Cheyenne Arapaho
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Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Receive $400,000 Grant Expanding Housing Opportunities for Veterans and Low-Income Families

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*

CLINTON, Okla. — The Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority has been selected to receive $400,000 through the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka's 2026 Native American Housing Initiatives (NAHI) Grants Program, funding that will support new housing opportunities for tribal veterans and provide homeownership assistance to eligible low-income tribal households.

The award is part of a $4 million funding round benefitting 14 tribal nations and tribally designated housing entities across Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska and Oklahoma. The selected projects address a range of housing challenges, from constructing new homes and preparing land for development to repairing aging residences, improving accessibility and helping families overcome barriers to homeownership.

According to the grant announcement, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority will use the funding to develop up to three tiny homes for tribal veterans and provide down payment and closing cost assistance to eligible low-income tribal households. The project is being undertaken in partnership with Sovereign Bank based out of Shawnee, Okla.

Housing Authority Executive Director Damon Dunbar described the initiative as an opportunity to make productive use of land already owned by the tribes.

"Now we will have a total of six tiny veterans' homes located just north of El Reno on Hefner Rd., northeast 1-3/4 miles east of Hwy. 81. It's a 3.5-acre lot that housing owns to develop a secluded area for the veterans to live," Dunbar stated. "Currently we are finishing up on the environmental review report for the property. The Request for Proposals is complete with DIAK Architects and Calm Construction as the design-builders."

The investment offers two forms of housing support, creating additional housing for veterans and helping eligible tribal families move toward homeownership. By combining construction with direct financial assistance, the project is designed to address immediate housing needs while expanding access to stable housing.

The $400,000 award continues the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority's participation in a program that has supported tribal housing initiatives since 2023. In the 2025 funding round, the Housing Authority received $500,000 for initiatives that included tiny homes for veterans, down payment assistance and flexible rental assistance for tribal citizens.

"The Down Payment Assistance (DPA) is for moderate income applicants that falls in the 80-100% median income. $15,000 DPA for applicants under 55 years old and $20,000 DPA for applicants over 55 years old," Dunbar said. "Housing looks forward to getting these funds expended and seeking future grants that will help our tribal members to become homebuyers and self-sufficient. The Veterans Tiny homes will be a module to use in other areas in the tribal service area to help them achieve low-cost rent and independency."

The 2026 awards reflect the different approaches tribal communities are taking to address housing needs. Collectively, the projects will support new construction, rehabilitation, homeownership assistance, essential services and organizational capacity.

The Native American Housing Initiatives Grants Program is a voluntary grant initiative established in 2023 by the Federal Home Loan Bank of Topeka. Its purpose is to provide Native American tribes and tribally designated housing entities with flexible funding to address housing and community development needs among tribal members in the bank's four-state district.

See **VETERAN HOUSING** *pg. 5*

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune
P.O. Box 38
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Art Honors Native Women and Tribal Sovereignty

Latoya Lonelodge, *Senior Reporter*

CONCHO, Okla. - A small gathering celebrating and honoring women in the tribal justice system brought big meaning to sovereignty through a featured piece of artwork created by renowned artist, Cheyenne Chief Gordon Yellowman.

Yellowman was tasked with creating artwork for the 2026 Sovereignty Symposium. His piece, entitled *Inter-Tribal Ladies of Justice,* combines traditional ledger artwork symbolizing Lady Justice. Bringing power to his painting, his artwork honors Tribal sovereignty, justice and generations of Native women.

On Oct. 8 a presentation and acceptance ceremony was held at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Justice Center in Concho, Okla., where the artwork was presented to the tribes from the Oklahoma City University School of Law's Tribal Sovereignty Institute.

The ceremony began with invocation by Bernice Armstrong and welcoming remarks by Chief Justice Ryland Rivas, who upon looking at the artwork that represented sovereignty, Rivas reflected back on a time when there was no sovereignty. Rivas has been practicing law for 52 years and was the first Comanche to become an attorney. He explained that tribal leaders back in the late '60s and early '70s pushed to have Indians trained as attorneys, because they needed them.

"Back in those days, we had no sovereignty … there was no Indian country in Oklahoma," Rivas said.

From working on a case from 1978 and working with many good people, tribal officials and good lawyers, Rivas said he's amazed how far sovereignty has come.



Emily Eleftherakis, executive director of Oklahoma City University's Tribal Sovereignty Institute, presents the 'Inter-Tribal Ladies of Justice' artwork to artist Cheyenne Chief Gordon Yellowman and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Supreme Court Chief Justice Ryland Rivas. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)

"I can't complement you all enough and tribal leadership for bringing this together, you have an amazing future with all the young lawyers. Glad to see you keep up the good work, I want to thank you all for coming, remember there's a lot of hard work to get to this point, there were no casinos, there were no bingo, there was nothing before 1978. It's not quite been 50 years look what you've accomplished," Rivas said.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana spoke about Yellowman's ability to produce artwork and his symbolic vision.

"If you ever look at his artwork, it's always a vision, a thought, of things he saw, witnessed, experienced, in his lifetime, because we were all kind of the older ones, raised around our grandparents, which were really traditional, raised up in our traditional or cultural values and we carried that with us today," Wassana said.

He said when Yellowman produces artwork, it means something.

"We are losing those people with the knowledge and the experience that he has had, that some of us has had with those people who came about in the early '90s we're already in the 26th year of 2000, we always feel the knowledge we gain is very valuable and we put it on print and that's always a good thing, so that our future generations will look at it," Wassana said.

Speaking on what sovereignty means, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham said sovereignty, as a whole, is something that when you look at that word, some start to understand what it means.

"It is what we as tribes, that's what we are, we're sovereign nations, we're separate from the United States and the states here in this country and it wasn't geared towards us, our sovereignty is apparent, meaning that we had it before the United States existed, before the state of Oklahoma existed," Gorham said.

Gorham said sovereignty is something that the tribes exercise every day in some shape, way or form.

Special remarks were given by Connie Hart Yellowman, former associate justice of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and tribal citizen Alexa Old Crow, attorney-at-law.

Yellowman described in detail his thought process behind his creation *Inter-Tribal Ladies of Justice* artwork, explaining there was a lot of thought that went into his painting. The painting features ledger art displaying

See **SOVEREIGNTY ARTWORK** *pg. 9*



Tribal citizens Connie Hart Yellowman, former associate justice and Attorney Alexa Old Crow, are some of the women representations behind the meaning of Gordon Yellowman's artwork entitled 'Inter-Tribal Ladies of Justice.' Pictured l-r: Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana, Connie Hart Yellowman, Gordon Yellowman, Alexa Old Crow and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham.



Inside the Cheyenne and Arapaho Fire Management Program, Fighting Fire, Protecting the People

Kimberly Burk
Tribal Tribune Correspondent

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Fire Management Program seeks people who are eager, willing to learn and willing to challenge themselves, says Phillip Daw, assistant fire management officer.

"It is a very challenging job," says Daw, who joined the program in 2020. "They will push themselves farther than they have pushed themselves before."

Daw came to Concho well-qualified. He started his 28-year firefighting career right out of high school with the Cherokee Nation Fire Dancers, then worked for the Seminole Nation in Wewoka.

"My first federal job was with the U.S. Forest Service in Arkansas," he said. He then spent three years with an interagency hot shot crew in Flagstaff and did similar work in Idaho and in Tonto National Forest in Arizona.

"Hot shot is a highly specialized 20-person crew that gets put into the hottest part of the fire," Daw said. "They go to remote areas and can go for a while without support."

The Fire Management Program has four fulltime staff and usually about seven emergency firefighters, Daw said. Crews from other tribes often lend a hand.



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Fire Management Engine-8562 and Command Truck assisting the USWFS Navajo Agency on a severity assignment in June 2026. (Courtesy photo)

"We get a lot of outside agency help during our high-severity time," Daw said.

That was especially essential this year, when Oklahoma experienced record heat and drought.

"Typically our busiest times are in February, March and April," Daw said. "Everything is dormant at that time. We are just waiting for the green-up to happen."

But this year, Daw said, "we have been in fire season since July."

Chieko Buffalo, EPA director for the tribes, said the Fire Management Program "plays a critical role in protecting our tribal lands and our natural resources, and they are a great asset to community outreach, and helping us understand about fire."

Cheyenne and Arapaho firefighters also get dispatched to other states, Daw said, such as to the Navajo Nation and a reservation in Oregon.

As wildland firefighters, crews cover nine counties from Concho to Hammond.

"We fight on tribal lands or adjacent lands where the fires are a threat to the tribes," he said. "We help volunteer fire departments."

A recent fire burned 113 acres near Roman Nose State Park.

"It was a windy day, it started from a power pole," Daw said.

"A week before that, we had four fires in Geary and Greenfield."

Fires often start alongside roads including Interstate 40, caused by blowouts and dangling trailer chains, he said.

"We are always concerned about wildland urban interface," Daw said. "That's homes and structures in the wildland setting."

The program's fire prevention efforts include prescribed burning and hazardous fuels reduction.

The Elk City Fire Department recently requested that the tribes get rid of the waist-high grass on tribal property just off I-40.

"That property has a neighborhood behind it," Daw said. "They were worried about fires starting off the interstate. We prepped it, got it ready and waited for a good day to burn it."

Prevention outreach activities range from Smokey Bear appearances to Touch the Truck to entering fire trucks in parades. Firefighters visit Head Start programs and other schools, especially during Fire Prevention Month.

During Touch the Truck, Daw said, "we spray water, and start the chainsaws. We let the older kids mess with the radios, lights and sirens. We got a lot of good feedback on that."

Firefighters feel "1,000-percent supported by the tribes," Daw said.

