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Historic election night ends with Native women making history across the nation as political landscape shifts

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*

Election Day, Nov. 3, 2026, may well be remembered as a historic day in American politics, as voters across the country elected women, who broke longstanding barriers and opened new doors for Native American representation in some of the nation's highest political offices.

Among the most significant victories were three Indigenous women who made history in Minnesota, New Mexico and New York, marking a milestone for Native representation in the federal government and state leadership.

In Minnesota, Peggy Flanagan, a member of the White Earth Nation, became the first Native American woman elected to the United States Senate. Flanagan, the state's lieutenant governor, defeated Republican opponent Michele Tafoya in the race to replace retiring Democratic U.S. Sen. Tina Smith.

Flanagan secured approximately 54% of the vote to Tafoya's 43%, with a late surge of votes from Minneapolis helping solidify her victory. Minneapolis is also home to a large urban Indigenous community.

Following the announcement of her victory, supporters gathered at Flanagan's watch party to celebrate the historic outcome. A White Earth Nation drum group, brought in by White Earth Nation Chairman Michael Fairbanks, performed a victory song in honor of the occasion.

Addressing the cheering crowd, Flanagan recognized the significance of her election and the generations of Native people who helped make the moment possible.

See **ELECTION NIGHT** *pg. 6*



Deb Haaland stands at the podium celebrating her historic win as the first Native American woman governor of New Mexico. (Courtey photo)

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Energy Sovereignty takes center stage at symposium

Latoya Lonelodge, *Senior Reporter*

NORMAN, Okla. - Powering the future through energy sovereignty, the third annual Native American Energy Symposium brings tribal leaders, industry professionals and community partners together for collaboration, education and insight in energy development.

Co-hosted by the University of Oklahoma and Caddo Nation, the Native American Energy Symposium was held at the Sam Noble Museum Nov. 4-5 in Norman, Okla.

With the symposium focused on being tribally led, panel discussions involved nation building, solar energy, federal vision and tribal sovereignty and the biggest goal of all. Energy sovereignty.

Starting off the discussion on day one of the symposium, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana was a panelist on the panel entitled "Tribal Leaders Energy Roundtable," which included Absentee Shawnee Gov. John Raymond Johnson, Absentee Shawnee Rep. Anthony Johnson and Caddo Nation Chairman Bobby Gonzalez.

Wassana described how the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes are dependent on oil and gas, with 920 operating wells. As an oil and gas tribe, the tribes distribute oil and gas per capita payments to tribal citizens, essentially using oil and gas to benefit the tribes.

The discussion of the panel allowed Oklahoma tribal leaders to share their energy priorities, insights, along with any challenges they face from their respective tribes.

With discussion of the panel taking interest of solar panels on tribal lands and their many benefits to tribal citizens, the conversation quickly switched to resources and environmental concerns.

Wanting to be mindful of the environment, cultural resources and environmental and water concerns by also building out projects, Gonzalez asked Wassana how he deals with concerns of citizens within the tribes concerning the water and environmental concerns.

Wassana stated tribal citizen always have concerns, if citizens have concerns about the water, he tells them the tribes sit on the best aquafers in the state.

"Which we do have a lot of water, they say something about the environment, I say we're always trying to protect the environment as best we can. I would never put anything on there that would destroy the planets or the animals," Wassana said.

Wassana said investigating, being analytical, and trying to do everything they can when it comes to a project is what he strives to do, such as with the issues and concerns regarding data centers. Above all, Wassana said people are misinformed when it comes to projects, so he tries to provide accurate data.

"I try to provide accurate data and that's what we should all do in our projects, prove it with data, show that that's not going to do that, I ask the same questions, show me that it will not produce this effect, or this will not harm the environment," Wassana said.

Wassana believes oil and gas causes as much harm as any project the tribes could do.

"That water, miles around is the same aquafer we use, they're contaminating our water, I said we can't do it, I can't support it, I call it junk because it's all kinds of liquid, it's mud or bad water, or acid, just putting it down into the disposal well and earth, but oil and gas, nobody can see what happens underground," Wassana said.

Overall, Wassana said it comes down to correct data and if it's not going to contaminate the environment. And then, Wassana said, it comes to the dollar amount, as data centers are making hundreds of billions of dollars a year.

"Tribes benefit hundreds of millions of dollars a year, you want to build off what are you exposing as to the effect of the benefit that you're going to help your tribe with housing, education, scholarships, elders, heating, cooling and all these things that now we're having to fight

See **ENERGY SYMPOSIUM** *pg. 5*



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana discusses the tribes energy priorities during a panel discussion at the Third Annual Native American Energy Symposium.

Pictured l-r: Absentee Shawnee Gov. John Raymond Johnson, Gov. Reggie Wassana, Absentee Shawnee Rep. Anthony Johnson and Caddo Nation Chairman Bobby Gonzalez. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Utility Authority board members Damon Dunbar, chairman and Sabrina Norris, vice-chairwoman discuss the tribal utility authority at the energy symposium.

Pictured l-r: Tana Fitzpatrick, J.D., associate vice president for Tribal Relations and director of the Native Nation Center for Tribal Policy and Research at the University of Oklahoma, Damon Dunbar, Tribal Utility Authority chairman, Sabrina Norris, Tribal Utility Authority vice-chairwoman and Michael Howe, senior advisor and stake holder at Enbridge.

Utility authority board brings experience and leadership to tribal infrastructure development

By Daniel Tallbear, Planning and Development



Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Tribal Utility Authority board members are l-r: Chairman Damon Dunbar, Rob Griffin, Scott Inman and Vice-Chairwoman Sabrina Norris. (Submitted photos)

In June 2025, the Tenth Tribal Legislature of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes passed a resolution to create and establish a Tribal Utility Authority (TUA) for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. The purpose of this act is to operate, maintain and to promote existing utility systems furnishing electric, gas, water and sewer utility service generation and telecommunication services for the benefit of the Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens. The TUA plans to expand natural gas, water, sewer, telecommunication and information services and to increase and enhance the electric services.

The TUA is authorized to acquire, construct, operate and maintain utility systems throughout the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal service areas. The utility and energy landscape is constantly evolving; therefore, the 'Plan of Operation' for the TUA can gradually be amended to meet the needs of the tribal population as circumstances change.

In 2026, Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana appointed Sabrina Norris, Damon Dunbar, Rob Griffin and Scott Inman to serve on the Utility Authority Board with confirmations by the Eleventh Legislature. The Board was invited to participate on a panel discussing how the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes formed and are continuing to grow the TUA at the Native American Energy Symposium at the Sam Noble Museum Nov. 4-5.

Dunbar is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. He was born at the Clinton Indian Hospital and raised in Lawton by his adopted parents Don and Betty Dunbar. His education endeavors include an Associated of Science Degree in General Studies from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal College, a Bachelor of Science Degree in Industrial Technology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University, and a Master of Science Degree in Native American Leadership from Southeastern Oklahoma State University. He has worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for 26 years in various positions and has been the executive director of the Housing Authority of the for over five years. He currently serves as secretary of the Housing Board of Commissioners, and for 14 years as a member-at-large, Board of Trustees for Southwest Oklahoma Development Authority. Most recently, Dunbar was elected as chairperson of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Utility Authority Board.

Griffin brings more than 30 years of executive leadership experience in telecommunications, broadband infrastructure, technology strategy, and business development, with a strong commitment to advancing Tribal sovereignty, economic development, and infrastructure opportunities throughout Indian Country.

A proud citizen of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and a United States Marine Corps Reserve veteran, Griffin has dedicated much of his professional career to building trusted relationships with tribal governments, industry leaders, and public-sector organizations. His leadership philosophy centers on collaboration, mutual respect and the belief that Tribal Nations are strongest when they share knowledge, resources, and opportunities while preserving their individual sovereignty.

Daukei Norris is an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes where she serves as executive director of the Department of Administration. In this role, she oversees 12 programs responsible for supporting the administrative and operational functions of the tribal government, ensuring other departments and programs have the resources and infrastructure needed to operate effectively. She works closely with tribal leadership to advance strategic priorities that strengthen tribal sovereignty and organizational excellence. Norris serves as the vice chairwoman for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Utility Authority Board. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Family Studies and Human Services from Kansas State University.

Inman was born and raised in Del City, Okla. He attended the University of Oklahoma where he graduated in 2001 Summa Cum Laude receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science degree, with a minor in Spanish. He went on to attend the University of Oklahoma, School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctor in 2004. Upon graduating from law school, Representative Inman practiced law with a firm in downtown Oklahoma City. State House District 94, encompassing Del City and parts of south Oklahoma City, became vacant in the spring of 2006 and Scott decided to put his law practice on hold and run for office, winning his election to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in November of that year. Upon his election, Scott became the first graduate of Del City High School to ever serve the city of Del City at the State Capitol. In May 2009, Scott was elected Leader of the House Democratic Caucus, becoming the youngest person ever to lead a caucus in the House or Senate in Oklahoma state history. Scott was term limited after serving 12 years in the Oklahoma House with nearly eight of those as Minority Leader making him the longest serving leader of the House Democratic Caucus.

Scott has received numerous awards for his contributions to the community and for his legislative work, including induction into the Del City High School Alumni Hall of Fame, the Oklahoma Public Employee's Association Legislator of the Year, the Oklahoma State School Board Association's Legislator of the Year, the National Association of Social Workers Legislator of the Year, the Rural Health Association's Legislator of the Year, the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education Distinguished Service Award, the Oklahoma Bar Association's Friends of Justice Award, the George Nigh Award for Young Leadership, the Representative Opio Toure Statesman Award, and the Oklahoma Education Association's Outstanding Legislator Award making him just the 4th recipient of that award in the more than 130-year history of the OEA. Scott was recognized nationally when he has named a Rising Political Star on NBC News by Chuck Todd, host of Meet the Press.

Beginning January 2027, the monthly board meetings will start being held publicly to allow tribal citizens, employees and the public to attend to work collaboratively with the board members. For more information, please reach out to Planning and Development for details.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Health bring Rain's Law lessons to students

Submitted by Christina Sharp, Health Education

Tribal health educators and community partners use school assemblies and hands-on activities to teach fentanyl awareness, suicide prevention and the importance of seeking help.

