of the more special players he’s coached because of the numerous things that he can do on the field. Whether it’s playing running back or receiver ... he can play defensive back, linebacker and is also the punter.

“The most important thing is what type of leader he is, he’s a selfless leader, he’s willing to do whatever it takes for the team to be suc-



Photos by Adriel Clements

cessful and he works out hard in the weight room, in track as well, we’re conditioning. So, he’s an all around great player, probably one of the better players in the Del City football history,” Jones said.

Jones said Blackwolf’s strengths on the field and his athleticism makes him a supreme athlete, as well as his speed.

“Those are the three combinations that make him a pretty special player. Throw in his leadership skills and his toughness as well, all those attributes make him who he is and make him the great player that he is,” Jones said.

After graduating, Blackwolf plans to attend college and continue playing football and to hopefully go pro. He has already received college offers from D2 schools, as well as one D1 college, and looks forward to playing in a different environment at the next level.

Kaleb’s parents are Aubrey Blackwolf and Shedrick Ferrell. His siblings include Kendall Ferrell, Karter Ferrell and Kaisa Ferrell. His maternal grandmother is Kerrie Blackwolf and his paternal grandmother is Katrice Ferrell.

A Full-Circle Moment: KJ Miller Comes Home to Lead Royal Valley Volleyball

By Andrew Lind

HOYT, Kansas - At 22 years old, KJ Miller is one of the youngest head volleyball coaches in Kansas.

But at Royal Valley, being the coach is about more than a job. It is home.

Long before Miller stood at the front of the gym, calling out rotations and running practices, he was simply a kid trying to find his way into the game.

Royal Valley volleyball was always around him. He played growing up, took on different roles within the program and absorbed whatever he could along the way.

And sometimes, there wasn’t even a volleyball involved.

“When I would go to her house, there were no balls in the house, so I would play with the balloon,” Miller told 13 SPORTS on how he learned the game. “That’s how it started. I was playing volleyball with the balloon. I just learned and grew the game from there.”

His grandmother helped introduce him to volleyball. His dad became one of his biggest supporters.

Little by little, the game became part of Miller’s life. Now, he gets to pass that knowledge on to the next generation.

And one of the players learning from him is someone who knows him better than most: his younger sister.

“I’m just glad that he gets to be a part of my high



KJ Miller coaches volleyball for Royal Valley High School in Kansas, with the rare privilege of coaching his younger sister on the team, Karis Miller. (Courtesy photo)

school career and also my club career,” KJ’s sister Karis Miller said. “I’m just glad that I get to learn from him. I mean, he’s my best friend.”

That family connection gives Miller’s first season an added layer. But his relationship with the Panthers goes well beyond his own family.

He has grown up alongside many of the players and their families, building relationships that long predate his time as their coach.

“I’ve known them since, I mean, we were little, so it’s definitely a good support system,” Royal Valley senior Dasno Mills added. “I feel like their whole family is just volleyball-oriented and just have a good foundation.”

And the Panthers are responding.

Royal Valley is 17-6 this season, already surpassing last year’s win total with plenty of volleyball still ahead.

But for Miller, the wins only tell part of the story. He isn’t simply trying to build something at Royal Valley.

He’s building something at the place that helped build him. The same gym where he learned the game is now where he teaches it.

The same community that watched him grow is now watching him lead. And every day, Miller gets another reminder of just how far that journey has taken him.

“I look forward to coming here every day, whether it’s just for school, lunch, anything, practice,” Miller said. “This has been my home for the last 22 years, so it’s a full circle moment.”

DARLINGTON STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

continued from pg. 3

er Violet Roman Nose finished third in 10:11.10, seventh grader Rosalina Brown, who was new to the group but had quickly established herself as a strong runner, finished fourth with a time of 10:12.26 and eighth grader Glory Gray crossed the finish line fifth in 10:14.72.

Four Darlington runners among the top five helped propel the team to its historic state championship. But behind those four finishers was a group of young girls who have spent years learning what it means to run.

“Mahli, Glory, Breanna, Liberty, and Leelo are all eighth graders and have been running together since they were in the fifth grade,” Whitlow said. “Rosalina and Violet are seventh graders. Even though Rosalina is new she has been running very well for us. Additionally, Mahli, Glory, Breanna, Liberty, Leelo, and Violet have been going to school together since they were in kindergarten and they are a special group. They have stayed together, worked together, and improved together and I think that’s evident with them winning state,” Whitlow said.

And over the years, they have watched one another improve. The championship adds another accomplishment to Darlington’s cross country history. The Darlington boys won a state championship in 2021, with Emmary Elizondo capturing an individual state championship in 2019. But the 2026 season brought something new. The girls had their own championship.

“It was a great day, and we had so many families come and support our kids,” Whitlow said.



Darlington cross country runner Mahli Adair. (Photo / Adriel Clements)

For the runners, the state tournament trophy was the visible reward for their work. But perhaps the greater victory could be found in everything that happened long before they reached the finish line. It was in the practices, the stretches, the laughter, the encouragement and the friendships. And in a coach who came to a race years ago simply to support and ended up becoming an important part of a program.

They had crossed the finish line together. Because sometimes the greatest strength of a runner isn’t found in how fast they can run alone. It is found in the people running beside them. And on this day, Violet said it best, “They weren’t running with the pack. They were the pack.”

Bernice Armstrong receives Compass Award at Cardinal Point’s sixth annual Honoring Hope Luncheon

Congratulations to Bernice Armstrong, TFAP Social Worker with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Domestic Violence Program, on receiving the “Compass Award” at Cardinal Point’s sixth annual Honoring Hope luncheon.