"That puts a lot of pressure on us as well, because of that investment in us. We have to be on our A game."

Buffalo said EPA has collaborated with the program on land stewardship, habitat restoration, natural resource protection, emergency response and helping to preserve and protect tribal lands.

"They are keeping our community safe," she said.

Daw, 47, said "being on the two hot shot crews were my personal great achievements. It's hard work. I value that experience. I've been on some of the biggest wildfires out there."

Annual recertification requires firefighters to hike three miles carrying 45 pounds in under 45 minutes, Daw said.

"As long as I can do that, I will be fighting fire," he said.

"I love it with a passion. In my role when I take the engine out, as an engine boss, I can impact young firefighters. I love teaching them."

And when he's on the scene, "keeping everybody safe is a big part of it," said Daw, who has a 13-year-old son.

"He's made me step back in a lot of ways, making sure that I make it home."



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Fire Management Engine and Chase Crew staged at the Camp House Fire in May 2025. Crew members: Phillip Daw- Engine Boss, Bryan Sevenstar, Anthony Albert, Kyle Birdshead, Eric Taptto and Aiden Ariwite.

American Indigenous Tourism Association Announces Awardees of 2026 Excellence in Indigenous Tourism Awards

Eleven trailblazers, from cultural centers to culinary leaders, take home top honors for driving Indigenous tourism forward

TULALIP, Wash. The American Indigenous Tourism Association announced the awardees of the 2026 Excellence in Indigenous Tourism Awards at the 28th annual American Indigenous Tourism Conference in Tulalip, Wash., on Oct. 21. The awards celebrate outstanding achievements in Indigenous tourism, recognizing individuals and organizations that contribute to the industry's $11.6 billion annual economic impact.

"The Excellence in Indigenous Tourism Awards celebrate the visionaries who are transforming how the world experiences and connects with Indigenous culture," Sherry L. Rupert (Paiute/Washoe), CEO of the American Indigenous Tourism Association said. "Our 2026 honorees represent the absolute best of Indigenous hospitality, economic sovereignty, and cultural preservation. From grassroots artisans and youth entrepreneurs to major destinations, these trailblazers are driving our $11.6 billion industry forward while ensuring our stories are told with authenticity and respect."

The 2026 Awardees Include, Best Cultural Heritage Experience: Suquamish Museum, Washington, Excellence in Customer Service: Christine Morton (Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes), Oklahoma, Best Indigenous Culinary Tourism Experience: Chef Kaimana Barros (Native Hawaiian), Kaimana Catering, Hawaii, Best Musical Experience: Singing the Birds: Bird Song Festival – Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians, California, Indigenous Artisan of the Year: Kelly and Tyson Back (Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe), Fire Loom Creations, New York, Indigenous Futures Awards: Coen Cadinha (Native Hawaiian); Bree Lopez, (Pascua Yaqui Tribe); and Anisa Pelayo (Cedar Band of the Paiute Indian Tribe of Utah), The Industry Professional of the Year Award: Gary Snow of MHA Tourism (Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara Nation), North Dakota, Industry Partner of the Year: Visit California and Indigenous Destination of the Year: Chickasaw Cultural Center, Oklahoma.

Excellence in Customer Service, Christine Morton, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma is recognized for her decades of dedicated service to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and her unwavering commitment to preserving, promoting, and sharing Tribal history.

As the founder of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Route 66 Roundtable and the driving force behind the tribes' tourism initiatives, Morton has built vital partnerships with local, state, and national entities, ensuring Native voices are represented across regional tourism. Renowned for her collaborative spirit, community mentorship, and cultural stewardship (including facilitating respectful tribal engagement for major projects like the film Gangland), Morton exemplifies true service leadership by using tourism to protect cultural identity, honor ancestors, and build sustainable economic opportunities for future generations.

For 28 years, the American Indigenous Tourism Association has worked to address inequities in the tourism system and has served as the national voice for U.S. Indigenous peoples engaged in cultural tourism, while providing technical assistance, training and capacity building to Native Nations and communities and Indigenous-owned enterprises engaged in tourism, hospitality, and recreation.



Christine Morton is awarded the Excellence in Customer Service award during the American Indigenous Tourism conference in Tulalip, Wash. (Courtesy photo)



Appeals court backs Oklahoma authority over environmental programs on tribal lands

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*

Pawnee Nation challenged federal approval of the state's authority under a little-known provision known as the Midnight Rider. The divided court's ruling raises concerns about tribal sovereignty and environmental oversight.

A federal appeals court has upheld Oklahoma's authority to administer at least 26 federally approved environmental programs on tribal lands, dealing a setback to the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma and other tribal nations seeking to protect their role in environmental decision-making.

In a 2-1 ruling issued Oct. 16, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Tenth Circuit sided with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, ruling that a provision Congress added to a transportation funding bill in 2005 allows Oklahoma to extend its environmental regulatory programs into Indian country.

The provision, known as the "Midnight Rider," has remained controversial among Oklahoma tribes because it gives the state a pathway to administer environmental programs in areas where tribal nations have sought greater control over their own lands and natural resources.

The decision in Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma v. Zeldin means the EPA's approval of Oklahoma's authority remains in place unless it is overturned through further legal proceedings. The Pawnee Nation challenged the EPA's decision to remove conditions that had required the state to engage with affected tribes.

The ruling does not eliminate tribal governments or their sovereignty. However, it limits the ability of tribes to prevent Oklahoma from administering the covered environmental programs in Indian country under the provision.

What is the Midnight Rider?

The Midnight Rider takes its name from the circumstances surrounding its addition to federal law.

In 2005, Congress was considering a major transportation funding bill. According to the court's opinion, then-U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe of Oklahoma inserted the environmental provision shortly before the bill passed, after the House and Senate had already agreed on its final version.

The provision was part of a bill primarily concerned with highways and transportation funding, rather than tribal environmental authority. Its late addition and lack of public debate helped give rise to the name "Midnight Rider."

The provision says that when Oklahoma has received EPA approval to administer a qualifying environmental program outside Indian country, the EPA must approve the state's request to administer that program within Indian country as well, without requiring Oklahoma to provide further proof of its authority.

In practical terms, the provision gives Oklahoma a special pathway to expand its environmental regulatory authority onto tribal lands.

The Pawnee Nation had already received federal approval in 2004 to administer its own program under the Clean Water Act. The timing of Inhofe's amendment led to concerns that the provision was intended to restrict the ability of Oklahoma tribes to administer environmental programs independently.

The provision went unused by Oklahoma for approximately 15 years.

That changed in 2020, following the U.S. Supreme Court's landmark McGirt v. Oklahoma decision.

In McGirt, the Supreme Court ruled that Congress had never disestablished the Muscogee (Creek) Nation's reservation for purposes of federal criminal law. The decision had major implications for criminal jurisdiction in eastern Oklahoma and prompted broader disputes over the reach of tribal and state authority.

Oklahoma subsequently asked the EPA to use the Midnight Rider to extend the state's environmental programs into Indian country.

The EPA initially approved the request in 2020, but the agency later withdrew that approval to allow further consultation with tribal nations and other stakeholders.

In January 2025, the EPA approved Oklahoma's request again, this time with a condition requiring the state to engage with affected tribes. In May 2025, the agency removed that condition and issued its final approval without it.

The Pawnee Nation challenged that decision in federal court, arguing that the Midnight Rider had expired and that the EPA had acted unlawfully by approving Oklahoma's authority without additional safeguards for tribes.

See **EPA PROGRAMS** *pg. 6*

Monument to Sand Creek Massacre victims honors Cheyenne, Arapaho people, calling attention to Colorado's painful history

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*

DENVER, Colo. — A bronze statue of Cheyenne Chief Black Kettle, unveiled at the History Colorado Center on Indige-nous Peoples' Day, is the first completed piece of a larger memorial honoring the victims of the Sand Creek Massa-cre, one of the darkest chapters in Colorado history.

The statue is part of The Peacekeepers, a tribally led monument that will honor the Cheyenne and Arapaho people killed in the Nov. 29, 1864, massacre and recognize the efforts of tribal leaders who sought peace amid escalating violence and the loss of their homelands.

> *"We occuped the land and lived on the range, and it will forever be a significant part of our tribal evolution. We were Colorado before Colorado was Colorado ...* — *Gov. Reggie Wassana*

The unveiling on Oct. 12 marked a significant milestone in a decades-long effort by citizens of the Northern Chey-enne, Northern Arapaho, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, who make up the Sand Creek Massacre Memorial Commit-tee, to ensure that the victims and survivors of the massacre are remembered.

"This project is tribally led. This is not History Colorado's project," Dawn DiPrince, president and CEO of History Colorado said. "We are just proud friends and partners with the tribes who are leading this work."

Dozens of people gathered at the History Colorado Center to witness the unveiling. Beneath the covering was the bronze likeness of Chief Black Kettle, a respected Cheyenne spiritual and political leader who repeatedly sought peaceful relations with the United States government.

The monument will eventually include three figures, Black Kettle, Southern Arapaho Chief Left Hand, who was mortally wounded during the massacre and Medicine Woman, Black Kettle's wife, depicted holding a baby to repre-sent the women and children who died. The remaining statues are expected to be completed in 2027.

"The voices of our ancestors live in the prayers of descendants, in the footsteps of those who walk the earth today and in the determination of many in our tribes that worked

See **SAND CREEK MEMORIAL** *pg. 6*







Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief
405-422-7446 / rmstephens@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

Cheyenne and Arapaho
Tribal Tribune

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter/Ad Executive
405-422-7608 / llonelodge@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

1600 E. Hwy. 66, Suite 8, El Reno, OK / P. O. Box 38, Concho, OK 73022

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Cheyenne and Arapaho Higher Education's College and Career Fair opens doors to future careers

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

CLINTON, Okla. - Providing opportunities for the future, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Higher Education Scholarship Program hosts their annual College and Career Fair. Students from communities near and far gather to meet college representatives, explore career choices, and begin planning next steps for their future.