What should you do if a friend offers you a pill you can't identify? How can you recognize when someone may be struggling with their mental health? Who can you turn to when you're worried about a classmate? Students in El Reno, Geary and Riverside explored these important questions through educational presentations supporting Oklahoma's Rain's Law.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Health brought prevention education to Roblyer Middle School, Etta Dale Junior High and El Reno High School, along with students in grades sixth through12th at Geary Public Schools and grades sixth through eighth at Riverside Elementary School.

The initiative was made possible through partnerships with Youth and Family Services, Red Rock Behavioral Health, the Oklahoma State Department of Health (OSDH) and the Southern Plains Tribal Health Board (SPTHB). Several Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Department of Health programs also contributed, including Tradition Not Addiction, Health Education, the Diabetes Wellness Program, the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Program, the Tribal Office of Recovery and the Department of Health administration team.

Rain's Law, enacted through Oklahoma House Bill 1484, took effect July 1, 2026. Named in memory of Rain Reece, a 19-year-old Cameron University student who died after unknowingly taking a pill containing fentanyl, the law requires annual prevention education for Oklahoma students in grades sixth through 12th addressing fentanyl, suicide prevention and available support resources.

At El Reno High School, students attended an assembly featuring guest speakers Barry Botone, Donnie Ramos and Victoria Gibson, an El Reno alumna and Mrs. Oklahoma County. The presenters shared personal experiences with addiction, the challenges they faced and their journeys toward recovery, offering students perspectives on resilience, overcoming adversity and the importance of seeking support.

Gibson also highlighted her initiative, "It's Okay to Not Be Okay; I Saved You a Seat," which promotes mental health awareness, encourages open conversations and reminds individuals that they are not alone in their struggles.

El Reno High School Principal Tim Pounds emphasized how meaningful it was for students to hear from people within their own community.

"It is more impactful for our students to learn more about these important topics when we partner with our community, specifically the tribe. Students know the people who talk with them, which helps them relate and stay engaged," Pounds said.

He also recalled students recognizing the presenters as family members or familiar faces, demonstrating the personal connections that made the assembly especially meaningful.

"I really do feel like you guys being a part of the community made a huge difference," Pounds said.

The presentation also left an impression on attendees. El Reno student, Amber Beard, described the emotional impact, saying, "the presentation was intense and made me tear up. They did a good job spreading awareness about Fentanyl."

Felix Nibbs, El Reno High School student, also commented on the seriousness of the information presented, saying, "I that like the presentation went into depth about what will happen if you take fentanyl. You will die!"

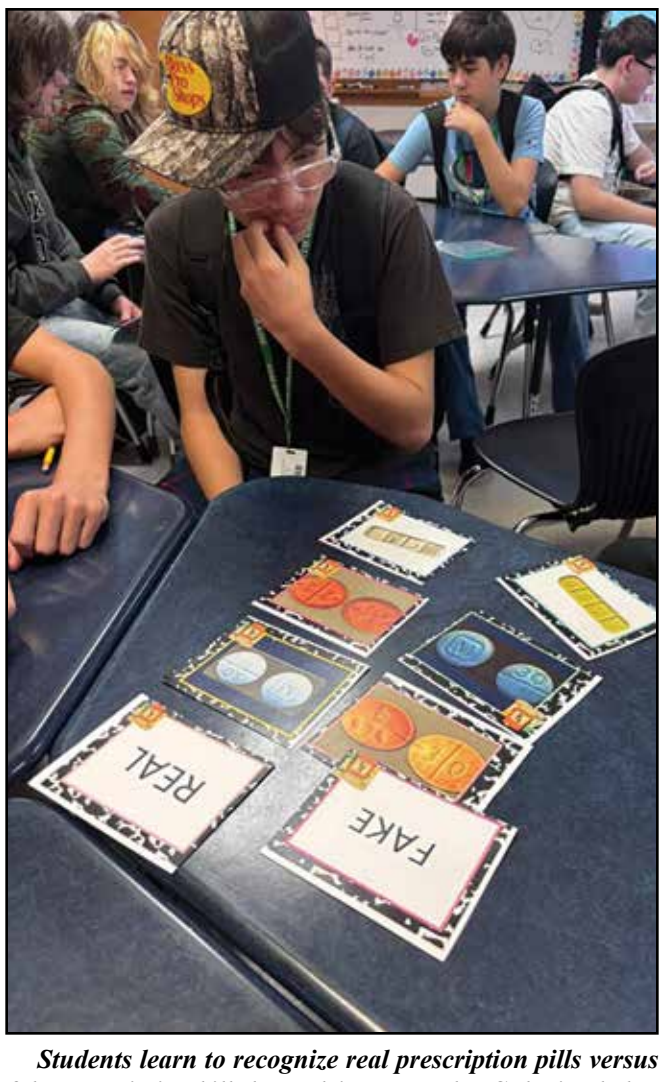
At other participating schools, students engaged in hands-on learning stations designed to encourage discussion, critical thinking and practical decision-making.

During the prescription pill and fentanyl safety station, students learned about the dangers of counterfeit medications and why pills cannot be identified as safe based on appearance alone. Through sorting activities and realistic scenarios, they explored the risks of taking unknown or unprescribed medication.

Another station focused on recognizing and responding to an opioid overdose. Students identified warning signs, including unresponsiveness and slowed or stopped breathing, while learning about naloxone, a medication that can reverse an opioid overdose. Activities also emphasized calling 911 and seeking immediate assistance.

Mental health and suicide prevention activities encouraged students to recognize warning signs such as social withdrawal, hopelessness and significant changes in behavior. Through scenarios, they discussed how listening without judgment, offering support and involving a trusted adult can make a difference.

The "Build Your Safety Net" activity helped students identify supportive people and resources, including family members, teachers, school counselors and community services. Students also learned about the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline.



Students learn to recognize real prescription pills versus fake prescription bills by studying examples. Submitted photos)

The "Pause Before You Post" station addressed cyberbullying and digital citizenship. Using fictional text messages and social media conversations, students practiced recognizing harmful online behavior, reporting

See **RAIN'S LAW** *pg. 7*



Remembering Sand Creek, Cheyenne and Arapaho people lead the journey toward healing

By Patricia Calhoun, Westword



At dawn on Nov. 29, 1864, as the Civil War still raged, Col. John Chivington led a raid of 700 volunteer soldiers on a peaceful camp of Cheyenne and Arapaho along Sand Creek in the southeastern corner of the new territory of Colorado. A chiefs' camp, it was full of women and children, with an American flag and a white flag both flying. Chief Black Kettle believed the camp was promised protection at a meeting with Chivington and Territorial Gov. John Evans at Camp Weld in the frontier town of Denver two months earlier.

Now Chivington's men descended, unleashing a slaughter more vicious than anything happening on the Civil War battlegrounds to the east. Some people escaped, burrowing in the sand or running up the creek … and all the way out of the territory. More than 200 tribal members were killed, most of them women, children and the elderly, and at least 13 chiefs died. Chivington and his volunteers plundered the camp, desecrating the bodies and taking scalps and genitalia back to Denver.

Their return was celebrated, and their spoils paraded on a stage during Christmas festivities.

While Denver partied, Washington, D.C., was alarmed by reports of the action out west. Both Congress and military authorities investigated, aided by the eyewitness account of Captain Silas Soule, who'd declined to participate and told his troops to stand down. Ultimately, Evans was forced to resign, Colorado's push for statehood was pushed back ten years … and Soule was assassinated in April 1865 on the streets of Denver. Even amidst the horrors of the Civil War, Congress declared that what happened at Sand Creek was "a massacre."

Colorado didn't get the word. A town was named after Chivington, and a town, a Denver street and a mountain after Evans. When "On Guard," the Civil War monument, was erected at the Colorado State Capitol in 1909, Sand Creek was listed under "Battles and Engagements." In 1950, a granite marker was erected on the bluffs near Eads, titled "Sand Creek Battle Ground."



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.

Over 120 years after the slaughter, descendants of those killed that day demanded the Colorado Historical Society change the wording, according to a piece in the New York Times in September 1985. But it would take decades more before these grievous wrongs were righted.

In July 1993, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed a bill sponsored by then-Colorado Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell, a Northern Cheyenne, ordering the National Park Service to find the actual killing grounds, a first step to establishing the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site and marking what he called "one of the most disgraceful moments of American history." After a lengthy process that included consulting with tribal descendants, the NPS finally dedicated the site in 2007.

Meanwhile, Sand Creek descendants took their complaints to the Colorado Capitol, arguing that Sand Creek should not be listed as a "battle" on the Civil War monument. After considerable debate, an explanatory plaque was put on the statue in 1999, below the figure of the soldier, noting that "the controversy surrounding the Civil War Monument has become a symbol of Coloradans' struggle to understand and take responsibility for our past."

That struggle intensified when the new History Colorado Center opened in April 2012 with "Collision," an exhibit devoted to the Sand Creek Massacre that had already been criticized by the tribes, who claimed they were not consulted in accordance with congressional requirements. History Colorado, the successor to the Colorado Historical Society, ultimately closed the exhibit. "The Sand Creek Massacre: The Betrayal that Changed Cheyenne and Arapaho People Forever," a new display that features the voices of the descendants, opened there in November 2023.

Nine years earlier, on the 150th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre, then-Gov. John Hickenlooper had officially apologized to the descendants on behalf of the state, and announced plans to create a monument honoring the tribes at the Colorado Capitol. The path to honoring that promise has also been long, with concerns over funding, design and the memorial's placement, with opponents at one point vowing to take the proposal to a statewide vote.



But in 2025, the State Legislature unanimously approved the piece's design and placement on the west side of the Capitol, where "On Guard" stood until it was pulled down during the George Floyd protests in the summer of 2020. The soldier who stood on that monument is currently on display at the History Colorado Center, now renamed the Colorado History Museum.

Last month, on Indigenous People's Day, the museum unveiled the first of three figures that will be part of "Peace Keepers," the Sand Creek Massacre memorial at the Capitol: a larger-than-life sculpture of Chief Black Kettle, who survived the slaughter along with his wife, Medicine Woman. She'll be standing with the Cheyenne chief, holding their baby, alongside Arapahoe Chief Left Hand, who was killed at Sand Creek; they'll be in front of a tipi frame, looking out over Denver to the mountains.