With more than 40 years dedicated to advocacy and supporting survivors, Armstrong is a respected mentor, role model and source of hope to many.

The tribes’ Domestic Violence Program includes Family Support Specialists Kevin Birdshead and Ashley Sternloff, TFAP Social Worker and Compass Award recipient Bernice Armstrong, Victim Services Advocates Bridget Blackowl, Carmen Harvie and Tanya Fisher.

Cardinal Point Family Justice Center is an active nonprofit organization based in Canadian County, Oklahoma, that supports survivors of domestic violence and abuse.



Above: Bernice Armstrong presented with the Compass Award during the sixth annual Cardinal Point’s sixth annual Honoring Hope Luncheon.

Left: Members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Domestic Violence Program l-r: Kevin Birdshead, Ashley Sternloff, Bernice Armstrong, Bridget Blackowl, Carmen Harvie and Tanya Fisher. (Courtesy photos)

SOLAR PROJECT

continued from pg. 1

much your electric bills are in the summer months, especially this summer, where we’ve had record highs of 100 degrees and I know everybody wishes they had lower electric bills and solar power has really accomplished that,” Gorham said.

Gorham looks forward to the tribes progressing and moving forward with solar power and the more projects to come, including the Independent Living Center in the future, as well as other projects such as the casino and other economic development projects. Gorham stated the installation would offset about 70% of the costs of the housing authority building.

Gorham stated ff you look into the numbers standpoint, if their electric bill was \$1,000 a month then it’s going to offset 70% of that electric bill and it’s only going to be \$300 per month moving forward.

“And that’s a huge savings not only for the Housing Authority but for the tribe,” Gorham said. “For the tribe as a whole because we can utilize those dollars for other programs that are saved.”

Partnering with Tribal Energy Alternatives (TEA) for the solar project installation, Jordan Zaldivar, project manager for Tribal Energy Alternatives spoke next, saying how happy he was to celebrate the installation and to explain Tribal Energy Alternatives.

A tribally led non-profit that works with tribes all throughout the U.S., TEA works to help get the projects through the grant process and build up the workforce and train, help tribal citizens be able to do the work themselves to be able to take care of the projects. TEA helps with the construction and has their crew onsite to help with the housing trainees that took part in the installation of the solar panels.

“We have a mix of the housing authority trainees and our crew, but it’s a really important partnership come together and we have our crew that helps train everyone on the installation and it’s important too that we have the right trainees that are wanting to learn this trade and wanting to be

a part of this and pay attention and that are wanting to be a part of the installation,” Zaldivar said.

Others involved in the partnership of the project included Electrical Solutions, who also assisted in the solar panel installation of the 13 tribal homes the solar project first began with earlier in the year in February.

Zaldivar said the solar panels are expected to last for over 25 years and some of the benefits associated with solar include the potential savings in utility costs.

“You’re looking at over \$450,000 in savings that potentially are really going to be redirected for other tribal needs to go back to the community however it’s going to be going back, but it’s really beneficial to have these systems up,” Zaldivar said.

Housing Board Chairman, William Patrick Kincaid spoke next on behalf of the board of commissioners, thanking everyone for their part in the project.

“We are dedicated to approving and passing policy that will allow further infrastructure, implementation, Cheyenne and Arapaho has been around for thousands of years this is just another stage of our nation’s development that will allow us to be around for another thousand,” Kincaid said.

Other remarks were given by Cheyenne District 3 Legislator Tommy Trout and Arapaho District 3 Legislator Travis Ruiz during the ceremony, as well as Housing Commissioner Ira Ellis who thanked everyone who took part in the project.

Andres Lonebear, project manager for the solar project, made final closing remarks for the ceremony.

“It’s definitely been a long journey from doing talks from the residential side to trying to fully develop our plan of wanting to attack the residential side to moving to commercial side, it’s great for us to be able to see this finally happening, great to see everybody out here and all the support that we get,” Lonebear said.

Celebrating the final product of the installation of solar panels and on the way to a brighter future of cleaner energy and reducing carbon footprint, tribal leaders and project partners gath-

ered with ribbon in hand, standing proud in front of the housing authority of the completed solar panel project.

Taking a pair of scissors and with a quick stroke, the ribbon was cut, officially recognizing a day of celebration for the Housing Authority and the Solar Project.

With the installation of solar panels, Zaldivar said the long term benefits could mean getting costs back every month when not having to pay for electricity. And as far as working with the Tribes, TEA is there to help build up the Tribes and eventually they can do all the projects on their own.

“To where we can move on and help develop other tribes with their energy programs and we take steps back and the more that the partners we’re working with, the more comfortable they’re doing the work on their own, of course we’re always just a phone call away to support and keep our partnership going too,” Zaldivar said.

With six crewmembers from TEA that worked onsite for the installation throughout the project process, Zaldivar said they travel for all the projects and help assist with training other trainees.

“I think it’s really been a great partnership with Tribal Energy Alternatives and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority ... as far as working with Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority, things have gone as smoothly as they can and it really has shown the effort that they’re putting in to developing this program and developing this new solar project,” Zaldivar said.

With the completion of the Housing Authority solar installation, Lonebear said they would look at other possible projects for solar installation such as the Independent Living Center in Clinton.

“We want to get all of our commercial buildings following this project, we want to get our Independent Living Center which is 100% electric, so we want to be able to get those cost offsets done because those are huge electric bills on a monthly basis, especially in the winter time, so I think that’s



Tribal Energy Alternatives (TEA) along with Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority (CAHA) trainees were part of the installation process, installing the solar panels on the Housing Authority building.

Pictured back row l-r: Andres Lonebear, project manager, Kyle Miller, TEA, Dalen Chosa, TEA, Johnathan Montoya, TEA, and Jaxson Panana, CAHA.