On Oct. 21, the College and Career Fair was held at the Frisco Center in Clinton, Okla., with approximately 45 vendors onsite and 300 students from 10 schools.

Vendors lined the building with informational booths, displaying tables full of catalogs and brochures, colleges representatives were eager to discuss options, military personnel were onsite to explain different career paths as students visited with various vendors.

Breanna Faris, higher education scholarship program director said the college and career fair provides high school students and any other community member with an opportunity to network, meet colleges, career tech, military and career opportunities to plan for their future.

"We just really want to provide the students with the opportunity to network with the vendors, of course we don't expect every student to go to college so we just want to provide a wide range of vendors so that they can meet career techs, career opportunities, so that they can adequately plan for their future after high school and just be successful tribal members and community members," Faris said.

The event was open to any student and not just for tribal citizens or high school students, but for any community member.

"Any successful community member is a win in our book, so it's open to anybody," Faris said.

As students visited booths and received information, they all gathered different ideas of what they wanted to do with their futures or how to plan their next step.

Dezlynn Bullcoming, 17, from Hammon High School said her aunt signed her up for the event and was thankful, otherwise she wouldn't have known about the resources available to her.

"I actually like it, it's really good, it's good for the young people to know what they're going to do in the future, it gets you a head start," Bullcoming said.

Bullcoming visited with booths such as JUCO colleges and Job Corps, as she said her parents had actually met at Job Corps and that's something she might consider. However, she does have dreams of becoming an ultrasound tech, but she has a couple years left in high school before having to figure it all out.

Attending the college and career fair was imperative for Bullcoming, as it helped her plan for her future and gave her options.

"I think it's important because people can help you decide what you're going to do for the future and get you a head start," Bullcoming said.

Alexandra Vargas, 18, also from Hammon High School, attended the college and career fair to see what options were available for colleges, as she was still trying to decide and figure out what she's going to do after school and thought the event would help.

"I think it's important because you get to walk around and hear about different schools and get information and just learn about other communities, like college communities," Vargas said.

Believing the college and career fair was very information, Coco Kodaseet, 18, from Riverside Indian School, enjoyed her time at the event visiting with booths.

As a senior in high school, Kodaseet plans to pursue her nursing degree in health careers. Visiting with the many booths onsite, what interested Kodaseet the most were the higher education booth and the Native votes booth.

"The higher education, it's there if we need it and the Native vote, I just like the art, it caught my eye," Kodaseet said.

Alongside vendors and booths, students were encouraged to attend workshops, featuring presentations from Cheyenne and Arapaho Productions, the DREAMS program, victims' services through Social Services and necklace making from the Tribal Office of Recovery program.



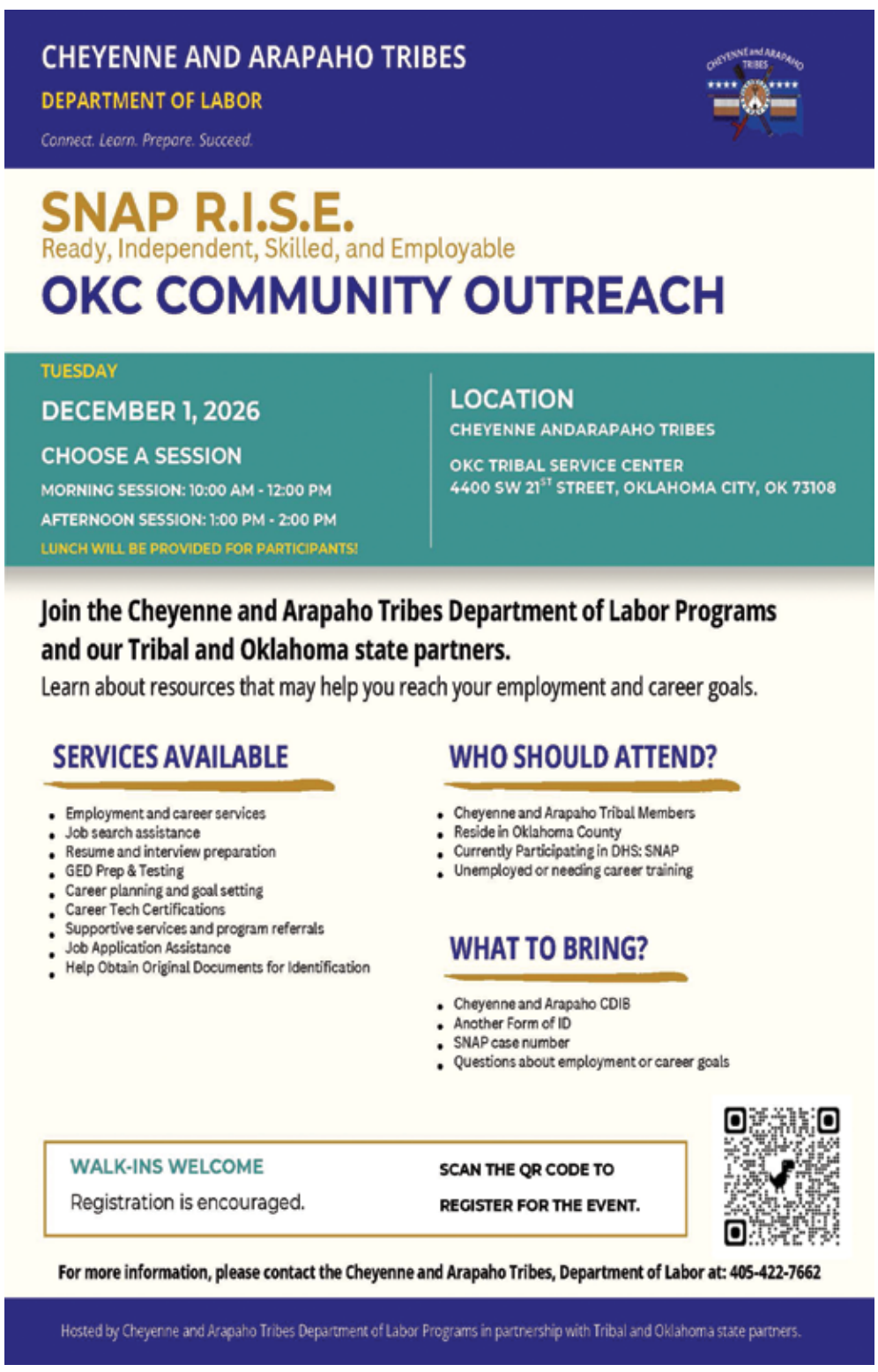
Hammon High School students Ariauna Benton, 15, Dezlynn Bullcoming, 17, and Dubray Bullcoming, 15 attend the Cheyenne and Arapaho Higher Education Scholarship Program College and Career Fair in Clinton, Okla. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)



Approximately 300 students were in attendance at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Higher Education Scholarship Program College and Career Fair, giving students and community members an opportunity to connect with colleges and career paths to plan for their futures.

With a successful turnout rate, Faris said the event continues to grow each year, becoming the program's favorite event outside of the graduation banquet. Hosting the college and career event for the community, Faris said is important for future planning as they want students to think about their future while they're in high school.

"We want them to make plans, we want them to know it is on them to think about how they're going to become productive members of society," Faris said.



Level Up Your Career OKC! Join the SNAP-RISE Recruitment Event Dec. 1, 2026

Ready for a new career, earn a better wage, or gain valuable job skills?

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Labor is bringing the SNAP-RISE program directly to the Oklahoma City Tribal community. The SNAP-RISE Program can help you take the next step toward economic self-sufficiency. We want to help you reach your goals.

Whether you are currently unemployed or looking to upskill, we are here to bridge the gap between where you are and where you want to be. SNAP-RISE serves eligible SNAP recipients' that are Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal members residing in the OKC area.

We Help You Break Through Barriers

We know life is complicated. That's why SNAP-RISE isn't just about jobs, it's about removing the hurdles in your way. We offer support to overcome common barriers, including transportation assistance, so you can focus on your future.

Get Career-Ready with Us:

Job Search & Applications: Personalized assistance to get you hired.

Resume & Interview Prep: Stand out and land the job.

GED Prep & Testing: Finish your education on your terms.

Career Planning & Goal Setting: Define your path forward.

Supportive Services: Referrals to Tribal and State partners to keep you moving.

Document Help: Need original ID or CDIB documents? Let us assist you.

Join Us for the Event

Meet one-on-one with workforce specialists, explore available training opportunities, connect with partner agencies, and learn how SNAP-RISE can help you reach your employment and educational goals. Our team has helped Tribal citizens access training, supportive services, and employment opportunities that lead to long-term career success.

When: 12/01/26 Two sessions available (Morning 10:00 am or Afternoon 1:00 pm) Box Lunch will be provided at 12:00 pm for both sessions!

Where: The upcoming OKC Tribal Service Center

How to Register: Scan the QR code on the event flier to secure your spot.

What to Bring

To make the most of your visit, please have the following ready:

Cheyenne and Arapaho CDIB

Another form of valid Identification

Your SNAP case number (if applicable)

A list of questions about your career goals

Space is limited. Register today and discover how SNAP-RISE can help remove barriers, build your skills, and move you toward a successful career.

Your future in OKC starts here. Don't wait, register today and let's get to work!

A housing grant isn't the price of seven houses

By Brandi Liberty, The Luak Group

A federal housing award is not the "price of seven houses."

I need to say this plainly because every time a Tribal Nation receives funding for new housing, the same comments appear:

"The math isn't mathing."