At 10 a.m. on November 29, 2026 members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, the Northern Arapaho Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne Tribe will be at the Capitol to dedicate the memorial site; the complete piece will be installed next November. This will be the final stop on the annual Sand Creek Massacre Healing Run, which stretches more than 170 miles from the massacre site to Denver.

More than 170 miles, and through 162 years of history.

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HEFLIN	ROBERT
HENRY	EMILY
HICKS	HERMAN
HICKS	JOSEPH
HICKS	LESA
HICKS	RANDALL
HICKS	ROBERT
HICKS	SHANNON
HICKS	SHERRI
HIGHWALKER	CHARLES
HOLBERT	PHILLIP
HOLSAPPLE	WHYTLI
HOOF	JUSTIN
HORN	CHARLEEN
HORN	CLARINDS
HORN	ROBERT
HOUGH	ISSAC
HOWELL	EZEKIEL
HOWELL	HERSCHEL
HOWELL	JADE
HOWELL	JOSHUA
HOWELL	NICOLAS
HOWLINGCRANE	CHARLES
HOWLINGCRANE	MICHAEL
HOWLINGCRANE	STEVEN
HOWLINGWOLF	MELISSA
HUTCHINSON	JAMIE
HUTCHINSON	SUNNI NICOLE
IGERT	ANITA
JACKSON	LOIS
JACKSON	TANNESSA
JENNINGS	DANIEL
JENNINGS	JONATHAN
JOHNSON	BRIANNA
JOHNSON	JACQUELYNN
JOHNSON	MARCUS
JOHNSON	SEAN
JONES	ROBERTA
JONES	THOMAS

Last Name	First Name
JOSLIN	ROBERTA
JURY	SHEMAH
KAULAITY	TRISTAN
KAULEY	KRISTI
KEETO	NINA SUE
KENT	RAYMOND
KEY	DEBRA
KIHEGA	EDDIE
KIHEGA	HARRY
KILLSNIGHT	JOYCELYN
KILLSNIGHT	WILLIAM
KING	MYRTLE
KING	VICTORY
KINSLOW	JASON
KLASSEN	BONNIE
KOCH	SHAWN
KODASEET	BETTY
KODASEET	LILY
KOEN	FRANCES
KOEN	LOUIS
LAFLORE	PATRICK
LANDRUM	JAMAL
LANDRUM	SHANNON L
LANDRUM	VALERIE
LANDRUM	VIVIANA
LEDEZMA	ANGELICA
LEE	ANDREA
LEE	R W
LEFTHAND	HARRY
LEFTHAND	LEONA
LEFTHAND	MARCY
LEFTHAND	RUDOLPH
LEVI	JERRY
LEWIS	JONNI
LIMPY	HENRY
LIRA	CONRADO
LITTLE COYOTE	CLIFORD
LITTLE COYOTE	MERVIN
LITTLE ELK	GREGORY
LITTLEBIRD	ANDREW

CONCHO AGENCY WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

As of 10/22/2026

Last Name	First Name
LITTLEBIRD	JOSEPH
LOBAUGH	WILLIAM
LOGAN	SANDRA
LONE ELK	PHYLLIS
LONGORIA	SEANNA
LOPEZ	PAULA
LOPEZ	RAY
LUCAS	DASHTON
LUEDEMANN	INGELA
LUEDEMANN	ISSLINAJO
MACK	MARILYN
MACK	WILLIAM
MADBULL	MISTY
MARSHALL	PAULA
MARSHALL	REBECCA
MARTIN	GEORGE
MARTINEZ	GENEVIEVE
MARTINEZ	PHILLIP
MAYFIELD	CHERYL
MCBRAYER	TIMOTHY
MCCOY	RAYMOND
MCCUMBER	APRIL
MCFARLIN	KITTY
MCLAUGHLIN	LANNY
MCWHORTER	TERRY
MEAT	RONNIE
MEAT	SANDRA KAY
MECHAM	ASHLY
MEDICINE CHIPS	ANTHONY
MEEK	ANTHONY
MINOR	GEORGE
MITCHELL	SHANNON
MITCHELL	VANESSA
MITCHELL	WILLIAM
MOORE	CHARLES
MOORE	ROBERTA
MORALES	TOBIAS
MORRIS	MARY
MORTON	MICHAEL
MOSES	WALTER

Last Name	First Name
MOSS	THERESA
MULE	CHARLIE
MULHALL	JERRY
MULIAGATELE	SUSAN
MUNOZ-WILLIAMS	MICHELLE
MURRAY	JACIE
NATESWAY	RAYMOND
NEWSOME	DAREN
NIMSEY	PENELOPE
NO NECK	ROBERT
NOLINE	SHAWN
NORTH	GLENDORA
NOWLIN	RUPERT
OLD CROW	ANGELA
OLD CROW	SARAH
OLIVER	CHRIS
OLIVER	RAVEN
OLIVER	SHAY
ORANGE	BABY GIRL
OSTERHOUT	DARSEY
OTTO	HENRY
PAHMAHMIE	BARBARA
PARKER	MICHAEL
PATE	LANDRY
PATTEN	HELEN
PATTY	LOASTA
PAWPA-GUFFEY	CHARLENE
PAX	DEBRA
PEDRO	ANJULIE
PEDRO	BETTY
PEDRO	WESLEY
PEKAH	JAMES
PEKAS	JAMIE
PENALOZA	CHANA
PERRIN	CALEB
PERRY	DAMON
PERRY	DAMON
PETERSON	SONYA
PEWO	TERESA
PITMAN	CHRISTY

CONCHO AGENCY WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

As of 10/22/2026

Last Name	First Name
PLUMB	ELEANOR
PLUMMER	BILLY
PLUMMER	GEORGE
POISAL	JOSEPH
POISAL	SAUNDA
PORRAS	JUANITA
POSADA	RUBY
POSTON	STEVEN
PRAIRIE CHIEF	MICAELA
PRATT	APRIL
PRATT	OTTO
PRATT	ROBERT
PRIDE	EARL
PRIMEAUX	PATRICK
PROPST	MARLA
QUICK	MARANDA
QUICK	TABITHA
RAYA	MIA
RED EAGLE	DAWNA
RED EAGLE	DONNA
RED HAT	CLARISSA
RED HAT	LUTHER
RED HAT	MARILYN
REDBIRD	BRUCE BOYD
REDNOSE	TERRILL
REED	JAMES
REED	JARED
REED	TRACY
REYES	MARK
REYES	RONNIE
REYES	TONY
REYNOLDS	EUNICE
REYNOLDS	KIRBY
REYNOLDS	RALPH
REYNOLDS	RHONDA
RHOADS	BRADY
RHOADS	CHRISTOPHER
RICE	DARRELL
RICHARD	AZHA'RAE
RICHARDSON	MABEL

Last Name	First Name
RICKETTS	FLOYD
RIGGS	EMILY
RIGGS	KEHLY
RIGGS	LAURA
RISINGBEAR	BARBARA
RISINGBEAR	SHAWN
RIVERA	COURTNEY
ROBERTS	CORY
ROBERTSON PLUMB	ELEANOR
ROBINSON	DENISE
ROBINSON	WASHEEN
RODRIGUEZ	LAZARA
ROMAN NOSE	CLIFFORD
ROUGHFACE	NICHOLAS
RUIZ	JOSE
RUTLEDGE	ROBERT WILLI
SANCHEZ	CHRISTOPHER
SANDERS	LINDA
SANFORD	ELDONNA
SANKEY	AMBER
SANKEY	JACOBY
SANKEY	MILTON
SANKEY	NATASHA
SATAWAKE	JOEY
SCABBY	VANESA
SCABBY HORSE	SARAH
SCHRADER	SHERYL
SCHUTES	TERRY
SCOTT	ANDREW
SEVENSTAR	JACQUELINE
SEVENSTAR	MICHAEL
SEVENSTAR	RACHEL
SHARP	RACHEAL
SHIMIZU	KARL
SHOMO	GILBERT
SIMS	MARQUISE
SIOUX	ALLEN
SIOUX	DANIEL
SLATER	EDWARD
SLEEPER	HEIDI

CONCHO AGENCY WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

As of 10/22/2026

Last Name	First Name
SMITH	NICK
SMOKER	KARISSA
SPOTTED CORN	ALELIJA
SPOTTED CORN	MOSES
SPOTTED WOLF	PATRICE
SPOTTED WOLF	SHAWN
SPRINGER	DEBORAH
STARR	CHRISTIAN
STEBBINS	JOHN
STEPP	SAMANTHA
STEPP	SHANNAN
STONEROAD	SONYA
STONEROAD	VICTORIA
TABOR	JOEL
TABOR	LYDIA
TABOR	PELMA
TALLMEAT	DOLORES
TASSO	ELLIOT
THOLOCCO	SHIRLEY
THOMPSON	KELLY
THOMPSON	SHENANDOAH
THUNDERBULL	PHILLIP
TIMOTHY	NOAH
TONIHKA	MELBA
TURLEY	ELIJAH
TURTLE	NICOLE
TUSING	CONNIE
TWO BABIES	BRIAN
URIBE	ANDREALINA
VALDEZ	AMANDA
VALDEZ	JOSE
VALDEZ	ROSA
VAN KIRK	ANTOINETTE
VARDELL	MIRANDA
VASQUEZ	ERIC
VASZUEY	DAVID
VIGIL	CAROLYN
WALLOWING BULL	ROSIE
WALTON	RICHARD
WARNER	NANETTE