Front row l-r: Jordan Zaldivar, TEA, Elrond Burns, CAHA, Dorothy American Horse, TEA, and Robert Cometsevah, CAHA. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)



our next project,” Lonebear said.

Another goal for the project, Lonebear said is workforce development and getting into more residential projects as it’s been good to see the housing trainees learn and develop a new trade. Lonebear said three trainees from the housing authority have been a part of the solar project working on the solar installation and working alongside TEA.

“It’s something from the beginning we’ve been wanting to do is be able to develop everything in house, we wanted to keep money within the tribe, that’s why a lot of our guys are here, they’re all tribal employees with the tribe, we also worked with TERO on our residential

side pulling in people from there, it’s definitely something if we continue to scale, then we can continue to create more jobs,” Lonebear said.

Working with Tribal Energy Alternative, the project was able to get grant funding in the amount of \$311,000 for the project.

“We’ve been fortunate that we’re working with Tribal Energy Alternatives they’ve been able to come and say, ‘hey we have this funding opportunity, we want you guys to apply and then we write for it,’ and we’re very fortunate to get funding from them,” Lonebear said.

Looking forward to a brighter future of cleaner energy with the installation of

solar panels for the housing authority building, Lonebear said he hopes more people are opening their eyes to it and seeing that it’s something the Tribes can do as they’re slowly proving they want to develop on their projects.

“We have a plan in place and right now we’re following it. We just want to be able to show people again that we can get it done, it’s definitely something the tribe can look into, it’s a lot of work, but it’s all worth it in the end, to continue to grow, give it to more of our residential homes and people who need it, I’m looking forward to be able to grow this program and grow the workforce development as well,” Lonebear said.

Accountability Before Approval - Why Accounting for The Money Matters

Submitted by Leah Burrows, Hitesįsei (Cheyenne Woman)

What does Cobell v. Salazar have to do with our Tribal budget?

At first, they may seem like two very different subjects. Cobell concerned the federal government’s management of Individual Indian trust assets. Our annual budget concerns the revenues and expenditures of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

They are legally different. But Cobell provides an important lesson about something every government should understand:

When government has authority over money, there must also be a meaningful way to account for that money.

That principle is important when we consider the responsibility of our Tribal Council in giving final approval to the annual Tribal budget and whether Tribal Council has sufficient financial information to exercise that authority in an informed manner.

A Lesson From Cobell

Many Native people are familiar with Cobell, but others may only recognize the name.

The case involved the federal government’s management of individually owned Indian trust lands and the money generated from those lands. The United States exercised control over allotted

lands and valuable natural resources, including oil and natural gas.

Over many years, serious problems developed with the records necessary to account for those assets. Accounts of the Cobell litigation describe missing accounting records, beneficiaries who were not provided trust-account statements, and the absence of a meaningful historical accounting.

The problem was not simply whether someone could prove money had been stolen.

There was a more fundamental question of accountability.

Were adequate records maintained? How much money was received? What happened to it? Could the government provide the people whose assets it managed with a reliable accounting?

Congress eventually confirmed the federal government’s duty to provide a full accounting, and failure to account for the trust assets became a central issue in the Cobell litigation.

That history provides an important lesson:

Authority over money must be accompanied by accountability for money.

From Our Allotments to Tribal Revenue

That history remains meaningful because individually owned Indian allot-

ments still exist today.

Many Indian families continue to own interests in allotted lands. Some of those lands produce oil and gas.

Oil and gas companies may pay royalties associated with individual Indian mineral interests while separately paying taxes associated with production, including Tribal severance taxes where applicable.

Those are different types of money and different legal relationships.

I am not suggesting that Tribal severance-tax revenues are Individual Indian Money accounts, nor am I suggesting that Cobell imposes the same federal trust duties upon the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

The analogy is about accountability.

When government collects revenue, there should be sufficient records to determine how much was collected, how those funds were authorized for expenditure, how they were spent, and what remains.

And that principle extends beyond severance taxes.

It applies to the financial resources that support our Tribal government and ultimately support services for our people.

Accountability and Fairness Are Connected

We hear concerns about Tribal services.

Our elders seek greater assistance. Families need housing. Parents and students need educational assistance. Our youth need opportunities. Families experience emergencies and need help. Tribal citizens who live outside our territorial boundaries also raise concerns about access to certain services.

These are important discussions about fairness and equality.

But they are also connected to financial decisions.

Before we can determine whether our resources are being distributed fairly, we must first be able to account for the resources themselves.

How much revenue was actually received?

What was originally authorized?

What was actually spent?

What additional appropriations were approved during the fiscal year?

What budget modifications were made?

What funding sources paid for those additional expenditures?

What balances remain?

And how did those financial decisions affect the resources available for services to our people?

Without that information, it is difficult to determine whether a shortage in services results from insufficient revenue, spending priorities, additional expen-

ditures during the fiscal year, or some other reason.

Financial accountability and fairness in services are connected.

The Oath of Office Means Something

This brings me to the responsibilities of our elected officials.

When elected leaders take their oath of office, they are not simply accepting a title. They are accepting the responsibility to faithfully perform the duties of their respective offices under our Constitution and laws.

That responsibility is especially important when exercising governmental authority over public money.

The Tribal Council’s final approval of the annual Tribal budget is an exercise of constitutional authority, not merely an administrative approval.

The faithful exercise of that authority requires sufficient financial information upon which to make an informed decision.

If Tribal Council is responsible for final approval of the annual budget, then Tribal Council should have sufficient information to understand not only what is proposed for the coming fiscal year, but also what happened to the resources previously authorized.