"Someone must be getting rich."

"Why don't they use casino money?"

"That money could buy more manufactured homes."

"Why should taxpayers pay for $700,000 mansions for Indians who don't pay taxes and already make millions from casinos? Somebody is obviously lining their pockets."

I've read and heard the worst of the worst.

These comments are not informed oversight. They reduce an entire housing-development project to the number of homes announced and then imply waste, corruption, or incompetence without knowing anything about the site, infrastructure, grant requirements, procurement process, or scope of work.

I work on these projects and applications. Some of the awards being discussed involve my own clients. I know firsthand how much Tribal leaders, housing staff, consultants, architects, engineers, and community partners put into making these projects possible.

A $5 million housing award divided by seven homes does not mean each home costs more than $700,000. That is not how development budgets work.

Depending on the project, the award may have to pay for:

* Land preparation, demolition, grading, and drainage;

* Roads, sidewalks, lighting, and accessibility improvements;

* Water, sewer, septic, electrical, and utility extensions;

* Environmental reviews, surveys, engineering, architecture, and permitting;

* Foundations, construction, inspections, testing, and code compliance;

* Materials and equipment transported to rural or remote locations;

* Energy-efficiency, resilience, and accessibility requirements;

* Construction administration, grant management, reporting, and required project oversight; and

* Contingencies for conditions that cannot be fully identified until construction begins.

Many Tribal communities are building where municipal infrastructure does not already exist. A housing project may have to create the basic systems that subdivision developers elsewhere take for granted before the first foundation can even be poured.

Manufactured housing does not eliminate those costs. A manufactured home still requires suitable land, transportation, site preparation, a foundation, utility connections, installation, permitting, inspections, and long-term maintenance. It must also be appropriate for the climate, household needs, community standards, funding requirements, and intended useful life of the project. The lowest initial purchase price is not always the most responsible long-term investment.

These awards are also not blank checks handed to Tribes—or to supposed "middlemen."

Before an application is submitted, months and sometimes years may go into documenting the housing need, identifying an appropriate site, developing the project concept, obtaining cost estimates, evaluating infrastructure, securing Tribal approvals, assembling the budget, establishing readiness, and demonstrating the capacity to complete and operate the project.

The application then competes against requests from Tribal communities across the country. A successful award means the proposal survived technical review and was found to meet the funding agency's requirements.

After an award, every dollar must be tied to an eligible activity and the approved scope and budget. The recipient must comply with procurement

See **HOUSING GRANT FUNDS** *pg. 9*

VETERAN HOUSING

continued from pg. 1

The program was launched with a commitment of at least $1 million for its inaugural year. The program is designed to give tribal organizations flexibility to identify and respond to their own communities' priorities rather than restricting all recipients to one type of housing project.

Eligible uses can include construction of new homes and rehabilitation of existing housing, down payment and closing cost assistance for homebuyers, rental assistance and essential housing-related support, housing program development and staffing, improvements to organizational systems, information technology and financial reporting.

To participate, eligible tribes or tribally designated housing entities apply in partnership with an FHLBank Topeka member financial institution. The sponsoring institution submits the application, and grant funds are delivered through that institution. Eligible recipients must provide housing services to members of federally recognized tribes in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska or Oklahoma.

Since its launch, NAHI has supported a broad range of locally identified housing projects. Earlier awards have helped fund housing repairs for tribal elders, homes for families, down payment assistance, youth homelessness services and community facilities.

The program's evolution also reflects an increasing emphasis on the infrastructure and administrative capacity needed to make housing projects successful. The 2026 awards include road and utility improvements for future rental housing, a department to address property-title barriers, funding for a crisis center and support for the systems used to manage existing tribal housing.

Those investments illustrate that expanding housing opportunities can require more than constructing additional units. Communities may also need to repair aging homes, resolve land and ownership issues, provide emergency support or strengthen the organizations responsible for delivering housing services.

For the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the $400,000 award will support both the development of up to three tiny homes for tribal veterans and financial assistance for eligible low-income tribal households seeking to purchase homes.

Across the four-state district, the 14 selected projects represent a combined $4 million investment in tribal housing and community development. The initiatives are intended to help Native American communities address immediate needs while building the capacity to provide safer, more accessible and more sustainable housing in the years ahead.











ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Joshua Nevaquaya, El Reno High School



Setting the offensive line up to begin the play, Cheyenne and Arapaho youth, Joshua Nevaquaya, 17, is making the calls this season as he's essentially the heartbeat of every offensive play as a center lineman.

Standing 5'11, Nevaquaya plays center on the offensive line for the El Reno Indians High School football team.

Born in Yukon, Okla., and raised most of his life in El Reno, Nevaquaya began playing football at 8 years old in little league and still remembers playing alongside the teammates he continues playing alongside with in his senior year of football. Or even other tribal youth he plays against on the football field, including Kaleb Blackwolf.



"I played against most of the guys that were in the league at that time that I play with now, they're all seniors, it's crazy. After I played little league, I came here and I played, and so those guys I still see today, I play with now," Nevaquaya said.

What interested Nevaquaya in playing football initially was watching the NFL, as he soon wanted to play at the next level and grew to love the physicality of the sport, as well as the admiration he grew for his coaches.

"The physicality and everything, I love to hit, it's something that's helped me throughout my life too, it's all I had at some point," Nevaquaya said.

Looking at his coaches as father figures, Nevaquaya didn't have that figure in his life growing up.

"A lot of those guys, they helped me a lot and playing football, it's like life, you get hit, it's not that hard, you can get hit and it's about how hard you can get hit and still get back up, you know? So I look at football as life," Nevaquaya said.

What Nevaquaya has come to love the most about playing football is the physicality of the contact sport.

"Getting to hit somebody. I just love to get to hit anybody, you know," Nevaquaya said.

Nevaquaya's biggest motivation for continuing to play is his grandmother, who has always been there for him, along with his teammates, who continue to push him on the field. As offensive line, Nevequaya leads the center and his team motivates him the most on the field.

"It's my job. Those guys motivate me a lot. My grandma, she always prays for me every day before a game too," Nevaquaya said.

In his senior year, what Nevaquaya looks forward to the most in the season is hopefully getting another shot at playoffs and getting recognized at senior night, as he believes time goes by too fast.

Setting his goals for the season, Nevaquaya's goal was to be a starter, as he took on the position as center to lead the offensive line. After not getting much playing time in previous years, Nevaquaya regrets not taking football more serious in earlier years.

"I could have been playing more. But, I really want to go to college to play at the next level. Hopefully I can have that. It's still a dream of mine, even just as a walk on. If football doesn't work out, then I'll probably go off to the military, if not work," Nevaquaya said.

Accepting this is his last year playing high school football, Nevaquaya finds it hard, as he will not get to play alongside his teammates he grew up playing with since little league anymore.

"I've been playing with those guys since I was little, it's kind of sad, you know, because most of these guys, I grew up with, those are like my brothers," Nevaquaya said.

Maintaining a 3.8 GPA in school, Nevaquaya best manages playing football and his academics by putting the student first as going to school every day is important to him, if he wants to continue playing football.

"Just waking up every day, going to school and going to practice, it's like a blessing every day to wake up, and a blessing to throw on the pads, the helmet and go play," Nevaquaya said.

What Nevaquaya hoped to accomplish the most in playing football was making the most out of his memories and being better at who he was before the football season started, as he hoped to give it his all this season.

"That's what football should be about, no regret, just give it all you got," Nevaquaya said.

Overall, what football has taught Nevaquaya the most is the meaning of life lessons and changing his attitude.

"It kept me motivated and I've been playing this game since I was eight and it's been there for me and it's loved me and I loved it back, just everything, effort and attitude, going through life, it's about how hard you can get hit and if can you get back up from it," Nevaquaya said.

Russell Cook, head football coach at El Reno High School described Nevaquaya as a great player that comes to practice every day and works hard throughout the offseason. Nevaquaya's been a four-year player for the team and has started the last two seasons on the offensive line playing center and is the team captain.

"He's averaging about 85% blocking, he's doing a great job for us up front and he hasn't had hardly any bad snaps whatsoever, he's team captain, helps out and secure that offensive line," Cook said.

Growing over the years on the field and as a player, Cook said Nevaquaya has come into his own.

"He's a kid with great character, he's worked hard in the leg room for four years in a row and he also power lifts, he throws shot and does track as well. So, all around, three sport athlete," Cook said.

After graduation, Nevaquaya plans to attend college to study business and finance, or go to the military.

Joshua's grandmother is Jorene Lefthand and his grandfather is Adam Nevaquaya. His mother is Angela Williams and his father is Joshua Nevaquaya Sr. His great-grandfather is Doc Tate Nevaquaya, his great grandmother is Mary Yellowman, along with his other great-grandfather Chief Circle Lefthand.

EPA PROGRAMS

continued from pg. 3

The nation also argued that the EPA should have reassessed whether Oklahoma's environmental programs met federal requirements when extending them into Indian country.

The appeals court rejected the Pawnee Nation's arguments.

The majority concluded that the Midnight Rider remains in effect, despite the expiration of other provisions associated with the 2005 transportation law. It also ruled that the EPA could not add special conditions to Oklahoma's approval when the requirements specified in the provision had been met.

The court further concluded that the EPA did not have to make new, separate determinations that each of Oklahoma's programs met federal requirements before extending them into Indian country, provided the programs had already received the necessary approval and remained compliant.

That does not mean Oklahoma is free to disregard federal environmental law. The court said the EPA retains its normal oversight responsibilities under the applicable federal environmental statutes.

The distinction is important: Oklahoma gains authority to administer the covered programs, while the EPA retains oversight under federal law.

The ruling was not unanimous.