Last Name	First Name
WASHEE	CHRISTOPHER
WASHEE	FRED
WASHEE	WILLIAM
WATAN	LYDIA
WATAN	SOLDIERBEAR
WATAN	TOUCH CLOUD
WATKINS	DAVID
WATKINS	DRALA
WEBSTER	GEORGE
WEBSTER	RACHEL
WEBSTER	ROSE
WELCH	DANNA
WELCH	KIMBERLY
WERMY	KRISTOPHER
WEST	JOSHUA
WESTBROOK	MARY
WHEELER	CHERYL
WHEELER	ELSIE
WHITE	RUTH
WHITE BEAR CLAWS	SHIRLEY
WHITE BUFFALO MAN	FRANK
WHITE CROW	SAM
WHITE CROW	WOODROW
WHITE EAGLE	GEORGIE
WHITE SKUNK	TRAYONA
WHITE SKUNK	VALENTINA
WHITE TAIL	CHARLES
WHITE TAIL	HAILMAN
WHITE TRUST	CHARLOTTE
WHITEBIRD	BEVERLY
WHITEBIRD	LUTZ
WHITEBIRD	STEPHEN
WHITEMAN	ALFRED
WHITEMAN	GEORGE
WHITEMAN	JAMES
WHITEMAN	JARON
WHITEMAN	JERICK
WHITESHIELD	RAELENE
WHITESHIRT	FRANCESCA
WHITLOW	MICHELLE

CONCHO AGENCY WHEREABOUTS UNKNOWN

As of 10/22/2026

Last Name	First Name
WICHITA	DEREK
WILBORN MITCHELL	CHELSEA
WILBORN MITCHELL	COURTNEY
WILBORN MITCHELL	KEATON
WILDER	MARY
WILLIAMS	CLAUDIA
WILLIAMS	MICHAEL
WILSON	DENNIS
WILSON	ERIK
WILSON	SALAN L
WILSON	SARA
WILSON	SEAN
WISE	AURORA
WOLFCHIEF	ANNA
WOLFCHIEF	SAMUAL
WOLFCHIEF	STACEY
WOODWARD BIGBACK	BONNIE
WORRELL	AMY
YELLOW BOY	AARON
YELLOW EAGLE	OFELIA
YELLOW EYES	CARLA
YELLOW EYES	CHARLES
YELLOW EYES	DAVID
YELLOW EYES	JEFFREY
YELLOW EYES	ROBERT
YOUNGBIRD	CHEYLA K
YOUNGBIRD	MATTHEW
YOUNGBIRD	TIANY
YOUNGBLOOD	BRADLEY
ZOTIGH	ALAYNA
ZOTIGH	ALBERT
ZOTIGH	CLARICE
ZOTIGH	WESLEY

Martin Luther King III joins tribal leaders opposing permitting bill ahead of Senate vote

Brooke Blach, Gaylord News

WASHINGTON — Martin Luther King III joined tribal leaders and historic preservation advocates outside the U.S. Capitol on Monday, Nov. 9, to oppose legislation that could weaken protections for Native American sacred sites and limit tribal involvement in federal development decisions.

The Senate voted 73-25 to advance consideration of the Bipartisan American Affordability and Jobs Act, a bill aimed at speeding up energy and infrastructure projects despite the objections from Native Americans and those opposed to data centers. Tribal leaders warn the changes could reduce their say in federal development decisions and put sacred sites and ancestral lands at risk.

King, the eldest son of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr., urged lawmakers to preserve the public's role in decisions affecting historic places, arguing that economic development should not come at the expense of communities whose histories are tied to those sites.

"Do not force Americans to choose between building our future and remembering our past," King said. "Guess what? We can do both."

The legislation, introduced in September by a bipartisan group of senators including Oklahoma Sen. Alan Armstrong, would change Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, which requires federal agencies to consider how projects could affect historic sites and consult with affected communities, including Native American tribes.

King pointed to efforts to preserve an African burial ground in New York City and Native American ancestral sites in Virginia, arguing that historic preservation does not have to prevent development.

"It does not say that we cannot build," King said. "It says that before we build, we must listen."

Leonard Forsman, chairman of the Suquamish Tribe in Washington state, said the proposed changes could weaken tribal consultation and make it harder to protect sacred sites.

"Tribal nations must have a meaningful voice in decisions that could permanently damage or destroy these irreplaceable places," Forsman said.

Forsman, a former vice chairman of the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, added that the existing process allows tribes to work with federal agencies to address concerns before development begins.

"Our sacred places are not simply historic properties on a federal checklist," Forsman said. "They are living connections to our ancestors, our identity, and our future generations."

Chief Anne Richardson of Virginia's Rappahannock Tribe also raised concerns about the legislation, pointing to ongoing disputes over development and natural resources on tribal lands.



Demonstrators hold signs opposing changes to federal historic preservation laws outside the U.S. Capitol on Monday, Nov. 9. (Photo / Brooke Blach)

Richardson said her tribe is fighting a legal battle over water withdrawals from the Rappahannock River, which was named after the tribe. She said the proposed changes could make it harder for Native communities to have a say in decisions affecting their land and resources.

Christopher Moquino, governor of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso in New Mexico, said revisions to the legislation released Saturday still raised concerns about whether tribes would have a meaningful role in federal decisions.

"What good is consultation if our voices are heard only after the most important decisions have already been made?" Moquino said. "And what happens when sacred places are destroyed while we are still fighting to be heard?"

He said tribal nations support responsible development but should not have to sacrifice sacred lands or their role in decisions affecting them.

See **BAAJA** *pg. 7*







ENERGY SYMPOSIUM

continued from pg. 1

for and challenges that we're going through, how do we support our tribal members," Wassana said.

Oil and gas doesn't come up all the time, Wassana explained as it's a complete energy and is not renewable. It's going to be gone at some point in their lives.

Figuring out how to support tribal citizens, Wassana said unlike casinos which make millions of dollars, data centers make tens and hundreds of millions of dollars and that's what the tribes are looking at.

"Is how can we support our tribal members with the least amount of cost to the tribe, whether it's the use of land, water, energy, and that's what we always pose, we have land, we have water, we have energy to produce our own electricity," Wassana said.

With the panel discussion leading into energy, oil and gas, geothermal, wind mills, solar, natural resources and renewal energy resources that are available, Wassana said some tribes have to deal with those topics on a daily basis and are looking at getting into those areas. By providing some information about oil and gas formation, drilling and environmental concerns, Wassana hopes providing information to the general public on the production of oil and gas, how oil affects the tribes, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes as a whole, will help other tribes.

"The tribes are very dependent upon our oil and gas energy because not only does it provide assistance through a per capita payment on oil and gas, but we also have a severance tax on oil and gas, which a severance tax is used to help the tribal members, whether it's through education, housing, just general social welfare problems tribal members may have, our oil and gas taxes help with those concerns and those needs with the tribes," Wassana said.

Oil and has also helps individuals who live on lands with royalties that help their household income and helps with their daily needs, such as with food, shelter, medical and necessities that tribal citizens need daily to survive.

Taking part in the Energy Symposium for the second year in a row, Wassana said it's great way to connect with other tribes and companies, the university and to try to get information out there.

"You get to hear how tribes are working with other tribes, or working with the departments, working with the universities to make sure that we have a safe and clean environment and that we're going to have projects that will create any significant harm to the environment for our lifetime," Wassana said.

Leading into the afternoon session, Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Utility Authority Chairman Damon Dunbar and Vice-Chairwoman Sabrina Norris took part in a panel discussion entitled, "Tribal Leadership Roundtable – Nation Building, Governance and Energy Sovereignty." Tana Fitzpatrick, J.D., associate vice-president for tribal relations and director of the Native Nation Center for Tribal Policy Research at the University of Oklahoma and Michael Howe, senior advisor and stake holder at Enbridge were also part of the panel.

The panel discussed utility authorities and workforce capacity to sustainably own and operate energy assets.

As moderator for the panel, Fitzpatrick asked the question about energy sovereignty, what does energy sovereignty mean and why are more tribes heading toward owning energy assets rather than leasing lands or collecting royalties?

Dunbar replied with stating that the tribal utility authority might have to rely on utility companies, that's part of the sovereignty they're trying to push on the utility authority board.

"We may not be completely off the grid from the big utility authority, but we won't be relying on them as much, so as far as sovereignty, exercising our tribal sovereignty on our lands to try to get some more money for the tribes," Dunbar said.

Norris explained a microgrid situation that occurred when the Concho campus had a power outage over the summer when storms struck. It was during this time when trying to get power restored by OG&E, that Norris found out that the campus was considered not a priority.

"From that experience, it teaches us we can't be reliant on OG&E, so that's one thing where we did exercise our sovereignty, as we're exploring going forward, just how can we harvest our own resources to be able to meet those emergency needs that way we're not relying on somebody else to handle our emergency situations," Norris said.

Next, the discussion led into the establishment of the utility authority, to which Dunbar explained they are a new utility authority board formed by a tribal resolution passed in June 2025 to be established.

Dunbar has been working for the tribes for 26 years and said the idea had come back up in 2008 to be established when he was working in another program as a planner, but when the resolution was presented, it didn't pass and laid dormant for a long time. Until grants started coming out. Dunbar said when he went to the Clean Energy Summit, you had to have a tribal utility authority board to establish a strategic energy plan, and those were the two items that were needed to be on big grants.

"We have good experience as far as our utility authority board, but we're brand new. We're trying to learn this as best we can and go forward, we're going to be given by laws and strengthen everything we're doing right now. Once we get that going, I have great hopes for this," Dunbar said.

With the energy symposium leading into greater discussions of energy development, day one of the symposium wrapped up with in-depth insights of a future powered with energy sovereignty.

As vice-chairwoman for the tribal utility authority and in her role as Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Administration's executive director, Norris said the tribes always have high energy costs and that's one component of what they're looking at on the board, they're looking at ways they can save energy.

"If we're able to lower our energy costs, I think that would benefit tribal members greatly so that way it would go back into more funds for our tribal programs instead of spending money on our energy costs," Norris said.

Another component, Norris said is energy and natural resources, looking at what the tribes are doing to help tribal citizens.

"How are we responding to our tribal members and what are we doing with our natural resources to be able to help our future and our growth because that's what we're wanting to do, what are we doing to grow the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, but at the same time being cost effective as possible," Norris said.

Attending the energy symposium, Dr. Shane Connelly hopes the symposium allows attendees to be educated and help them understand not only the priorities of tribal nation involved in energy development, but also some of the pathways that they can achieve energy development.

"I think energy sovereignty is the through line for all of this and it takes a long time to do that for any tribe, but it all starts with education and that's sort of where we're at," Connelly said.

Dr. Connelly, professor of Industrial Organization Psychology at the University of Oklahoma and also directs the Institute for Community and Society Transformation said that the energy symposium first began through a project they were doing with members of the Caddo Nation over chemical engineering, starting with a NFS grant, looking at transitioning hydrogen in a clean way to make clean energy.