That should include an accounting of revenues re-

ceived, actual expenditures, additional appropriations, budget modifications, the funding sources used for those changes, and remaining balances.

Meaningful budget authority requires meaningful financial disclosure.

That is not about one branch interfering with the responsibilities of another branch.

It is about ensuring that each part of our government has the information necessary to faithfully perform its own constitutional responsibilities.

The Budget and the Audit Tell Different Parts of the Story

A proposed budget tells us what government plans to do with its resources.

But that is only one part of the financial picture.

Actual expenditures tell us what government did.

Additional appropriations and budget modifications tell us what changed after the original budget was approved.

Financial reports should help us determine what was received, spent and remains.

And audits provide an independent examination that can identify financial-reporting, internal-control and compliance issues requiring attention.

See **ACCOUNTING** pg. 9

TRIBAL COUNCIL VOTE

continued from pg. 1

A Tribal Council Resolution to approve the 2027 Tribal Budget, presented by Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana, the resolution passed with a vote of 200 yes, 143 no and 15 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution to declare no data centers on C&A Tribal Lands.

Holding up a cup of water in hand for everyone to see, Kyle Spottedhorse presented the resolution to the Tribal Council. As Cheyenne and Arapaho people, Spottedhorse said they had a spiritual responsibility as their traditional values respect water and life.

“Water is so powerful, nothing can live without water on Mother Earth. I see many of you are traditional Cheyenne and Arapaho, sweat, traditionalist, Sundance people, Native American church people and in those ceremonies, this water is so respected, we go without it in these ceremonies and it’s a blessing,” Spottedhorse said.

Spottedhorse explained the data center would use 300,000 gallons a day, eventually adding up to 110 million gallons of drinking water a year.

“Just to go through some heating coils to cool off some processors and dump into our lagoons, this water is alive,” Spottedhorse said.

Appealing to the water protectors and referencing Mní Wičóŋi, the Lakota meaning for water is life, at Standing Rock, Spottedhorse said the Tribal Council also has a moral responsibility. Not only to themselves and the water, to Mother Earth, but a responsibility to the community.

“How many have heard about Yukon voting out their mayor because he did an NDA? Kudos for them for doing that,” Spottedhorse

said referencing the recall motion against Yukon Mayor Brian Pillmore.

“How would they feel if we just ripped right behind their back, in their backyard and did our own thing, potentially causing water pollution, air pollution, not to mention electrical grid cost impacts,” Spottedhorse said.

Feeling passionate about water rights, Vera Franklin said she is against voting for data centers as she heard that data centers are the way of the future, it’s inevitable, but making a decision today, maybe in three years they’ll have a better idea of how this will impact the future.

“We have a right today to vote no and to vote yes, not to have this data center, I want to tell you this is not created by a Creator, this is created by artificial intelligence and where does that come from? It comes from man, not from God, our Creator, we need to remember that because we’re going to vote today, it’s going to affect these kids’ futures,” Franklin said.

Damon Dunbar, who formerly worked for the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) program said while the data center may use a lot of water, most tribal citizens who receive IIM checks never think about how much water the fracking process takes for each well, explaining that the fracking process loses 10-12 million gallons of water that is never seen again.

“The technology coming out now, the data centers, I read in an article the other day, they can recycle that water, so only a little bit of water is actually lost, so I think if we kind of let the technology evolve some, we wouldn’t be able to see as much water be lost,” Dunbar said.

With technology growing, Wassana said everybody has used AI, as 60% of students

have used AI and 30% of people use it everyday, and it’s going to keep growing. Wassana hopes technology will come to the Tribes where it will someday be offered for free, if done right. Not only is the data center, the way, the future, but kids will evolve, Wassana said.

“We haven’t signed anything, we haven’t done anything, we’re listening, just like Kyle said, we listened, we researched, I’ve been to a data center and like I said that’s what I saw, a big huge building like this with a bunch of servers, a big pool because they’re saving your data,” Wassana said.

Wassana explained there would be a lot less water than 300,000 gallons used a day and that cities use more water on golf courses than people would actually use for data centers.

“We would generate our own electricity through our own gas, we’d sell our gas back, we’d made 10 times the amount on gas, we’d made \$5 - \$6 million on our gas here at Concho, we’d make about \$80 - \$90 million to sell that back, not only that but we have our own water and data centers are huge, huge profit making projects,” Wassana said.

A tribal citizen spoke next and said the deal breaker for her was that through the process that there be 100% transparency, no NDAs and a full impact statement, especially on the buffalo.

“We spent years building our herds, how will this affect our buffalo herds? What effect will this have on surrounding farms and farmland and animals? That’s all I have to say to be honest. I want us to be informed all along the way,” she said.

In response, Wassana said before the Tribal Council meeting, they were planning to have community meet-

ings, however nothing has been signed, there are feasibility statements that are going to be done and legislators have all acknowledged it, nothing has been done yet.

Wassana said it would be a great benefit for the tribes as it could potentially bring in 1200 jobs with an average paying job of \$40 to \$60 an hour for those jobs.

“Vote how you want to, but the future is coming in that age where technology, who would have ever thought we’d be using clickers, we have all kinds of issues, technology is evolving, where are we going to go with it?,” Wassana said.

Christine Levi spoke next in support of the resolution being put on hold for three years, as she comes from a very traditional family.

“We have to protect our land, we have to protect our rights, our people have fought for our way of life for years,” Levi said.

After hearing tribal citizens voice their opinions on the resolution, Hamilton called for a motion to call for a vote from the floor and voting ensued. The resolution to place a three year moratorium on data centers passed with a vote of 261 yes, 83 no and 7 abstentions.