Judge Richard Federico dissented, arguing that the majority interpreted the Midnight Rider too broadly and gave insufficient weight to tribal sovereignty.

Federico said the provision should not automatically exclude tribes from environmental decision-making. He argued that the EPA retained authority to impose conditions designed to protect tribal interests, including requirements for consultation between the state and affected tribal governments.

His dissent emphasized that tribal nations are sovereign governments with longstanding interests in managing their lands and protecting their natural resources.

The disagreement highlights the central issue in the case: whether the Midnight Rider requires the EPA to approve Oklahoma's requests without additional conditions, or whether the agency can take steps to protect tribal participation and sovereignty while implementing the law.

The majority adopted the first interpretation. Federico argued for the second.

For Oklahoma tribal nations, the ruling could have significant consequences for environmental regulation, government-to-government relations and the protection of natural resources.

Water quality and pollution: Oklahoma can administer covered federal programs addressing water quality and pollution on tribal lands. This could affect permitting, regulatory decisions and enforcement responsibilities, depending on the particular program.

Clean air and toxic substances: The state's authority extends to covered programs involving clean air and toxic substances, among other environmental matters. The practical effects will depend on which programs apply to a particular location and activity.

Tribal regulatory authority: Tribal nations may face greater difficulty exercising independent control over environmental programs where Oklahoma's authority has been approved under the Midnight Rider. The ruling does not automatically erase every tribal environmental program or every form of tribal authority.

Consultation and participation: The EPA's removal of the state-tribal engagement condition means that approval under the Midnight Rider is not subject to that specific additional requirement. Other consultation obligations may still apply under separate laws or circumstances, but the appeals court rejected the argument that the EPA could require additional conditions as part of this approval under the provision.

Environmental accountability: The ruling leaves the EPA with continuing oversight responsibilities under federal law. Questions about how state and federal officials will coordinate enforcement, respond to pollution concerns and address tribal interests remain important as the programs are implemented.

The decision affects the balance of regulatory authority, but it does not establish that Oklahoma can ignore federal environmental standards or that tribal governments have lost all authority over their lands.

The Pawnee Nation's challenge has been rejected by the Tenth Circuit, which covers Oklahoma and several other states. The nation could seek further review, including asking the U.S. Supreme Court to consider the case.

Whether further review will occur, and whether the Supreme Court would agree to hear it, remain uncertain.

For now, the appeals court's decision leaves the EPA's approval of Oklahoma's environmental authority in place.

The case also illustrates how a provision added to a major federal bill more than two decades ago can have far-reaching consequences for tribal governments today. What began as a little-known addition to a transportation funding measure has become a major legal dispute over environmental regulation and the ability of tribal nations to govern their own affairs.

For the Pawnee Nation and other affected tribes, the issue is not simply which government issues environmental permits. It is also whether tribal nations will have a meaningful role in decisions that affect the water, air, land and natural resources on which their communities depend.

SAND CREEK MEMORIAL

continued from pg. 3

to ensure their story would be told. This memorial stands as a promise that the memory of their lives will endure for future generations, and our children will know they come from resilient, strong and beautiful people," LaRenda Morgan, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Sand Creek Massacre Memorial committee representative said.

The memorial commemorates the events of Nov. 29, 1864, when approximately 675 Colorado volunteer soldiers under the command of Col. John M. Chivington attacked a peaceful Cheyenne and Arapaho encampment along Sand Creek in southeastern Colorado.

About 750 people were living in the camp, many of them women, children and elders. More than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people were killed during the attack, with well over half being women and children.

The attack came after months of conflict between Native peoples and settlers moving into the Great Plains, as well as growing pressure on tribal nations to surrender their lands. The Cheyenne and Arapaho faced shrinking hunting grounds, broken agreements and increasing military hostility.

Black Kettle had pursued diplomacy in hopes of protecting his people. He had signed the 1861 Treaty of Fort Wise and continued efforts to negotiate peace as violence increased in 1864.

Following communications with U.S. military officials, Black Kettle and other leaders brought their people to a camp near Fort Lyon, where they believed they could remain under military protection while peace negotiations continued.

Instead, before sunrise on Nov. 29, Chivington led troops from the 1st and 3rd Colorado regiments against the en-campment. The soldiers advanced with firearms and artillery, firing into the village and pursuing people who fled along the creek.

Black Kettle raised an American flag and a white flag over his camp in an effort to signal peaceful intentions. The troops attacked anyway.

The historical accounts and stories handed down for generations describes people fleeing into the creek bed and dig-ging into the sandy banks for shelter as soldiers continued firing. Survivors later recounted the killing of noncom-batants and the mutilation of victims' bodies. The village was ransacked and burned.

Black Kettle and Medicine Woman Later survived. She was badly wounded, having been shot nine times, Chief Left Hand was mortally wounded.

The massacre devastated Cheyenne and Arapaho families and communities, killed important leaders and deepened the distrust between tribal nations and the United

See **SAND CREEK MEMORIAL** *pg. 10*

LEGAL NOTICES

CIV-2026-0030

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 16 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of:
DAVID TAYLOR
Petitioner,
VS.
KIARA ANDERSON
Respondent,
Case No. CIV-2026-0030

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **DAVID TAYLOR**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th 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:
  - Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMvMnI5Q3RXeTdHQT09 or https://zoom.us/join
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 16th day of October, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2026-0063

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 05 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of:
ALAN ORANGE
VS.
MONICA CARDENAS
Case No. CIV-2026-0063

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **MONICA CARDENAS**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th 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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  - 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 5th day of October, 2026.

Mary Elledge, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2026-0067

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 22 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of:
MARISSA FLETCHER
Petitioner,
VS.
WARREN JOSEPH
Respondent,
Case No. CIV-2026-0067

CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES TO: **WARREN JOSEPH**
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 22nd day of October, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

JFD-2026-0018

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 16 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Dissolution of Marriage of:
MADISON HARBER
Petitioner,
and
ANDREW HARBER
Respondent,
Case No. JFD-2026-0018

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **ANDREW HARBER**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th day of NOVEMBER 2026, at 9:45A.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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  - 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 16th day of October, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2011-0009

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 05 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Guardianship Of:
ZACHARY RAYMOND YOUNGER
DOB: 12/20/1989
Case No. PG-2011-0009

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **ANY INTERESTED PARTIES**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th 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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  - 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 5th day of October, 2026.

Mary Elledge, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0027

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 19 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:
B.A.W-K.
E.R.W-K.
Minor Children,
Case No. PG-2026-0027

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **ANGELA WHITEBUFFALO & TRISTAN KAULAITY**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

TAKE NOTICE that **Cedtessa Warden,** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Children, B.A.W-K., and E.R.W-K.., and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

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

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  - 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 19th day of October, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0033

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 05 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Guardianship Of:
N.E.N.T
Case No. PG-2026-0033

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **CAITLIN TORRES** **AARON FIELDS**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS **UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th 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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  - 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 5th day of October, 2026.

Mary Elledge, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0034

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 19 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:
E.R.F.
S.L.F.
A.M.F.
M.L.F.
Minor Children,
Case No. PG-2026-0034

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **JAIME FRIDAY & ELISA MOLINA**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

TAKE NOTICE that **Mary Molina,** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Children, B.A.W-K., and E.R.W-K.., and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

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- 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 19th day of October, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0035

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 05 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Guardianship Of:
THEDA JODEEN HAMILTON
DOB: 10/28/1952
Case No. PG-2026-0035

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **ANY INTERESTED PARTIES**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 18th 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:
  - Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMvMnI5Q3RXeTdHQT09 or https://zoom.us/join
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 5th day of October, 2026.

Mary Elledge, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2026-0037

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 09 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET____PAGE____
FILM____IMAGE____
COURT CLERK____DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:
I.V.L.
Minor Child,
Case No. PG-2026-0037

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **ISRAEL LOPEZ**
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

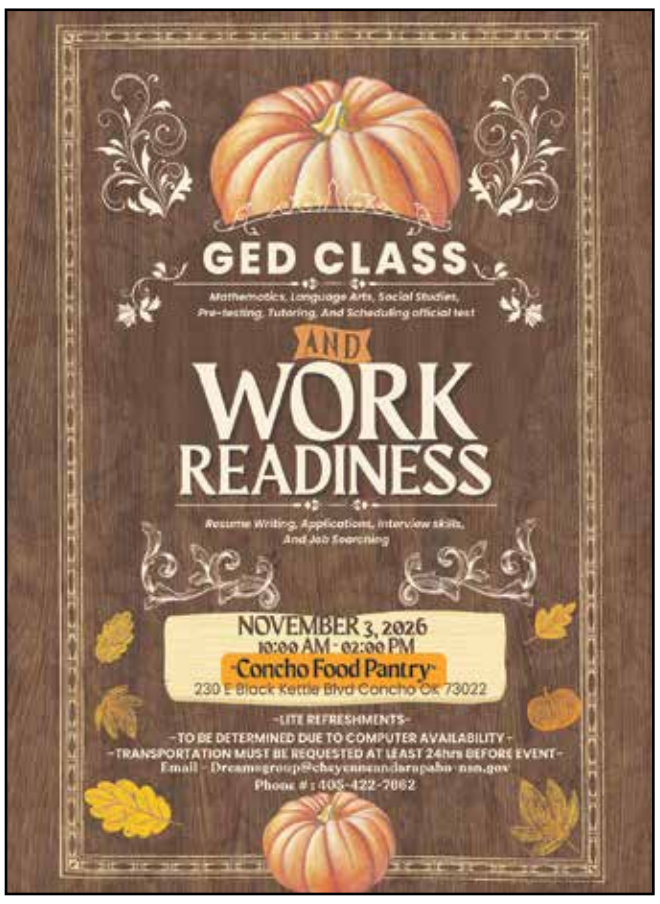
TAKE NOTICE that **Denise Lopez-Gomez,** has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship of Minor Child, H.A.C-A., and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 2nd day of DECEMBER, 2026 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