Co-hosting the symposium, Connelly said they wanted it to be tribally led and tribally engaged, not just an open public kind of forum.

"One that was really focused on understanding the needs of energy development in Indian country and have the conversations being driven by tribes of Oklahoma and beyond. So, we have had a lot of participation, this is our third year of doing this, it's really gaining a lot of momentum and every year we sort of get a little more traction," Connelly said.

With technology development, Connelly said it's an interesting way to collaborate with those who are on the cutting edge of technology development and those communities who are on the edge of developing energy resources.

As Oklahoma is an oil and gas state, Connelly said there's a tremendous focus on energy in general in the state as they have tremendous wind energy, solar energy, and other sources, new forms of energy are continuing to be developed when it comes to tribal nations.

"The importance and significance of them, some Tribal Nations want to make energy development their priority, their main economic driver and I think Caddo Nation is one of those, so it's really up to the tribes themselves to kind of set their own goals, directions, and economic possibilities and if energy is part of that footprint, what does it look like and how do they move it forward," Connelly said.

50 Miles for Those We've Lost, RUCK Challenge Brings Veteran Suicide into Focus

A 50-mile challenge encourages communities to honor veterans, remember those lost to suicide and remind those struggling that they are not alone.

Throughout November, people across the country are being encouraged to put one foot in front of the other in support of a cause that affects veterans, their families and communities nationwide.

The November 2026 RUCK Challenge invites participants to ruck 50 miles during the month in recognition of Veterans Day and in support of the fight against military and veteran suicide.

Participants can complete the miles individually or alongside friends and family, walking or running wherever they choose. The challenge is virtual, allowing people from different communities to take part at their own pace. Participants may carry a weighted backpack or vest, although the emphasis is on participation, remembrance and raising awareness rather than competition.

Behind the 50-mile goal is a message that reaches far beyond physical fitness: Veterans should not have to carry life's burdens alone.

Rucking, a form of walking or running while carrying weight, serves as a symbolic reminder of the unseen burdens many veterans carry after returning home from military service. For some, the transition to civilian life can bring challenges involving mental health, physical injuries, pain, employment, housing and isolation.

The challenge aims to create opportunities for people to talk openly about those struggles, remember veterans who have died by suicide and encourage those who may be struggling to seek help.

Organized efforts such as the Legacy Ruck Club Challenge benefit the Day Zero Foundation, while related initiatives support organizations such as Stop Soldier Suicide. Together, these efforts help bring attention and resources to veteran mental health and suicide prevention.

Although recent statistics show progress in reducing veteran suicides, the numbers also demonstrate why continued prevention efforts are necessary.

The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) has released its 2026 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report, using data through 2024. The newest report found that 6,488 veterans died by suicide in 2024, an average of 17.7 deaths each day. It also revealed an important difference in suicide trends, rates among veterans enrolled in VA health care declined 4.8% from 2023 to 2024, while rates among veterans not enrolled in VA health care increased 3.7%.

The report further found that 62% of veterans who died by suicide in 2024 had not received VA health care during the year of their death or the year before.

The findings highlight the importance of reaching veterans who may be disconnected from health care and other support networks.

For many veterans, the challenges of military service do not end when they take off the uniform. The transition back to civilian life can be difficult, and some may struggle silently with experiences they find difficult to share.

That is why community involvement and awareness are important parts of suicide prevention.

A ruck challenge offers an opportunity for veterans and non-veterans alike to come together, start conversations and show support. Participants can walk with a friend, organize a group outing with family members or complete their miles independently. Whether on neighborhood streets, local trails or a treadmill, every mile represents an opportunity to remember and recognize those who have served.



The goal is not to finish first or carry the heaviest pack. It is to demonstrate solidarity with veterans, honor those lost to suicide and help ensure that those still struggling know someone cares.

The VA continues to expand its suicide prevention efforts, including outreach to veterans who are not enrolled in VA health care, community-based prevention programs and crisis intervention services.

The Veterans Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week, for veterans and those concerned about them.

Veterans experiencing a crisis can call 988 and press 1, text 838255 or use the online chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat. These services are free and confidential.

Friends, family members and community members also have an important role. Reaching out, listening without judgment and helping someone connect with professional support can make a difference.

As November's RUCK Challenge reminds participants, no one should have to carry a heavy load alone.

Veterans Day is a time to recognize the service and sacrifices of those who wore the uniform. The 50-mile challenge offers another way to honor that service, by remembering those who are gone, supporting those who remain and helping build communities where veterans feel connected, valued and supported.

Veteran suicide is preventable, and raising awareness is one step toward ensuring that no veteran feels alone in the fight.

To learn more about the November RUCK challenge visit https://www.facebook.com/stopsoldiersuicide.

For more information about VA benefits contact the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Office of Veterans Affairs by email, veteranservices@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov or by calling 405-422-7724.

Head Lady War Dancer for Veteran's Day Dance Irene Martin, DNP, United States Air Force & United States Navy Veteran

Submitted by Winnie White Tail



Irene Martin, a member of the Thomas Terrier White Tail family and a veteran of both the United States Air Force and United States Navy.

Irene began her military service in 2000 with the United States Air Force, serving as a Medical Service Journeyman with the 56th Medical Operations Squadron at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. Following the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, she served directly in support of Operation Noble Eagle, the military's homeland defense mission. During this time, she assisted with installation security while the base operated under heightened Force Protection Conditions, including Charlie and Delta.

Following her Air Force service, Irene continued her commitment to caring for others, spending 11+ years at Mayo Clinic Hospital in Phoenix, Ariz., as a critical care and medical-surgical nurse.

She later returned to military service as a commissioned officer in the United States Navy Nurse Corps, serving as a Lieutenant Junior Grade. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she deployed to New York City in support of Operation Gotham, spending 87 days boots on ground on the front lines at North Central Bronx Hospital, a public hospital in the heart of the Bronx. During some of New York City's deadliest days of the pandemic, she provided nursing care at a hospital treating 100% COVID-19 patients.

Irene went on to earn her Doctor of Nursing Practice degree and become a board-certified Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner. She serves children, adolescents, and adults at NOAH, a community health clinic in Phoenix, providing psychiatric care to individuals and families who often face barriers to mental health services.

ELECTION NIGHT

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"You've helped me become the first Native American woman in history to be elected to the United States Senate," she told supporters.

She also offered an encouraging message to Native youth, reminding them that their opportunities should not be limited by the barriers faced by previous generations.

"Do not be disheartened that it took 250 years for one of us to get here," Flanagan said. "Be inspired by the fact that with grit and determination and the resilience of our people, whichever one of you is next, you're going to get here a lot faster. Because if Auntie Peggy can do it, you can do it, too."

Another groundbreaking victory came in New Mexico, where Deb Haaland, a member of Laguna Pueblo and former U.S. Interior secretary, was elected governor.

Haaland becomes the first Native American woman elected governor in the United States, adding another historic milestone to her career in public service.

She previously represented New Mexico in the U.S. House of Representatives before being appointed by former President Joe Biden to lead the Department of the Interior. In that position, she became the first Native American to serve as a Cabinet secretary.

Haaland defeated Republican Gregg Hull, former mayor of Rio Rancho, receiving approximately 57% of the vote, according to election results.

Her campaign focused on affordability, health care access and reforming the state's troubled child welfare system. She also pledged to stand up for New Mexico residents and oppose policies she believes threaten working families.

Haaland's election represents another significant step forward for Native people seeking a voice in government and leadership positions that have historically been inaccessible to Indigenous communities.

In New York, Claire Valdez won election to represent the state's 7th Congressional District, becoming the state's first known Indigenous member of the U.S. Congress.

Valdez, a woman of Ysleta del Sur Pueblo heritage, adds another important voice to the growing number of Indigenous women entering national politics.

Her victory further demonstrates the expanding presence of Native women in political leadership, bringing Indigenous perspectives and experiences into the halls of Congress.

The historic victories were not just limited to Native candidates.

In Georgia, Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms was elected governor, becoming the first Black woman elected governor in the United States. She is also the first woman to hold Georgia's governorship.

Texas voters delivered one of the biggest political surprises of the night, electing Democrat Gina Hinojosa as governor. Hinojosa became the first Latina governor in Texas history, defeating Republican incumbent Greg Abbott and ending decades of Republican control of the governor's office.

Texas also elected Democratic State Representative James Talarico to the U.S. Senate. Talarico defeated Republican Attorney General Ken Paxton, becoming the first Democrat elected to a Texas Senate seat since 1988.

The Texas victories were part of a larger national political shift. Democrats picked up Senate seats in several states, including Texas, and won control of the U.S. Senate, marking a major change in the balance of power in Washington.

Across the country, the results were being described as a Democratic wave, with voters delivering unexpected victories and historic firsts in states that had traditionally leaned Republican.

While much of the nation experienced a dramatic political shift, Oklahoma remained firmly in Republican hands.

Oklahoma voters elected Republican Mike Mazzei as governor, defeating Democratic candidate Cyndi Munson. Republicans also maintained their stronghold in the Oklahoma Legislature, retaining their supermajority in both the House and Senate. Democrats celebrated their defeat of four incumbent Republicans in Oklahoma County House districts, Rep. Tammy West, Rep. Eric Roberts, Rep. Marilyn Stark and Rep. Max Wolfely.

The outcome continued a pattern of Republican dominance in a state where all 77 counties voted for President Donald Trump in the 2024 presidential election.

While voters in other traditionally Republican states helped reshape the national political landscape, Oklahoma's election results reflected a different direction.

For Native communities, the Nov. 3 election will be remembered for more than party victories or changes in political control.



In Minnesota, Peggy Flanagan, a member of the White Earth Nation, became the first Native American woman elected to the United States Senate. In her victory speech Flannagan said, "Be inspired by the fact that with grit and determination and the resilience of our people, whichever one of you is next, you're going to get here a lot faster. Because if Auntie Peggy can do it, you can do it, too."

For generations, Native people have fought for recognition, representation and a meaningful voice in decisions affecting their communities, lands, cultures and future generations.

The election results demonstrate that Native women are not simply participating in the political process, they are increasingly taking positions of leadership and helping shape the direction of the country.