In response to the Tribal Council’s decision to temporarily ban data centers on tribal lands, Wassana issued the following statement, “We respect the Tribal Council and the members who raised concerns about protecting our land and water. We share those concerns. We only wish there had been more communication with the Governor’s Office about research already underway.”

As Concho sits over a significant aquifer system, it is one of the larger groundwater resources in Oklahoma. At one time, there was even consideration of sup-



Holding up a cup of water for effect, Kyle Spottedhorse presents the Tribal Council resolution to declare no data centers on Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal lands during the 2026 annual Tribal Council meeting. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

plying water to surrounding communities, Wassana explained.

“Any data center project would still have to protect that resource, which is why we’ve researched closed-loop and newer cooling technologies designed to significantly reduce water use,” Wassana said.

Wassana also explored private power generation that could potentially save the Tribes approximately \$150,000 to \$200,000 a month in electricity costs at Concho alone. The project was projected to generation \$400 million to \$600 million annually, create more than 1,000 jobs, with average wages of approximately \$40 to \$60 an hour.

That revenue could increase elder assistance to as

much as \$1,500 while expanding housing assistance, social services, college scholarships, per-capita distributions and other services to our people,” Wassana said.

In the future, the Governor’s office plans to hold community meetings to share the research, answer questions and make sure tribal citizens have factual information about both the environmental safeguards and the potential benefits.

A Tribal Council Resolution to support behavioral health clinics on Tribal lands.

Phyllis Harjo Nabilsi presented the resolution, who was also in support of a behavioral health clinic and believed mental health was important. The resolution passed with a vote of 254 yes, 15 no and 2 abstentions.

See **TRIBAL COUNCIL VOTE** pg. 7

TRIBAL COUNCIL VOTE

continued from pg. 6

A Tribal Council Resolution to support Traditional Healing.

The resolution, read by Ramona Tallbear, expresses support for sustainable funding, including Medicaid, and other funding mechanisms to support culturally based healing services for the Cheyenne and Arapaho people. The resolution passed with a vote of 236 yes, 18 no and 11 abstentions.

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

The resolution, read by Ramona Tallbear, passed with a vote of 142 yes, 65 no and 37 abstentions.

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

The resolution, read by Phillis Harjo Nabils, passed with a vote of 105 yes, 85 no and 20 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution to establish one official place for public notices and direct notice to members who request it.

The resolution was read by Dawn Yazzie and passed with a vote of 131 yes, 64 no and 20 abstentions.

Before moving to the next item, a motion was made from the floor to move item number 17 next for discussion and to vote on. The motion passed with a vote of 156 yes, 46 no and 12 abstentions. Item number 17 was up next for discussion, with item number 10 continuing after and the rest of the agenda items following.

17. A resolution establishing a Tribal Council policy for budget accountability and mid-year financial review.

The resolution, read by Rossi Harjo, establishes a consistent process for finding transparency and accountability through the fiscal year as the Tribal Council is responsible for approval of the annual budget. In order to make an informed decision, council members need current and understandable financial information about the tribes' financial condition before the annual budget is considered, the resolution calls for financial information showing the tribe's current position.

The resolution passed with a vote of 191 yes, 39 no and 4 abstentions.

A motion from the floor was made for an amendment to be made for discussion to shorten from five minutes to two minutes for each resolution. The motion to amend passed with a vote of 126 yes, 42 no and 32 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution to amend remote participation standards for Tribal Council meetings.

The resolution, read by Dawn Yazzie, passed with a vote of 113 yes, 52 no and 16 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution to recognize member forums for out of district citizens and for citizens enrolled under the 2021 amendment.

The resolution, ready by Dawn Yazzie, passed with a vote of 123 yes, 63 no and 16 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution to declare legal counsel a necessary operating need for the tribal Council Branch.

The resolution, read by Dawn Yazzie, passed with a vote of 107 yes, 68 no and 18 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution to establish a registry of unanswered member complaints and requests and to receive an annual report of the counts.

The resolution, read by Dawn Yazzie, passed with a vote of 122 yes, 61 no and 12 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution adopting minimum standards governing enrollment records and applications.

The resolution, read by Dawn Yazzie, passed with a vote of 124 yes, 53 no and 18 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution to reduce undeliverable ballots and to preserve the voter registration of members residing outside the districts.

The resolution, read by Dawn Yazzie, passed with a vote of 128 yes, 48 no and 19 abstentions.

A Tribal Council Resolution requesting federal review and follow-up of audit findings concerning federal funds and federally funded programs.

The resolution, read by Leah Burrows, requested an audit follow-up and does not allege or presume fraud, embezzlement, misappropriation, or wrongdoing by any person or branch of Tribal Government, but to obtain accountability concerning prior audit findings of federal awards and to determine whether further federal review or action is warranted. The resolution passed with a vote of 130 yes, 58 no and 9 abstentions.

A closing prayer was given by Carol Whiteskunk and the meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

*NOTE: Any resolution passed by the Tribal Council that requires funding will have to be presented before the Legislature.

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TREE GUY



Jeremiah Williams

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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

SEE YOU SOON



LSE

LEGAL NOTICES

CIV-2026-0052

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

FILED SEP 30 2026

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. BOX 102

CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

DOCKET PAGE

FILM IMAGE

COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of:)
)
AUGUSTA DEANNA SLEEPER)
Petitioner,) Case No. CIV-2026-0052
VS.)
)
CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ)
Respondent,)

NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: CHRISTIAN GONZALEZ
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 4th day of NOVEMBER 2026, at 10:00A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.
• Video conferencing for smart device users:
o Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMzMnl5O3RkXzRld0hOT099orhttps://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 30th day of September, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2026-0055

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

FILED OCT 06 2026

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. BOX 102

CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

DOCKET PAGE

FILM IMAGE

COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of:)
)
DANIEL STEPHEN WHITECROW)
Petitioner,) Case No. CIV-2026-0055
VS.)
)
SAVANAH STEFFES)
Respondent,)

CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES TO: SAVANAH STEFFES
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 6th day of October, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2021-0061

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

FILED OCT 02 2026

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. BOX 102

CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

DOCKET PAGE

FILM IMAGE

COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
)
J.D.)
C.T.) Case No. PG-2021-0061
C.T.)