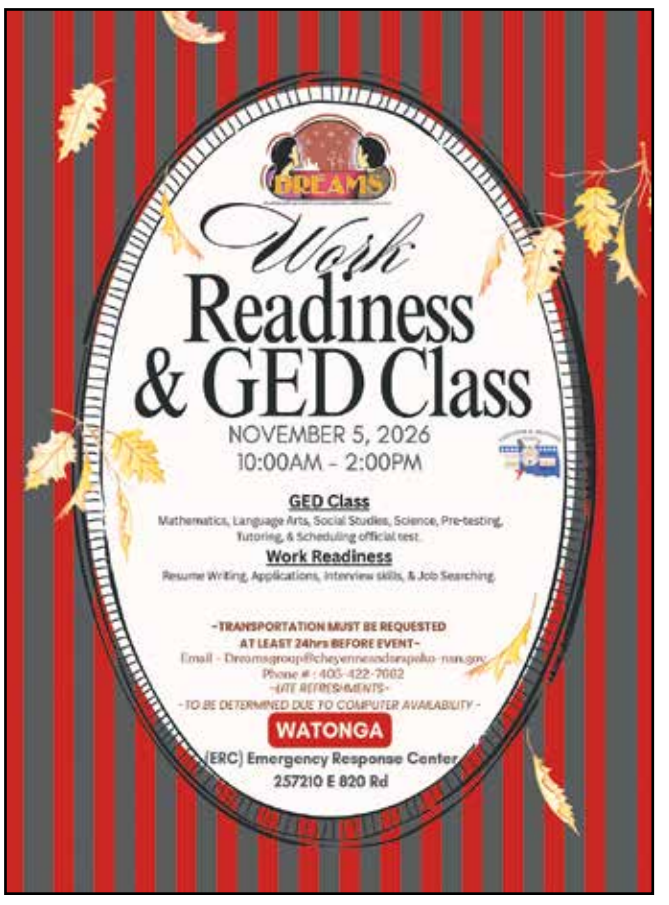
YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR on the above date and time indicated for the presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court. **You have the option to appear in person or through Zoom.** To appear via Zoom, you will need a smart device such as a desktop computer, laptop, tablet, or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

Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.
- Video conferencing for smart device users:
  - Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMvMnI5Q3RXeTdHQT09 or https://zoom.us/join
  - Meeting ID: **452 425 1494**
  - Passcode: **Court2021**
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 9th day of October, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court





Happy Birthday



Happy 14th Birthday
Michelle
Love mom, dad and all your family!



HAPPY 18TH BIRTHDAY KYNADEE
LOVE MOM, DAD AND ALL YOUR FAMILY



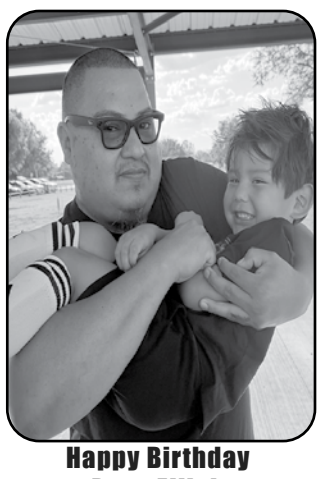
Happy 19th Birthday Carman!
November 2
Mom, dad, your siblings, and the babies love you so much!



Happy 18th birthday to this amazing and beautiful young lady! Me, eternity, Genesis, Lucas and Ruby love you so much! I'm so blessed God brought you into our lives! I can't wait to see what your future brings you and I look forward to watching you succeed in life! Hope you have an amazing birthday today!
Love other mother/dad



Happy Birthday Rory!
November 1
Your gorgeous wife, amazing children, and your crazy grandbabies love you so much!
Here's to another year of fishing for a big fish!



Happy Birthday
Papa Elijah
November 2026
From Mavecito and family,
We love you!



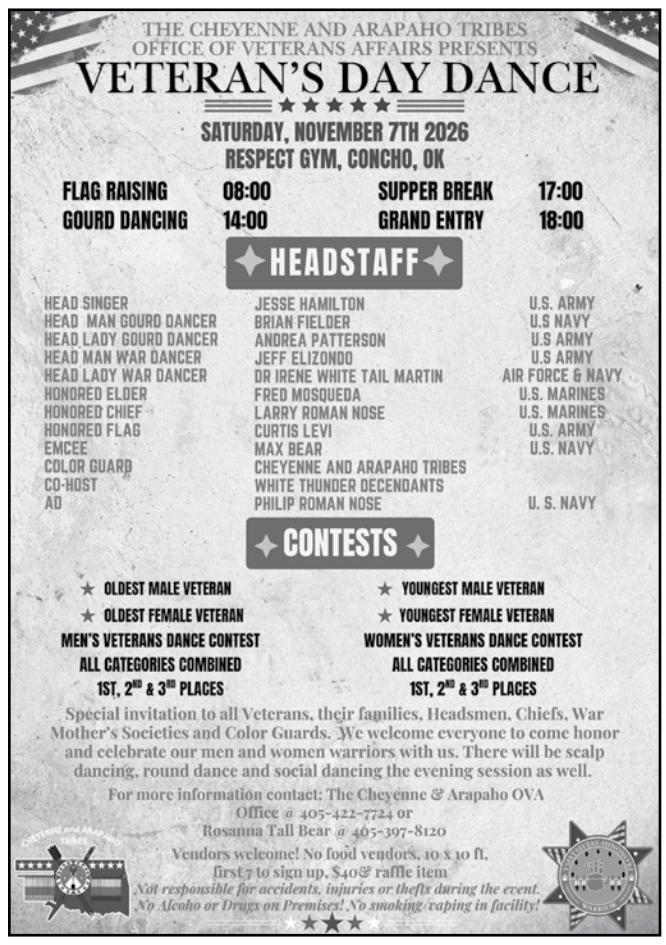
Happy 4th Birthday Pippin!
Love Mom & family!





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



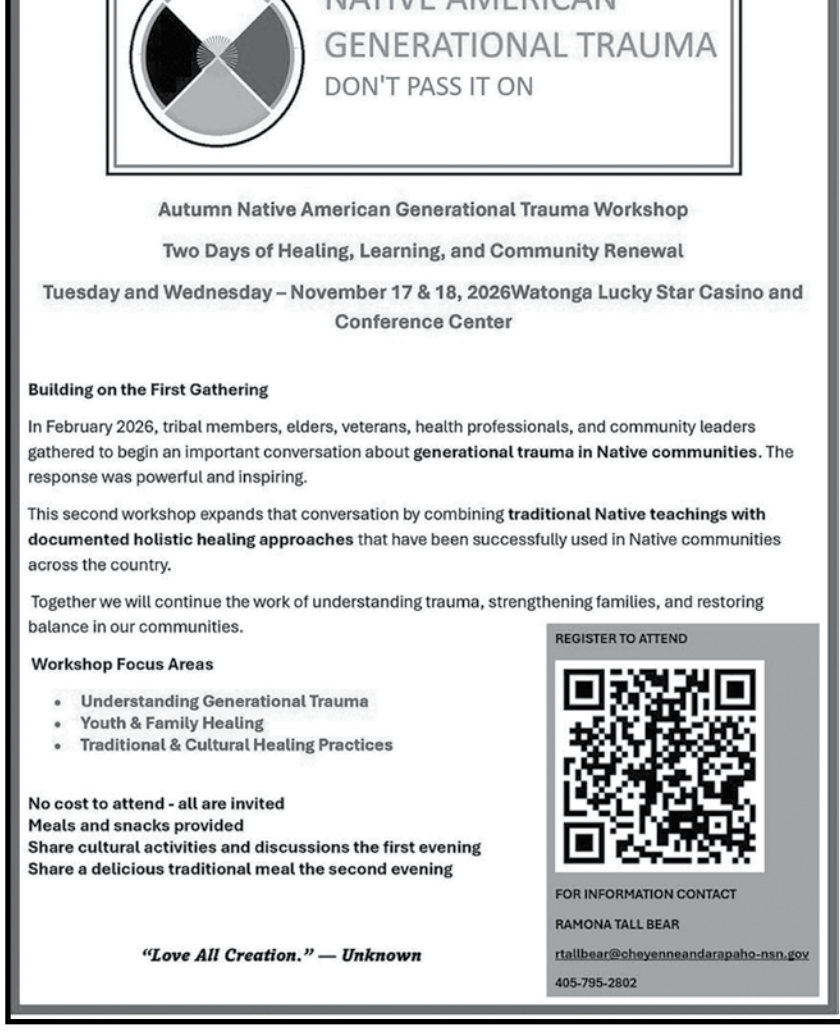
NOVEMBER 2026

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@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov





Autumn Native American Generational Trauma Workshop

Two Days of Healing, Learning, and Community Renewal

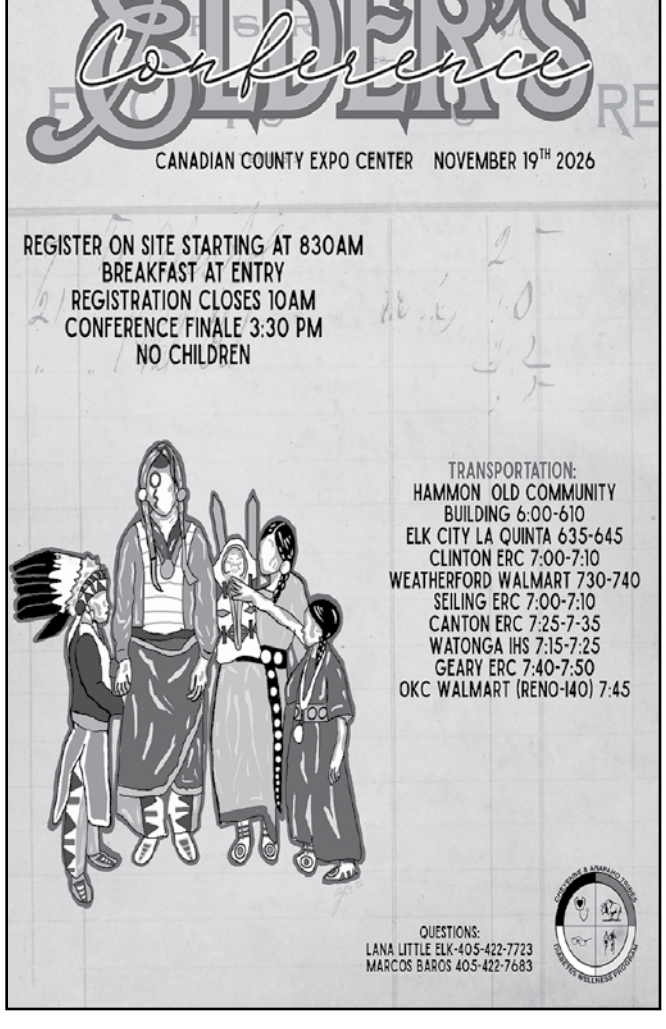
The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes invite you to continue an important conversation about generational trauma and healing in Native communities.

No cost to attend — all are invited!

Meals and snacks will be provided, with cultural activities, discussions, and a traditional meal included throughout the workshop.

November 17–18, 2026
8:00 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Watonga Lucky Star Casino & Conference Center
1407 S. Clarence Nash Blvd.
For more information, contact Ramona Tall Bear at 405-795-2802 or rtallbear@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

Register by scanning QR Code or link: https://form.jotform.com/261237469449064



SOVEREIGNTY ARTWORK

continued from pg. 1

four women symbolizing different movements, yet honoring sovereignty, justice and women.

"When I first started to sketch and put it in my mind what I was going to create, I thought about the ladies of justice and I thought about putting natives in each movement," Yellowman said.

The first one being the ghost dance movement, because it was their movement that dance and prayed, they suffered to see their relatives again, to see their buffalo flourish again and their movement and the dress, the symbolism is there, Yellowman explained as the movement was in the 1880's.

The second represents the plain Indians buckskins dress as the plain's women were the one that were the workforce, skinning buffalo hide to make their dresses and to make tipis. The third represents the healing dress, the jingle dress that was brought through a dream, a vision that an old man had. He talked about his granddaughter that had fallen ill and how spirits told him to make a dress, put it on her and she'd dance and when she'd dance, the sound of the cones could be heard and that's going to be healing.

"I thought about the healing of that dress and the last movement was the MMIP and I thought of Ida's law. Ida's law was created because of our tribal member that went missing. She's still missing to this day. So, I thought about that strong movement with these women making it happen for us, there are voices in Indian Country," Yellowman said.

Thinking about sovereignty, he said we are sovereign and always have been.

"So for me that was very powerful, the handprints dress, the ribbon skirts," Yellowman said continuing to describe his painting in detail.

Unable to attend the ceremony, LaRenda Morgan, co-author of Ida's Law and family member to Ida Beard, whom the bill is named after shared remarks via a letter regarding the artwork. Morgan described Yellowman's artwork as capturing truth, as each figure tells a part of a shared history. But it is the final figure in the artwork that represents Ida's Law.

"This speaks directly to the future and our need to protect our people to ensure the future existence of our people," Morgan stated.

Morgan stated in the letter when she looks at the last figure, she sees more than symbol.

"I see Ida. I see every family who has waited for justice," Morgan wrote.

Ending the ceremony, the presentation of the artwork was presented by Emily Eleftherakis on behalf of the Tribal Sovereignty Institute and accepted by Chief Rivas and Yellowman.

Having the artwork given to the tribes to display at the Tribal Justice Center, Wassana said was a special honor for the tribes simply because it's one of their very own tribal citizens and a Chief of the Cheyenne who had created a vision of what the Sovereignty Symposium represented.

"It's just an honor that his vision is shared with everybody across all tribes, across the state and I think it's an honor that Gordon was selected, I think it's an honor that OCU has brought back that artwork back to the tribe and said hang it in your justice center so that it'll remind the future and those who come through the building what tribal justice is, and the reflection upon Gordon's vision," Wassana said.

With Yellowman's art being recognized at the symposium and tribal leadership taking part in discussions on sovereignty, Wassana said it's a great opportunity for not only the Tribes but all tribes and the young people to see that tribal sovereignty is being noticed.

Honored and privileged to present the artwork, Eleftherakis, executive director of the OCU Tribal Sovereignty Institute said they have loved their partnership with the tribes, especially with Yellowman contributing his art to this year's Sovereignty Symposium.

"It's a great reminder to come out here and get to see the work that's being done and offer our support in any way that we can and we're just privileged to be a part of the work that you all are doing here to advance justice sovereignty and we're happy to be a part of that," Eleftherakis said.

During the 38th annual Sovereignty Symposium, the keynote featured five Native women federal district court judges.

"It was like the stars aligned when Gordon was working on his piece, featuring the ladies of justice, Eleftherakis said. "We were featuring these five amazing women who were really trailblazing the way in justice, he is creating this piece that is symbolizing Native women and Lady Justice and it was really just a remarkable coincidence and his work was really meaningful in that way and we were so grateful for his generosity of his time, so it worked out really well, we were so happy."

With his artwork given back to the tribes to be displayed at the Tribal Justice Center, Yellowman shared how honored he felt to be apart of history.

"I'm honored because I feel like our justice system has always been there, now with new centers such as this one, we're able to not only share our artwork, but put in our history into these visual drawings and it's an honor to have all these judges here, especially Alexa Old Crow whose working at the state and my wife Connie for being the first female district court judge at the tribes and being that alumni from Oklahoma City University," Yellowman said.

Yellowman also wanted to recognize Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Citizen, Yolanda Whiteman Valenzuela who he used as his standing model for his artwork.

Participating in the Sovereignty Symposium for 25 years, Yellowman first started going to see the artists and then eventually became the symposium's official Camp Cryer, to which he proudly has become recognized for using his powerful voice in the opening ceremonies of the symposium. Just as his artwork has given him recognition, so has his voice, which Yellowman believes both will continue to empower Native peoples.

"For me I think it's the voice of recognition, power and sovereignty, that's your voice, that's our voice … it's sovereignty, it empowers us to be who we are as Native people."

HOUSING GRANT FUNDS

continued from pg. 5

standards, environmental requirements, contract provisions, financial controls, inspections, drawdown procedures, progress reporting, audits, and closeout requirements. Labor standards and other federal requirements may also apply. Professional services are legitimate project costs, must be properly procured, and must be documented.

The work does not end when construction is finished. Tribal housing programs must adopt and follow written admissions and occupancy policies, determine household eligibility, manage waiting lists, match households to appropriately sized units, maintain the properties, enforce program requirements, and continue reporting on the use of federal funds.

Yes, federal grants involve congressionally appropriated public dollars—just like federal investments in highways, schools, agriculture, disaster recovery, economic development, and housing programs throughout the United States. Tribal housing funding also exists within the federal government's legal and political relationship with sovereign Tribal Nations and its longstanding responsibilities to Indian Country. It is not a personal giveaway.

And no, "casino money" is not a serious answer. Not every Tribe owns a casino. Not every Tribal gaming enterprise is highly profitable. Where revenue does exist, it often supports government operations, health care, education, public safety, elder services, infrastructure, cultural preservation, and many other unmet community needs.

There is nothing wrong with asking informed questions about how public funds are used. Accountability matters, and Tribal housing programs already operate under substantial federal oversight.

But immediately assuming that Tribal officials are misusing funds, that consultants are taking a cut, or that a Tribe should simply pay for housing with casino revenue is not accountability. It is suspicion based on stereotypes.

A successful Tribal housing award represents years of planning, technical work, documentation, advocacy, competition, and persistence. It represents staff who completed the work while continuing to operate underfunded housing programs. It represents a Tribal Nation fighting to provide safe, decent, and affordable homes in communities where the need has gone unmet for generations.

These awards should be examined with facts—not cynicism—and recognized for what they truly are: hard-won investments in families, infrastructure, community stability, and the future of Tribal Nations.

FBI Reports 118 Arrests in Crackdown on Violence Against Native Women and Children

Elyse Wild, Native News Online

The results of an FBI personnel surge into Indian Country are in: According to the bureau, a six-month initiative that assigned federal agents to unsolved cases in Native communities resulted in 118 arrests, 41 people charged with federal crimes, and 25 child victims recovered or identified.

Called Operation Not Forgotten, the initiative is in its fourth year and prioritized support for cases involving vio-lence against women and children, including missing and murdered persons cases.

American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women are murdered at rates up to 10 times the national average in some communities and, overall, at a rate 2.8 times higher than white women. An estimated 84% of Native American women experience violence in their lifetimes. Those figures illustrate the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples (MMIP) crisis, characterized by disproportionately high rates of assault, abduction, and murder in Native American communities, with many cases going unsolved or uninvestigated.

In 2023, a federal commission composed of law enforcement officials, tribal leaders, federal partners, service provid-ers, family members of missing and murdered individuals, and survivors identified a lack of public safety resources and jurisdictional confusion as major drivers of the crisis.