As Flanagan reminded supporters on election night, the significance of these victories extends beyond those elected. It also belongs to the young people watching, learning and imagining what may be possible for their own futures.

For Native daughters and sons across Indian Country, the message was clear … the doors that once seemed impossible to open are beginning to open wider.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Victim Services Program hosts Domestic Violence Awareness event, honoring victims and promoting community support

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Raising awareness and supporting survivors during October's Domestic Violence Awareness month, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Social Services Victim Services Program, hosted a series of events to promote community action, raise public awareness and educate communities about the many resources the tribes have available for victims of domestic violence.

On Oct. 27, the domestic violence event took place at the Watonga Emergency Response Center in Watonga, Okla. Community members gathered to participate in a walk, light vigil and poetry reading. Other programs were also in attendance to offer resources and information.

With their booth displaying purple décor, a variety of pamphlets about resources were spread out across their table for the Victim's Services Program. Bridget Blackowl, victim services advocate for Social Services program said the Watonga event was part of their Domestic Violence Awareness month event and was their third community event. Previous events were held Oct. 13 in Hammon, Okla., and on Oct. 20 in Seiling, Okla.

"It turned out really good. I'm glad we brought this event to this community and they were able to enjoy themselves, participate and bring forth information to us, so we can plan for future events," Blackowl said.

The overall goal, Blackowl said was to bring families in and let them have a voice. If they know anyone or are ever in a domestic violence situation, if they were affected it, it's showing them the program cares and that the people matter.

"We provide direct services to victims and survivors of violence and crime. The program strives to empower families, provide practical support, and resources. While services to tribal members and other Native Americans remain the priority and focus of the program, no person shall be denied access to these services," Blackowl said.

Victim services provided by the program includes assistance with food, shelter, clothing, transportation, assistance with protective orders, victim and court advocacy, crisis intervention, referral services for legal assistance and counseling and community outreach. Services are available to Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal citizens, or any victim of crimes living within the tribal jurisdiction, which includes, Beckham, Blaine, Canadian, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Kingfisher, Major, Roger Mills, Washita and Woodward.

With American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) women and girls experiencing higher rates of violence and experiencing violence more commonly by non-AI/AN perpetrators, victims of violence are less likely to receive needed services, according to statistics provided by National Congress of American Indians' *Data on Violence Against American Indian and Alaska Native Women and Girls*.

As the event progressed, participants were encouraged to take part in a walk and light vigil, where all took a moment of silence to honor and remember victims who have been affected by domestic violence. Attendees also took part in art activities, displaying their creative side, painting and displaying healing portraits for the occasion.

Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen Codi Gonzalez, from Watonga wanted to participate in the event to support the efforts of awareness, as she had a friend and classmate that she lost to the epidemic.

"I had a classmate, she was a victim of domestic violence and she was killed by her boyfriend a couple years back here in the Watonga. Her name was Karlie Pierce," Gonzalez said.

Pierce, who had four children, was murdered in 2017 in a domestic violence situation. Wearing a t-shirt with Pierce's name, Gonzalez also participated in the walk and light vigil, hoping to bring more awareness to domestic violence and bring honor to the many victims, such as her classmate.

"You never forget the people you grow up with and I wanted to attend the awareness event in memory of her," Gonzalez said.

Also, from the Watonga community attending the event, Andrea Doctor believes domestic violence is an important subject all the way around.



Bridget Blackowl, victim services advocate for Social Services program and Madelynn Byrd, from Watonga, Okla., at the domestic violence awareness event held in Watonga. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)



Mavis Morton, 12, showing her artwork she created in honor of domestic violence awareness.

"With October being domestic abuse awareness month, I wanted to participate and help spread some information and learn," Doctor said.

Not only being a victim of domestic violence herself, Doctor knows of many that have been affected by the epidemic in her community, including friends and people she grew up with. Participating in the event was important, Doctor said, because for people who are faced with domestic violence, or who are a victim of domestic violence, can feel like there's not enough help out there.

"To be able to come to events like this and see there are all these supporters that can help with the support, and other people know there are ways to get out of it, that people are willing to help, I think it's great," Doctor said.

And to others who may feel afraid to reach out for help or may be facing domestic violence situations, Doctor urges victims to tell someone.

"Always tell someone, don't be afraid to reach out for help and never feel ashamed," Doctor said.

For Victims Services assistance, call 1-833-488-4887 or email victimservices@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov.

RAIN'S LAW

continued from pg. 2



Melinda Sutton and Darien Chebahtah from the Tribal Office of Recovery (TOR) teach students about Narcan and overdose signs/symptoms.

concerns and supporting classmates experiencing cyberbullying.

Brenda Louthan, counselor at Geary Public Schools, shared that students continued discussing the activities after the presentations.

"My students have talked about how much they enjoyed the hands-on learning experience. They felt it was very informative and beneficial. They were able to learn about adults they could trust, impact of drugs in their life, ways to care for their mental health, and much much more. This was a great opportunity for our students, staff, and community to build relationships beyond the classroom," Louthan said.

School administrators and educators expressed appreciation for the outreach and its importance in helping students make informed decisions.

Riverside Superintendent Eric Bilderback shared, "The Rain's Law (HB 1484) presentation was very impactful and definitely appreciated at Riverside El Reno. We think it is very important that our young people understand the impact and dangers associated with drugs and in this case fentanyl can have on them and their loved ones."

Linda Hulbutta, Director of Indian Education for El Reno High School, also expressed her appreciation.

"I am so thankful for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Health for educating our staff and students on the dangers of fentanyl. Their presentation was eye opening!" Hulbutta exclaimed.

Katie Carnott, counselor at Etta Dale Junior High, emphasized the lasting value of prevention education.

"Educating our youth about Rain's Law today empowers them to make informed choices, stand up for what is right, and build a safer, more responsible and well-informed community tomorrow," Carnott said.

Although the presentations took different approaches, they shared a common goal: helping students recognize potential dangers, make safe choices and understand that they do not have to face difficult situations alone.

Through these collaborative efforts, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Health continues its commitment to youth wellness, strengthening community partnerships and providing prevention education that extends beyond the classroom.

Help is available. Anyone experiencing emotional distress or concerned about someone else can call or text 988 to reach the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline. In an immediate emergency, call 911.

The interactive presentations and materials used in the classrooms are free and available to any school district. For more information, contact Christina Sharp, Health Education Coordinator at CAHED@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov.

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RED TIPI PLUMBING
Veteran Owned

BAAJA

continued from pg. 5

Supporters of the bipartisan legislation say it would speed up federal permitting, lower energy costs and encourage infrastructure development.

The bill's sponsors, including Sens. Shelley Moore Capito, R-W.Va., Mike Lee, R-Utah, Sheldon Whitehouse, D-R.I., and Martin Heinrich, D-N.M., released a revised version Saturday that they said addressed concerns raised by tribal leaders and other groups.

Heinrich said the revisions would strengthen tribal consultation while helping communities access more affordable energy and create jobs.

However, tribal leaders at Monday's rally argued the changes still did not do enough to protect sacred sites or ensure Native communities have a voice in federal decisions.

King urged lawmakers to remove the historic preservation provisions.

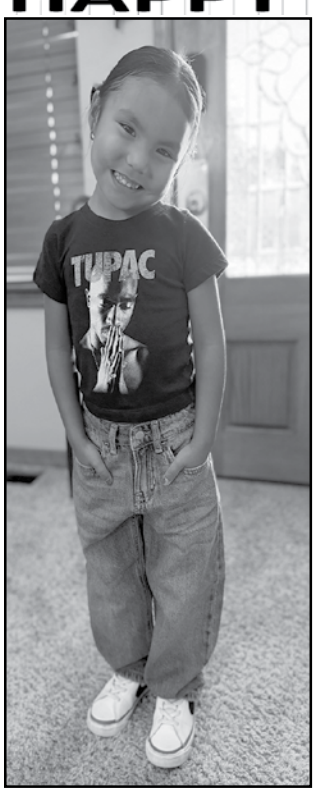
"Progress should never require us to silence the people it's supposed to serve," King said.

Monday evening's vote is a procedural step that would allow the Senate to begin considering the legislation, rather than a final decision on whether to pass it.

Gaylord News is a reporting project of the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. For more stories by Gaylord News go to GaylordNews.net.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



Happy 4th Birthday to our baby girl, Yana! We love you so much! -Mama, Mom, Wesley & JT



Happy Birthday Mom! Wishing you many, many more years filled with love, happiness and countless blessings. We love you so much and hope your day is as special as you are. May God continue to bless you with many more beautiful years ahead! Enjoy your day~

SCAN ME

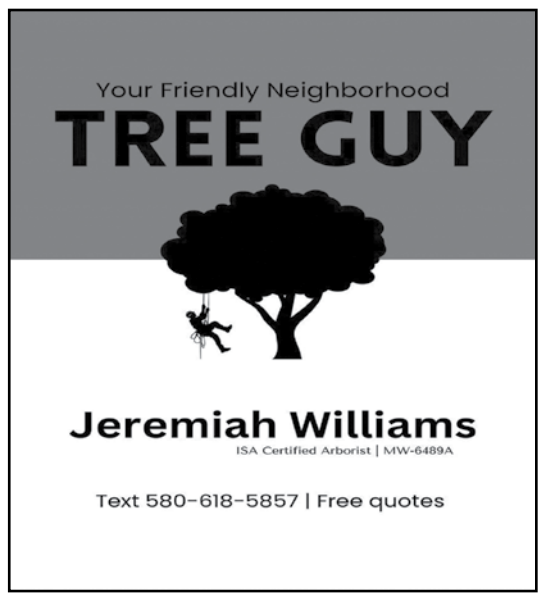
Scan QR Code to download the Tribal Tribune on any mobile device

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Gia Poo Pre-K's October WOW Student of the Month









LEGAL NOTICES

CIV-2023-0089

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED NOV 02 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
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DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of:

AARON SLEEPER
Petitioner,

VS.

KYLIE SAPCUTT
Respondent,

Case No. CIV-2023-0089

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **AARON SLEEPER UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **9th** day of **DECEMBER 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 2nd day of November, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2026-0055

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED NOV 04 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
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IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of:

DANIEL WHITECROW
Petitioner,

Vs.