Minor Children,

NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ELAINE TIGER
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 4th day of NOVEMBER 2026, at 10:00A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.
• Video conferencing for smart device users:
o Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMzMnl5O3RkXzRld0hOT099orhttps://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 2nd day of October, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2023-0032

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

FILED OCT 02 2026

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. BOX 102

CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

DOCKET PAGE

FILM IMAGE

COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
)
A.R.J.) Case No. PG-2023-0032
Minor Child,)

NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: TIMOTHY JONES
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 4th day of NOVEMBER 2026, at 10:00A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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

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


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2023-0059

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

FILED OCT 06 2026

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. BOX 102

CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

DOCKET PAGE

FILM IMAGE

COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
)
T.W.) Case No. PG-2023-0059
Minor Child,)

NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: MICHAEL WATAN
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

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

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

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

Dated at the Trial Court this 6th day of October, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2025-0023

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

FILED OCT 02 2026

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA

P.O. BOX 102

CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

DOCKET PAGE

FILM IMAGE

COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
)
R.D.M.) Case No. PG-2025-0023
K.R.M.)

Minor Children,

NOTICE OF HEARING
BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: JESSICA PETERSON
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 4th day of NOVEMBER 2026, at 10:00A.M., in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

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o Zoom link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMzMnl5O3RkXzRld0hOT099orhttps://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 2nd day of October, 2026.


Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy Sweet 16th Birthday
Aleigha Littlethunder
October 25
From your family,
We love you!



Happy 7th Birthday
Micah Jo Walker
October 28
From your family,
We love you baby!
forever & always



Happy 12th Birthday
Kiera Jane
We are so proud of you! We love you
KO! Hope you have the best day!
Love mom, dad
all your siblings & family!



Happy 3rd Birthday
NuNu Bear!
Love DaDa Bear, Sah Bear, Mimi Bear and Jessie Bear





FALL BACK

Sunday, November 1, 2026

2:00 AM → 1:00 AM

Clocks move back 1 hour



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@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.

PG-2026-0032

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

FILED SEP 30 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
OF OKLAHOMA
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
B.D.S.) Case No. PG-2026-0032
Minor Child,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: DYLAN SWEET & UNKNOWN FATHER
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

TAKE NOTICE that Christopher Hawk, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child, B.D.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 4th day of **NOVEMBER, 2026** at **10:00 A.M.**, at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

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

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

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=SRRCcnU2WDV0OFNmMnI5Q3RlcTlHODt09r
https://zoom.us/join
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 30th day of September, 2026.

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

PG-2026-0032

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

FILED OCT 02 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
OF OKLAHOMA
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:)
M.L.M.) Case No. PG-2026-0032
Minor Child,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: LESLIE BLACK-WHITEMAN & BRANDON MORTON
UNKNOWN ADDRESSES

TAKE NOTICE that Mildred Black, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child, M.L.M., 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 4th day of **NOVEMBER, 2026** at **10:00 A.M.**, at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

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

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 - Zoom link:
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=SRRCcnU2WDV0OFNmMnI5Q3RlcTlHODt09r
https://zoom.us/join
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - Passcode: 854454251

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

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

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.

I'm grateful for your assistance, Cheyenne- Arapaho Housing. You serve our community well.

Thank you so much to your staff Damon, Fred and Erica for serving our community housing needs.

Gail Williams

SEEKING:
Original paintings by Ben Little Raven Jr., Arapaho artist. His children would like to make copies of the originals of their father's work.
Please email Tonita Little Raven at tonitarose65@gmail.com

GED CLASS & WORK READINESS TRAINING

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

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

OCTOBER 22, 2026
- 10AM - 2PM -
CONCHO FOOD PANTRY 230 E Black Kettle Blvd
Concho OK 73022
-LITE REFRESHMENTS-
-TO BE DETERMINED DUE TO COMPUTER AVAILABILITY -
-TRANSPORTATION MUST BE REQUESTED AT LEAST 24hrs BEFORE EVENT-
Email - Dreamsgroup@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov
Phone # : 405-422-7662

TRAINING APPLICATION DEADLINE SCHEDULE

Plan ahead! Make sure your application is submitted by the deadline for the quarter you want to participate in.

Winter/Spring CLASS START DATES January 1 - March 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 1	Spring CLASS START DATES April 1 - June 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE: MARCH 1
Summer CLASS START DATES June 1 - August 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 1	Fall CLASS START DATES September 1 - December 31 APPLICATION DEADLINE: AUGUST 1

Don't wait until the last minute!
Get your application in on time and take the next step toward your goals.