The FBI announced earlier this spring that it would deploy investigative, intelligence and victim services personnel on rotating temporary duty assignments across Indian Country from April through September. The operation in-volved 11 FBI field offices: Albuquerque, New Mexico; Billings, Montana; Detroit; Denver; Jackson, Mississippi; Las Vegas; Minneapolis; Oklahoma City; Omaha, Nebraska; Portland, Oregon; and Phoenix.

As a result of the operation, 18 people were arrested on the Wind River Reservation for violent crimes, including first-degree murder and child abuse.

In Minnesota, charges were filed in four cases involving violent and sexual offenses in Indian Country, including sexual abuse of minors, domestic assault causing substantial bodily injury, assault by strangulation, and assault with intent to commit kidnapping.

In Montana, Michael Plentybuffalo was charged in the death of Shann Nomee, who went missing during an extreme cold snap in January 2024. Nomee's frozen body was found in a field on the Crow Indian Reservation after a com-munity-led search and a tip to the Bureau of Indian Affairs that pointed to Plentybuffalo. His case is pending trial.

Also in Montana, Lance Crookedarm was charged in connection with the May 2026 violent assault and nonfatal strangulation of a woman.

In Arizona, at least four cases on the Navajo Nation resulted in charges involving two violent assaults, an arson and the aggravated sexual abuse of a child younger than 12.

OBITUARIES

Jusdine 'Tina' Cantu

Jusdine "Tina" Cantu passed away on Oct. 11, 2026. She was born Sept. 3, 1960, in Clinton, Okla., to Leroy and Margaret "Whitecrow" Horn. A woman of Cheyenne and Arapaho heritage, Tina's life was shaped by the love she shared with her family and the many relationships she built throughout her years. She attended Clinton Public Schools and married Roberto Cantu on June 28, 1979, in Clinton.

Tina had a special love for her family and treasured the time she spent with her children and grandchildren. One of her favorite things was dancing to country music with them, making memories that will continue to live on in the hearts of those she loved. She was a caring woman who enjoyed looking after others, a kindness she also shared through her work as a certified nursing assistant. Throughout her career, she worked at Grace, River Valley, and Methodist nursing homes caring for others along the way.

When Tina wasn't spending time with family or caring for others, she enjoyed garage sales and shopping. Those who knew her may remember that she rarely wore shoes, a little detail that was simply part of who she was. It is often these everyday memories, the laughter, the dancing, and the familiar things that made someone special, that remain closest to the hearts of those left behind.

Though Tina will be deeply missed, the love she gave, the memories she created, and the bonds she shared with her family will continue through the generations. Her memory will remain a lasting part of the family and community she leaves behind.

Tina was preceded in death by her beloved husband Roberto Cantu; her parents, Leroy and Margaret Horn and her daughter Shelly.

She leaves behind her loving family to cherish her



memory, including her sons, Robert Horn and his wife Toni, of Oklahoma City and Bruce Cantu of Clinton, her daughter Brenda Largent and her husband Jeff, of Midwest City, Okla., her brother Marcus Horn and his wife Donna, of Hydro, Okla., and her 17 grandchildren. She also leaves behind numerous other relatives and friends whose lives were touched by knowing her.

Visitation was held Oct. 15 at the Kiesau Lee Funeral Home in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held Oct. 16, at the same venue under the direction of Kiesau Lee.

Deborah Michelle Swallow

Deborah "Debbie" Michelle Swallow, age 42, of Kingfisher, Okla., passed away on Oct. 13, 2026, in Oklahoma City. She was born on March 30, 1984, in Kingfisher, to Henry Tasso Jr. and Rebecca Swallow Reyes.

She graduated from Kingfisher High School in 2002. She spent her time in Texas for a few years and then moved back to Kingfisher. Then she worked for Cimarron Nursing Home in Kingfisher. She worked at Shamrock Nursing Home from 2016 up until her death.

She will be remembered for her sweet goofy self. She was a devoted CNA for 25 years. She really enjoyed taking care of people and helping wherever needed. She was always laughing and joking around about something, even in the serious moments. She enjoyed spending time with family, her baby cousins, friends and family. She loved camping at the Cheyenne Sundance and family camping trips. She also enjoyed reading books and watching Greys Anatomy. She may not have had any children of her own, but she would show so much love to everyone else as if they were her own. She will forever be remembered for saying 'aww bull'.

She is survived by her parents, her siblings Shantel Gabriel and Tristian Haus of Kingfisher, Steven and Tory Beauchamp of Kingfisher, Seretta Flores of Yukon, Okla., Tyler James of Broken Bow, Okla., and 'work wifey' Kristel Jordan of Kingfisher, and cousins, nieces and nephews, and many other family and friends.

She was preceded in death



by her grandparents, Anthony and Elouise Swallow and great-grandparents George and Florence Swallow and cousin Cheyenne Swallow.

Wake services were held Oct. 19 at the Kingfisher Emergency Response Center in Kingfisher, Okla. Funeral services were held Oct. 20, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Kingfisher Cemetery under the direction of Sanders Funeral Service.

SAND CREEK MEMORIAL

continued from pg. 6

States government. The attack was subsequently investigated by federal authorities, and testimony from soldiers, including those who refused to participate in the slaughter, helped expose what had occurred.

The massacre is now recognized as a defining atrocity in Colorado and American history. The National Park Service established the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site in 2007 to preserve the landscape and promote public understanding of the event and its consequences.

The unveiling of The Peacekeepers also recalls a significant moment in Colorado's efforts to confront the massacre: the formal apology delivered by then-Gov. John Hickenlooper during the 150th-anniversary commemoration in De-cember 2014.

On Dec. 3, 2014, tribal citizens, descendants of massacre survivors and others gathered at the Colorado Capitol after participants in the Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run traveled approximately 180 miles from the massacre site to Denver.

Hickenlooper addressed the descendants and acknowledged the responsibility of the state and its predecessors for the atrocity.

"On behalf of the good, peaceful, loving people of Colorado, I want to say we are sorry for the atrocity that our government and its agents visited upon your ancestors," Hickenlooper said, according to Colorado Public Radio's report on the commemoration.

Hickenlooper also said the apology had been too long in coming. His remarks marked the first formal apology by a Colorado governor for the massacre, according to Colorado Public Radio.

The governor's apology did not erase the loss of life, the displacement of tribal communities or the generations of pain caused by the attack. But it represented a public acknowledgment of the state's historical responsibility and the importance of telling the truth about what happened.

The 150th-anniversary commemoration brought renewed attention to the massacre and to the continuing work of descendants and tribal nations to preserve their history and honor their ancestors.

At the History Colorado Center unveiling, DiPrince emphasized that the monument's design was intentional. Black Kettle's statue stands without a pedestal, placing the figure closer to the ground rather than elevating him above viewers.

"We're expected to look up at (statues)," DiPrince said. "This monument will not be like that. It will be closer to the ground. And I think there's something very notable about that because it is humanizing."

The design is intended to encourage visitors to encounter the figures on a more personal level while learning about the lives, leadership and experiences of the people represented.

Phillip Gover, History Colorado's senior director of tribal and Indigenous engagement, said the monument reflects the long struggle to ensure Native American history receives public recognition.

"There is no place in the United States that doesn't have Native American history of any type," Gover said. "It's taken a long time for Indigenous Peoples' Day to be honored. It's taken a long time for the Sand Creek Massacre Foundation and the Sand Creek Massacre tribes to get the opportunity to have a memorial. But to me, that's indica-tive of Native people."

For tribal descendants, the memorial is about more than commemorating a tragedy. It also recognizes the endurance of Cheyenne and Arapaho communities and their continuing efforts to preserve their heritage, honor their ancestors and ensure future generations understand what happened.

DiPrince said the project is intended to encourage healing while reminding Coloradans that the massacre is part of the state's shared history.

"This is not just Cheyenne and Arapaho history. This is Colorado history. It is American history," DiPrince said. "We all own this and it is our job to carry it forward together. That is why it is important that it will be on the Capitol grounds here in Colorado."

The completed Peacekeepers monument is expected to be installed on the grounds of the Colorado Capitol, in front of the west steps. A date for the installation had not been announced at the time of the unveiling.

The Sand Creek Spiritual Healing Run, an annual journey organized by descendants of massacre survivors since 1999, continues to connect the historic massacre site with Denver. Participants run from the site in southeastern Colorado to the state Capitol, honoring ancestors and carrying their history into public view.

The 2026 healing run is scheduled for Nov. 25-29 and is expected to culminate in a blessing of the Peacekeepers site at the Capitol. On Nov. 29, 2026, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe will gather at the Colorado State Capitol to dedicate the site of the future memorial, coinciding with the last day of the tribal-led Sand Creek Massacre annual Spiritual Healing Run. The tribes welcome the public to attend the site dedication ceremony which will commence at 10 a.m.

"The Cheyenne and Arapaho people have historically been a part of the western lore of Colorado. We occupied the land and lived on the range, and it will forever be a significant part of our tribal evolution ... we were Colorado before Colorado was Colorado," Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana said.

One-hundred and sixty-two years after the massacre, the monument represents a continuing effort by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to ensure their ancestors are remembered not as footnotes in Colorado history, but as people whose lives, leadership and pursuit of peace deserve recognition.

The unveiling of Black Kettle's statue is the first visible step toward that permanent recognition. When the full monument is installed, it will stand as a reminder of the massacre, the long-delayed acknowledgment of its victims and the responsibility to preserve their story for generations to come.



Statue of Chief Black Kettle is the first part of a monument that will eventually include three figures, Black Kettle, Southern Arapaho Chief Left Hand, who was mortally wounded during the massacre and Medicine Woman, Black Kettle's wife, holding a baby to represent the women and children who died. The remaining statues are expected to be completed in 2027. (Courtesy photo)