SAVANAH STEFFES
Respondent,

Case No. CIV-2026-0055

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **SAVANAH STEFFES UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **16th** day of **DECEMBER 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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  - 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 4th day of November, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

Calendar of Events

Graduation Dance in Honor of Marietta Jones

Nov. 28, 2026 at the Geary Emergency Response Center in Geary, Okla. College signing at 1 p.m., Gourd dance at 3 p.m. and dinner at 6 p.m.

MC James Sleeper, HS James Redbird Jr., HMD Bruce Whiteman, HLD Angela Littleman, HLB Eugene Blackbear IV, HLG Caroline Blackwolf, AD Mikey Goodmedicine and Co-Host Star Hawk Society, Honored Veteran Michelle Tippeconnic and Honored Elder Eloise Rice.

Graduation Dance in Honor Tyrone Little Coyote

Dec. 26, 2026 at the Canton Emergency Response Center in Canton, Okla. Gourd dance at 3 p.m., supper at 5 p.m., with dance to follow. Sponosred by the family. For more information contact Richard Williams at 405-482-8123, Gail Williams at 405-312-4684 or Anna Williams at 405-479-5275.

MC Willie Bullcoming, HS Guy Hicks III and Watan Family, HMD Merlin Little Thunder, HLD Margaret Behan, HLGD Josephina Marie Lopez, age 6, HLBD Eli Williams, age 10, Honored Elders Erwin Bull and Jennifer Hill, AD Tracy Littleraven.

PG-2026-0024

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
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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:

H.A.C-A.
Minor Child,

Case No. PG-2026-0024

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

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

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **16th** day of **DECEMBER 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 4th day of November, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PG-2024-0032

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED NOV 04 2026
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IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

T.S-G.
C.G.
A.G.
K.G.
Minor Children,

Case No. PG-2024-0032

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **NICHOLE SHARP UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **16th** day of **DECEMBER 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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  - 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 4th day of November, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2026-0039

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 27 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
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IN THE TRIAL COURT
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

KYAH CHAFFOLD
Plaintiff,

VS.

LASHANIQUE MASON
Defendant,

Case No. CIV-2026-0039

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **LASHANIQUE MASON UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the **2nd** day of **DECEMBER 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 27th day of October, 2026.

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CIV-2026-0068

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 22 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
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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.

BRAD PALMER, SR.
Respondent,

Case No. CIV-2026-0068

CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES TO: BRAD PALMER, SR.
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

P-2026-0001

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED OCT 19 2026
IN THE TRIAL COURT
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FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Estate of:

MILLICENT YOUNGBEAR
DOB: 06/09/1959
DOD: 04/19/2024
Deceased.

Case No. P-2026-0001

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, on October 7, 2026, the Trial Court appointed a personal representative for the Estate of Millicent Youngbear and directed that a notice to creditors issue by publication. All creditors having claims against Millicent Youngbear, deceased, are required to present the claims, together with a description of all security interests and other collateral, if any, held with respect to each claim, to the Court Clerk for consideration on or before the presentment deadline stated below, or the claims will be forever barred. *Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes of Okla. Law & Order Code* Tit. II, subpt. B, § 11(a)(3).

Presentment deadline: **12/16/26 at 10 AM**

Present claims to: TRIAL COURT CLERK
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIAL COURT
P.O. Box 102, Concho, OK 73022

ADDITIONALLY, the final probate hearing in the above-styled case, including consideration of any creditor claims, is set before the Cheyenne Arapaho Trial Court, Tribal Justice Center, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, OK 73022, at 10 A.M. CST on 12/16/26.

ORDERED AND DATED this 9th day of October, 2026.

2026.10.09
10:34:29
-05'00'

OBITUARIES

Norma Jean Fisher

Norma Jean Fisher, Nexana'hane'e (Two Kills Woman), age 73, longtime Clinton resident, was born Dec. 20, 1952, in Clinton, Okla., to Langburn "Happy" and Imogene (Chapman) Fisher, and passed away peacefully Oct. 22, 2026, in Oklahoma City, surrounded by her loving family.

Norma was raised on the family farm in the Deer Creek community, just south of Thomas, Okla. She attended Custer City Schools, graduating with the Class of 1972. Growing up on the farm helped shape her strong work ethic, her appreciation for life's simple blessings, and the deep love she carried for her family, community and heritage throughout her life.

Norma was a faithful member of the Clinton Bethel Mennonite Church, where she was lovingly considered one of the church's "grandmothers." Her faith was an important part of her life, and she believed in putting that faith into action through kindness, generosity and service to others. She was always willing to lend a helping hand, offer encouragement, or simply be there for someone who needed her.

For more than 35 years, Norma dedicated her professional life to Indian Health Services, where she served her community with compassion and commitment. Following her retirement, she certainly didn't slow down. Instead, she devoted even more of her time to helping others, becoming one of those familiar faces around Clinton that everyone seemed to know and love.

Norma spent countless hours volunteering throughout the community. She was especially well known for her many years of service at the Clinton Mission House, where she faithfully gave her time to help those in need. She was also a longtime volunteer with the Clinton Regional Hospital Auxiliary, spending many hours assisting in the hospital gift shop. Norma was a lifetime member of Eastern Star Chapter No. 207, an organization that reflected her lifelong commitment to fellowship and service.

Even in retirement, Norma enjoyed staying busy and being around people. She worked at Lee Hometown Funeral Home, where her friendly smile and caring personality brought comfort to families during difficult times. She could also frequently be found helping at her daughter Angie's flower shop, the Pink Zebra, and at Café Clinton. No matter where she was, Norma had a special way of making people feel welcome. She never seemed to meet a stranger, and her genuine kindness left a lasting impression on everyone she encountered.

Norma was deeply proud of her Cheyenne and Arapaho heritage. As a tribal historian, she carried a tremendous amount of knowledge about the history, traditions, language, and songs of her people. She understood the importance of preserving those traditions and took great pride in sharing her knowledge with the younger generations. Whether she was teaching traditional ways, sharing Native songs, or passing along the stories of her ancestors, Norma wanted to make certain that the history and culture of her people would continue to live on.

Her love for her heritage was also reflected in the many powwows, tribal gatherings, and cultural activities she attended throughout her life. She enjoyed visiting with friends and family, celebrating her traditions, and being surrounded by the people and culture she loved so dearly.

Norma was also wonderfully talented with her hands. She enjoyed sewing and making her own dresses, quilting, and working on all kinds of crafts. Each project was another opportunity to express her creativity and make something special. Whether it was a beautiful quilt or a handmade dress, she took pride in her work and enjoyed sharing her talents with others.

As much as Norma loved her church, her community, and her heritage, nothing brought her greater happiness than her family. Her daughter Angie, and her grandchildren were the pride and joy of her life. She especially loved attending her grandchildren's sporting events and could often be found cheering them on from the stands. If one of her grandchildren had a game or an activity, Norma wanted to be there. She was their biggest supporter and treasured every opportunity to make memories with them.

She also enjoyed attending concerts, visiting with family and friends, and simply being involved in whatever was happening around her. Norma was not someone who liked to sit on the sidelines of life. She wanted to be part of it, and more importantly, she wanted to make a difference.

Norma lived a life of service, but she never seemed to think of what she did as anything extraordinary. Helping others was simply who she was. Whether she was volunteering at the Mission House, comforting a family at the funeral home, arranging flowers, teaching a young person about their heritage, or cheering on her grandchildren, she gave freely of her time and her heart.

Her passing leaves a tremendous void in the lives of her family, her church, her tribal community, and the many friends she made throughout the years. Yet her legacy will continue through the lives she touched, the traditions she helped preserve, the lessons she taught, and the love she shared so generously.



Norma was preceded in death by her parents, Langburn "Happy" and Imogene Fisher, her siblings, Lodema Fisher, Langburn Fisher, Erma Tsotaddle, Bobby Fisher, Lionel "Chief" Fisher, and her infant sister Deva Fisher, her grandparents, John and Sarah Flyingout Heap-of-Birds, Nathal Fisher, Erma Fisher, and Juanita Fisher and her nieces and nephews, Carrie Fisher, Wilbur Spang Jr. and Mary Jane.

She is survived by her loving daughter Angie Newcomb and her husband Chris of Clinton, her siblings, Yvonneda "Henry" Thompson and her husband O.T., Carol Gowdy and her husband Darren, Shirley Williams and her husband Ray, Eugene Fisher and Edith Fisher.

She is also survived by her beloved grandchildren, Ty Newcomb and his wife Mikah, Trey Newcomb, and Addison Newcomb; and her nieces and nephews, Eric Hernandez, Penny Roe, Michael Fisher, Shelley Fisher, Makyla Adrian and her husband Paul, Ryan King and his wife Jessica, Sarah King, Tanya Thompson, David Ridgebear, Geni Gowdy, Cody Gowdy, Chase Gowdy, and Aaron Williams, along with numerous other extended family members, tribal relatives, church family, and countless friends.

Norma Jean Fisher lived her life with a servant's heart, a deep love for her family, and an unwavering pride in her heritage. She gave so much of herself to others, never asking for anything in return. Her life was a beautiful example of faith, kindness, and the importance of remembering where we come from while helping those who will follow after us.

Norma may no longer be with us in person, but her love, her wisdom, and the traditions she worked so hard to preserve will continue to live on for generations to come.

Wake services were held Oct. 26 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Funeral services were held Oct. 27 at the Cornerstone Church in Clinton, officiated by Rev. Gerald Panana, followed by an interment at the Clinton Cemetery.

Betty Zane Gould

Betty Zane Gould, age 69, of Weatherford, Okla., was born Nov. 26, 1956, in Clinton, Okla., to Jay Gould and Belva (Naranjo) Hicks, and passed away Nov. 1, 2026, in Oklahoma City.

Betty spent her childhood living in several different places. She attended elementary school in Lakeside, Colo., before moving to Weatherford, where she attended junior high school. She later attended Fort Sill Indian School, where she graduated from high school. Betty had a strong desire for education and continued her studies at Rose State College before attending the University of Central Oklahoma, where she earned her master's degree in political science in 1986. Betty was an exceptionally intelligent woman who valued education, knowledge and the opportunities they could provide.