For more information contact us:
dreamsgroup@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov
(405) 422-7662

NOVEMBER 2026

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Transit Program

Transit Services Calendar

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	3 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	4 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	5 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	6 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services
9 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	10 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	11 Veteran's Day CLOSED - NO SERVICES	12 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	13 FIXED ROUTE ONLY
16 Oklahoma Native American Day CLOSED - NO SERVICES	17 Attend NTICC Conference CLOSED - NO SERVICES	18 Attend NTICC Conference CLOSED - NO SERVICES	19 Attend NTICC Conference CLOSED - NO SERVICES	20 Attend NTICC Conference CLOSED - NO SERVICES
23 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	24 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services	25 CLOSED - NO SERVICES	26 Thanksgiving CLOSED - NO SERVICES	27 Native American Day CLOSED - NO SERVICES
30 Fixed Route + On-Demand Services				

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Transit Program (580) 331-2600 transit@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

ACCOUNTING

continued from pg. 6

Those pieces belong together.

A budget alone cannot provide the entire financial picture. An audit finding alone does not tell us everything about the government’s finances either.

But when budget information, actual expenditures, additional appropriations, modifications and audit findings are considered together, Tribal Council and Tribal citizens can have a much clearer understanding of how Tribal resources are being managed.

Putting Accountability Into Practice

Recognizing the need for accountability is one thing. Building it into our governmental process is another.

That is where accountability resolutions can be important.

I was able to provide assistance with an Accountability Resolution intended to strengthen the financial information available when Tribal Council exercises its authority over the annual budget.

The purpose is not to presume wrongdoing or assign blame.

The purpose is to establish a process in which the financial information necessary for meaningful oversight is routinely available.

An Audit Accountability Resolution addresses another part of that responsibility by providing a means of reviewing audit findings, corrective

actions and unresolved financial-control issues.

Budget accountability tells us what was authorized. Financial reporting tells us what actually happened. Audits help us determine whether financial controls and requirements operated as intended.

Those functions should work together.

And these safeguards should not depend upon who occupies a particular elected office.

Accountability should be part of the governmental system regardless of who is Governor, who serves in the Legislature, who serves as Tribal Council Coordinator, or who serves in any future administration.

What Cobell Reminds Us
Our circumstances are legally different from Cobell. But Indian Country should remember its lesson about accounting.

After years of litigation concerning the administration of Individual Indian trust assets, the appellate court continued to recognize the federal government’s responsibility to provide beneficiaries with the best accounting possible.

The eventual settlement also contemplated continuing oversight of improvements in accounting and asset management, along with an audit so that beneficiaries and the public could scrutinize the ef-

fectiveness of that oversight. That is an important principle to remember.

Accountability should not begin only after questions or controversy arise. It should already be part of the system.

For Tribal finances, that means accountability throughout the process—from the collection of revenue, to appropriation, to expenditure, to financial reporting, to audit, and ultimately to the Tribal Council’s exercise of its constitutional authority over the annual budget.

Accountability Is Ultimately About Our People

Budgets, audits and accounting can sound like technical government subjects.

But ultimately, this discussion is about our people.

When we talk about additional assistance for our elders, housing for families, education for our children, opportunities for our youth, emergency assistance, or equitable access to Tribal programs regardless of where a Tribal citizen lives, we are also talking about how Tribal resources are allocated.

Those decisions should be supported by reliable financial information.

Our money supports our government.

Our government uses those resources to provide services to our people.

And meaningful accounting helps Tribal Council

and our citizens understand whether those resources are being managed and distributed in accordance with the decisions that have been made.

That is why I believe accountability is also connected to fairness.

Before we can determine whether our resources are being distributed fairly, we must first be able to account for the resources themselves.

Our elected officials take an oath to faithfully perform the responsibilities of their offices. Likewise, the Tribal Council’s final approval of the annual budget is an exercise of constitutional authority that deserves sufficient financial information upon which to make an informed decision.

This should not be about one administration, one Legislature, one budget, or one person.

It is about establishing a standard of government that will remain after all of us are gone.

Authority over our money should come with accountability for our money.

And accountability should not begin after questions arise.

It should be built into the system.

Source note: Justin Guilder, “Focus On: Cobell v. Salazar,” *The Federal Lawyer*, March/April 2010, pp. 31–33.

Classy Fun and Affordable Boutique
Flower Shop Tanning Salon

We do flower plants for funerals, birthdays, anniversaries, all occasions!

Mon.-Fri. 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sat. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.
504 Frisco Ave, Clinton, OK. 73601
580-747-4795
Pinkzebraok.com

Positive Indian Parenting Classes

Presented by: Indian Child Welfare Program

C&A Tribal Services Center-

4400 SW 21st St
Oklahoma City, OK

OKC

Honoring Tradition • Strengthening Families • Supporting Our Children

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

ONE DAY ONLY!
COMPLETE THE ENTIRE COURSE IN ONE THURSDAY

Thursday November 5th
9am-4pm

Who Can Attend?
Parents, caregivers, guardians, and community members interested in positive, culturally respectful parenting.

Please complete the JoTform to sign up or contact ICW @ 405-422-7495
icwprogram@cheyenneandapaho-nsn.gov



Please note registration is limited to 30.
<https://form.jotform.com/7262505817864162>



Lunch, refreshments and limited transportation provided for class registrants

VETERAN SUICIDE PREVENTION

continued from pg. 1



Tribal Veterans Barry Whiteman and Max Bear enjoy a free lunch for Veterans during the work week at the Native American Church building in Concho, Okla.

“Even before receiving this grant, OVA was committed to prevention by improving the lives of our veterans through outreach, education and disability awareness. While recent data shows that suicide among Native veterans from 2020-2024 (after trending upwards for years) has begun to trend downward, we cannot afford to become complacent. We must remain vigilant and continue watching over our warriors, particularly those who may be experiencing a mental health crisis,” Levi said.

Rosanna Tallbear, the SSG Fox Prevention Coordinator said the grant is about more than funding.

“Its roots are about prevention, awareness, education and connection. It allows us to reach

of generosity and kindness to others in need, Fox died by suicide on July 21, 2020, at the age of 25.

“This is our third year of receiving federal funding for SSG Fox,” OVA Director Jerry C. Levi said. “Over the last few years, this award has allowed our office to expand our efforts to meet the mental health and wellness needs of our veterans by creating safe spaces where they can connect, heal, and feel supported.”

The grant has enabled OVA to provide wellness activities such as fishing, bowling, and day hikes with family members, as well as bingo and other social events that help combat isolation, as well as providing transportation to medical appointments and connect veterans with the resources and services they need.

veterans and their families before a crisis becomes a tragedy, while reminding them that they are not alone and that help is available,” Tallbear said. “We may never know how many lives we have touched or how many crises we have helped prevent. We may never know if a conversation, a ride to an appointment, a wellness event, or simply having a safe place to go was the moment that kept one of our veterans from harming themselves. But even if ONE veteran is still here because we were there when they needed us, then every effort, every conversation, and every dollar of this grant has been worth it. Our commitment is to continue showing up, building trust, strengthening families, and making sure our veterans know that their lives matter and that they will never have to face a crisis alone.”

With its SSG Fox SPGP award, the OVA plans to continue to provide outreach to identify those at risk of suicide, baseline mental health screening for risk, education on suicide risk and prevention to families and communities, case management services, free rides to therapy, free gun locks, housing assistance, food insecurity, VA benefits assistance for eligible individuals and their families, assistance with obtaining and coordinating other benefits provided by the federal government, a state or local government, or an eligible entity, recreational activities for veterans, coffee socials and breakfasts, nontraditional and traditional healing such as sweat lodge, and innovative approaches and treatment practices, and other services necessary for improving the mental health status and well-being and reducing the suicide risk of eligible individuals and their families as VA determines appropriate within the Cheyenne and Arapaho service area.

For more information about the SSG Fox SPGP, visit MentalHealth.VA.gov/ssgfox-grants or call the OVA Office at 405-422-7724 to schedule a home visit with the OVA team.



Office of Veteran Affairs’ fishing outing with tribal veterans at Canton Lake. (Submitted photos)

OBITUARIES

Myra Lynn Campbell

Myra Lynn Campbell, age 63, of El Reno, Okla., passed away on Oct. 5, 2026, at Integris Baptist Hospital in Oklahoma City. Myra was born Dec. 27, 1962, in Kingfisher, Okla., to Douglas Campbell and Elvena Yvonne Campbell. She grew up in Kingfisher and attended school there.

Myra worked for the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Tribes for 14 years in the Treasury Department and Accounts Payable. She was passionate about her grandchildren and enjoyed going to the casino in her free time, where she loved to get her ‘free play.’ She loved playing dominoes, having family

barbecues and family holidays.

Myra is survived by her sons Ryan Campbell, Zachary Younger and Kial Terrell, grandkids, Adham, Cadrence, Jasmine, Rhian, and Douglas Campbell, Kinzada, Zayla, Zayven, Zackary and Zafaree Younger, siblings, Anthony Starr, Edwina, Douglas and Debra Campbell, and Sheri Rednose, as well as numerous nieces and nephews.

Myra Lynn was preceded in death by her brother William Rednose, father Douglas Campbell, mother Elvena Campbell and nephew Christopher Campbell.

Wake services were held



Oct. 8 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held Oct. 9, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the El Reno Cemetery under the direction of Wilson Funeral Home.

OBITUARIES

Everett Vaughn Sutton

Everett Vaughn Sutton was born on Sept. 26, 2026, in Oklahoma City and died on Sept. 27, 2026, in Oklahoma City. He was just an infant, a beloved baby whose life, though brief, was precious to all who awaited and welcomed him.

In his few hours of life, Everett was deeply cherished. He brought love to his family from the very beginning, and his memory will be tenderly carried forward by those who hold him close in their hearts.

Everett is survived by his mother Taylor Salas of Weatherford and his father Linden Sutton of Weatherford. He is also lovingly remembered by his sisters,

Hayden Salas of Clinton, Kensleigh Salas of Clinton, Harlow Parvin of Clinton, and Hazel Sutton of Weatherford, and by his brother Deaken Salas of Clinton, his grandparents. Agustin and Angela Casterina of Clinton. Each of them shares in the love surrounding Everett’s memory and the lasting place he holds within his family.

He was preceded in death by his uncle Dakota Sutton and his grandfather Daniel Ray Sutton.

Everett will be remembered with love, gentleness and sorrow by his family, whose lives were touched by him from his very first moments. His memory will remain a part of them always.



Visitation was held Oct. 4 at Lee’s Hometown Funeral Home’s Hyman Memorial Chapel. Funeral services were held Oct. 5, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Clinton Cemetery under the direction of Lee Hometown Funeral Home.

24TH ANNUAL ELDER'S CONFERENCE

CANADIAN COUNTY EXPO CENTER NOVEMBER 19TH 2026

REGISTER ON SITE STARTING AT 830AM
BREAKFAST AT ENTRY
REGISTRATION CLOSES 10AM
CONFERENCE FINALE 3:30 PM
NO CHILDREN



TRANSPORTATION:
HAMMON OLD COMMUNITY
BUILDING 6:00-6:10
ELK CITY LA QUINTA 6:35-6:45
CLINTON ERC 7:00-7:10
WEATHERFORD WALMART 7:30-7:40
SEILING ERC 7:00-7:10
CANTON ERC 7:25-7:35
WATONGA IHS 7:15-7:25
GEARY ERC 7:40-7:50
OKC WALMART (RENO-140) 7:45

QUESTIONS:
LANA LITTLE ELK-405-422-7723
MARCOS BAROS 405-422-7683