Following her education, Betty worked for a short time with the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) in Oklahoma City before beginning what would become a distinguished career of more than 30 years with the Indian Health Service (IHS). Much of her career was spent working in Washington, D.C., and Albuquerque, N.M. Through her dedication and years of service, Betty built a career she could be proud of, eventually retiring in 2017.

Outside of her professional life, Betty was a woman who truly enjoyed living life to the fullest. She loved traveling and especially enjoyed taking her family on trips, creating memories and experiences they would cherish for years to come. She had a great love for rock and roll music and enjoyed sharing that passion with those around her.

Betty also had a wonderful sense of style. She always wanted to look her best, and she made sure her family did, too. She loved keeping up with the latest fashions and making certain her loved ones were dressed just as stylishly as she was. Looking good was important to Betty, but making sure her family was taken care of meant even more.

Above all else, Betty was devoted to her family. She was a generous and giving person who was always doing something for someone else. Whether it was helping a loved one, planning a family trip, or simply spending time with her children and grandchildren, Betty found her greatest happiness in being surrounded by those she loved. She had a giving heart and was always thinking of others, often putting their needs before her own.

Betty will be remembered for her intelligence, her dedication to her career, her love of music and travel, her fashionable style, and most importantly, the tremendous love she had for her family. Her kindness, generosity, and the many wonderful memories she created will remain in the hearts of those who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Jay Gould and Belva Hicks, her brothers, William Gould, George Gould, John Gould and Melvin Zwartz, her infant sister Sandra Gould, her infant brother Douglas Gould, her niece Jody Sankadota, her granddaughter Kyra Zane Marie Rutledge and her foster father Melton Cotrell.



Betty is survived by her sons, Sean Hamilton and Jemerson Gould, both of Weatherford, her sisters, Lula Sankadota, Debrah Gould and Lynn Littlehawk, all of Weatherford and Glenda Cotrell and Michelle Kautz, both of Denver, Colo., her foster mother Betty Cottrell, her brothers, Anthony Gould and Michael Gould, both of Clinton, Clifford RomanNose of Hammon, and Allen Cottrell and Will Cottrell, both of Denver. She is also survived by numerous beloved grandchildren, nieces, nephews, extended family members, friends, and former coworkers who will forever cherish her memory.

An all-night wake service was held Nov. 5 in Weatherford, Okla. Funeral services were held Nov. 6 at the Clinton Emergeny Response Center, followed by an interment at the Colony Indian Cemetery under the direction of Lee Home-Town Funeral Home.

George Bryan Sykes

George "Bryan" Sykes, age 70, passed away on Oct. 22, 2026, following a tragic car accident.

Born on Jan. 8, 1956, in Wichita, Kansas, to George and Ermaleen Sykes, Bryan grew up as an Army brat, moving frequently during his youth. Along the way, he participated in the Boy Scouts, played football and lived for a time in Panama before his family eventually settled in El Reno, Okla.Following in the footsteps of a military upbringing, Bryan joined the U.S. Army, proudly serving his country as a U.S. Army Tanker stationed in Germany, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Knox, Kentucky.

After completing his military service, Bryan focused on his education, earning a bachelor's degree in organizational leadership. He dedicated much of his professional life to serving others, working as a director for several programs within the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Notably, he led the Vocational Rehabilitation Program and served as the tribe's first director of the Office of Veterans Affairs, ensuring fellow veterans received the care and benefits they earned.

Bryan was an accomplished professional bowler and a talented musician. He spent several years playing the drums with his band, Blind Saint, highlighted by several memorable performances at the Oklahoma State Fair. His passion for bowling was equally undeniable, marked by several perfect 300 games, high-series rings, and tournament jackets. More than his achievements, Bryan will be remembered for his vibrant personality. He was always quick to bring humor to any situation and possessed a rare gift for contributing meaningfully to every single conversation.



Bryan is survived by his loving family, his mother Ermaleen Sykes, his son Timothy Bryan Sykes and wife Heather, his daughter Kristan Neufeld and husband Kale, his brothers, John Sykes and wife Carol, and Terry Sykes and wife Sandra and his sister Kimberly (Sykes) Platt. He also leaves behind a legacy through several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and numerous beloved nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his father George Everett Sykes, his son George Michael Cecil and wife Vicki Yoder.

Graveside services were held Nov. 12 at the El Reno Cemetery in El Reno, Okla.

Ernestine Goss

Ernestine Goss, affectionately known as "Peep," was born on May 26, 1969, in Long Beach, Calif., to Harold and Pauline (Ridgebear) Goss. A proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, Peep lived life in her own way, with a free spirit, an adventurous heart and a personality that could never be forgotten.

Peep was one of a kind. She loved going anywhere and was always ready for the next adventure. It didn't matter where life took her, she was happy as long as she was making memories along the way. She loved talking to anyone who was willing to talk, listening to upbeat music, and, most of all, being a grandma.

Peep had a way of making life interesting. She loved to laugh, visit, travel, and enjoy herself. She was never one to turn down a good time. She lived life with a spirit that was uniquely hers. Family was an important part of Peep's life.

She is survived by her partner, Esteban Prieto, her children, Randa Goss, Christopher Salazar and his wife Eva, Christina McHenry and her husband, son, Lorrie Salazar and Lola, Shawnday and Cassie Salazar. She also leaves behind her beloved grandchildren, J. William, Isabela, Leo, Charlie, Edilan, Alisabeth, Caiden, Yarel and Brandon. She is also survived by her siblings Randy Goss and his wife Margaret of San Antonio, Texas, Blackwolf Goss, and her sister Marie Pratt; her extended siblings Sarah, Valerie, and Flying-Coyote and her best friend of more than 30 years, Jodi Jones, whose friendship was a special and lasting part of her life.

Peep was preceded in death by her parents, Harold and Pauline Goss, Randolph and Marie Goss, her son Nick Salazar, her niece Sydney Goss and her nephew Isaiah Potter.



She was a daughter, mother, grandmother, sister, partner, and friend. But to those who knew and loved her, she was simply Peep.

A visitation was held Nov. 5 at the Funeral Home Chapel in Tulsa, Okla. Funeral services were held Nov. 6, at the same venue, under the direction of Butler-Stumpff & Dyer Funeral Home.

ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

Anthony Doctor, Watonga High School



Coming into the season with a determined mindset, tribal youth, Anthony Doctor, 17, looks forward to his senior year of high school football, hoping to give his all in his final moments on the gridiron field.

Standing 6 foot tall, Doctor plays defensive tackle, defensive end, and offensive tackle and left tackle, playing on both sides for the Watonga High School Football team.

Born in Kingfisher, Okla., and raised in Watonga, Okla., Doctor first began playing football when he was in the sixth grade, mostly gaining interest from watching the sport and then once get got a little bigger, he was encouraged to join the football team.

"Going into sixth grade, I got a little bigger, then my grandpa was like you should join and then kind of joined after that," Doctor said.

Since joining football, what Doctor has come to love most about the sport is the competitiveness that comes along with it.

"I love to compete, it's really competitive and I just like the ability to compete," Doctor said.

Doctor's motivation to continue playing football comes from his family and his grandmother.

"When I first started playing it was my grandma, but then she passed, ever since then it's really been for her and my whole family, just trying to build something I guess," Doctor said.

Entering his senior year of his football season, what Doctor looks forward to the most is senior night and being able to have all his family there and getting recognition.

With the team having a slow start to the season, being 2-6 so far in the season, Doctor believes their record doesn't depict the team's heart as he believes they are a good team, but a young team.

"I've just been really glad to show them how it is and give them the experience," Doctor said.

And that's what Doctor's goal has become for the season, to become a better teammate overall and to have fun.

"I didn't have fun in the past season, I just want to go out there, compete and have fun and become a better teammate," Doctor said.

Depicting a better season for his senior year, Doctor feels sad knowing it'll be his last for high school football.

"It's not what I wish for, but It's been better, having a better overall season, too. Because I spent all four years here, I'll miss everybody, but also I'm excited to see what the future holds too. I worked hard for years and I'll continue to work," Doctor said.

Maintaining a 3.6 GPA, Doctor prioritizes school first because of his family.

"My grandma really made school first before anything and then my mom really forced it too. Then my sister's been a big part too, just forcing the school first before anything," Doctor said.

Playing football, what Doctor hoped to accomplish the most was getting to the next level, as he worked hard the past summer before the summer and believes he had a pretty good season so far.

"I'm just hoping to go to the next level," Doctor said.

Through his years playing football, Doctor has grown as a player by having to become a better team player, as he had to start halfway through his freshman year.

"It got out the jitters, and I become a better overall teammate, too, and a better player. It's really helped me be able to communicate and be really loud on the field and become a better overall person and a better teammate," Doctor said.

Practicing Monday through Thursday and working out by himself on the weekends, Doctor stays consistent with conditioning as he takes it seriously.

"I don't try to jog it most of the time, I try to sprint and just do push-ups and sit ups at home. I also try to stay in the weight room, we got a fifth hour, all the football players lift together. So, it's like a camaraderie thing. I like that," Doctor said.

Ending his senior year, what kind of player Doctor hopes to be remember as is the loud player, but also as somebody who went out there and competed.

"Didn't complain and went out there and had fun, put that hard work in and came to practice every day," Doctor said.

Overall, what football has taught Doctor the most is self-control, especially when he's under pressure.

"Just when I'm in situations, enjoy yourself, relax and let it play out. It also taught me you don't lose, you just learn. Every loss is just a new lesson," Doctor said.

Catching the glimpse of Friday night lights as the hometown crowd cheers from the sidelines will be the aura forever imbedded in Doctor's memories as he ponders his moments on the field.

"Makes me feel great, knowing that people come out and knowing that they're supporting me, and that they want to watch me be good and play good. The euphoria of just running out and knowing that the fans are there for me and cheering, and yelling feels good, it feels great on the field. I feel like it feels like home," Doctor said.

After graduation, Doctor hopes to attend college and continue playing football. However, if not, he gopes to further his education and student accounting and business.

Anthony's mother is Trista Medicinebear. His grandfather is Kurt Medicinebear and his grandmother is Cynthia "Molly" Medicinebear. His siblings include Jade Medicinebear and Aubriana Hutchinson.

