

# Cheyenne & Arapaho TRIBAL TRIBUNE

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## Despite Supreme Court filing on election, Cheyenne and Arapaho Governor looks forward to second term

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

Despite a Supreme Court filing seeking to overturn the general election results of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on Nov. 12, 2021, Gov. Reggie Wassana is optimistically looking ahead to his second term.

Gov. Wassana won both the primary and general elections by, what most people refer to, as a 'landslide.' It was the first time a sitting governor had been re-elected to a second term consecutively.

The general election results put Gov. Wassana and his running mate, incumbent Lt. Gov. Gib Miles in a solid winning lead with 1,362 total votes, or 72.18%. Runner ups were the team of Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton with 525 total votes or 27.82%.

Blackbear/Hamilton filed an election challenge to the general election results, the process of absentee ballot mailings, lack of security at polling sites and the October primary election referendum vote for lowering the Tribes' blood quantum for enrollment from one-quarter to one-eighth. The Supreme Court held a hearing on Nov. 23 and will be issuing a ruling on Dec. 2.

Although it seems highly unlikely the election will be overturned, based on the percentage of voters who voted for the Wassana/Miles team, there are pertinent election process-

ing issues that may be directly addressed by the Supreme Court.

"I believe the people have spoken on who they want to represent them as the governor of the tribe. I believe it's a vote of confidence and I believe people are more than satisfied with the way we've ran the tribe and the administration," Gov. Wassana said. "By no means are we perfect and we all strive to get to that point, but you know whenever we have this type of government set up it's sometimes a little bit harder to get to point A to point B because we have a four-branch system and sometimes there can be obstacles that we have to go through to make anything successful."

Gov. Wassana said he thinks the numbers speak for themselves in the final general election tally and he sees it as a vote of confidence.

"It was an overwhelming vote of confidence," he said.

### The Last Four Years

In looking back at his last four years as governor, Wassana said their biggest, unprecedented challenge was the pandemic.

"The COVID-19 virus wasn't something we had ever experienced or ever thought about happening. At first, we felt it was going to be something that would last weeks or a few months, but not ever thinking it would still be going on two years down the road," Wassana said.



Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana speaks at the grand opening of the Concho Food Pantry July 2021.

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## Vaccine Lottery



(CONCHO, OK) On Nov. 18, 2021 the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' held one of the largest vaccination incentive lotteries in the state of Oklahoma.

The goal? To promote COVID-19 vaccines among tribal members and employees.

The lottery drawing was broadcasted live via CATV Facebook page with non-tribal volunteers drawing names out of several hoppers.

The first drawing was for 100 - \$250 gift cards for tribal members 12-17 years of age. The second phase of drawings was for tribal members ranging from a grand prize of a 2021 Ford EcoSport SE, two chances to win \$15,000, three chances to win \$10,000, to 50 chances to win \$1,000, as well as Surface Pro X, iPad Pro and Pencil, iPhone 13 Pro Max and Samsung Galaxy S21 Ultra 5G. The last two drawings were for tribal employees and casino employees.

Winners were announced live, with prizes being distributed beginning Nov. 29.

To be entered individuals had to submit proof of vaccination and applied for the \$200 Visa card prior to the deadline date of Nov. 12, 2021. The full list of winners will be published via Social Media after all information has been verified and each winner has been notified.



Jeniece Hoffman, Cheyenne and Arapaho Head Start director, chooses a name from the hopper for the tribal member lottery. (Photos / Rosemary Stephens)

## Election challenge filing by governor/ lieutenant governor candidates Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

(CONCHO, OK) On Nov. 12, 2021 Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes governor/lieutenant governor candidates, Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton filed a motion in the Supreme Court against the Election Commission of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, in their official capacity, asking for relief in areas concerning the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes 2021 elections.

In the motion, Blackbear/Hamilton state they filed an election challenge pertaining to the Nov. 2 General Election, with the Election Commission on Nov. 9, 2021.

In their brief, Blackbear/Hamilton laid out several areas of concern in the election process. Among them was no official public posting from the Election Commission certifying the election results within the 24 hour timeline laid out in the 2006 Constitution. Disputing the validity of the referendum question of lowering the tribes' blood quantum requirements on the October 2021 primary election ballots, citing the 2006 Constitu-

tion Article XIII-Amendments, Section 1 Request for an Election and Section 2. Requirements. The motion states the referendum question of lowering the blood quantum should have been conducted through a special election within 90 days of passing the Legislature. Placing the question on the primary election ballot was 112 days after the Legislature passed the bill and was not a 'special election.'

Also calling into question were references of "incentives" offered by Lucky Star Casino to tribal members on Oct. 1, the grand opening of the new Watonga Hotel & Conference Center with incentives on Oct. 2, and the vaccination lottery incentives advertised that was held after the general election for tribal members and tribal employees who were fully vaccinated by Nov. 12. Also being referenced within the brief were lack of security personnel at all election polling sites and absentee ballots not being received by tribal members, ensuring the security of absentee

SC CHALLENGE / pg. 9

# Denver library renames branch library after John “Thunderbird Man” Emhoolah Jr.

By Montoya Whiteman, CATT Colorado Correspondent

(DENVER, COLO.) Following a two-year selection, research, and community voting process, the Byers Branch Library was renamed the John “Thunderbird Man” Emhoolah Jr. Branch Library on Nov. 13 at a community celebration in Denver, Colo.

A member of the Kiowa and Arapaho Tribes, John Emhoolah Jr. was a Korean war veteran serving in the U.S. Army 45<sup>th</sup> Thunderbird Division. John and his family lived for decades in Denver. He is recognized and admired as an Indigenous educator spanning a 50-year career serving Indigenous students.

John worked with many organizations including the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, director for the Adams County Five Star Schools Indian Education program (Denver), and Seattle Public Schools, and Green River Community College in Auburn, Wash. John passed away on April 21, 2021, at his home in Colorado at the age of 91.

City Librarian, Michelle Jeske, lead the community celebration at the newly renovated library. The agenda consisted of a land acknowledgement, opening prayer, honoring and traditional songs, gourd dancing, food, and celebration. Denver Mayor Michael B. Hancock spoke at the event including Denver Indigenous community members, and the Emhoolah-Cozad-White Shield families.

Mayor Hancock said, “people will be reminded of John Emhoolah’s contributions to his nations and his people.” He said, “When a child walks up the stairs to the library and asks, ‘Who is John Emhoolah?’ they will learn about his actions of freedom in serving his country.”

Erika Reyes Martinez, director of communications and community en-



Emhoolah Family Gourd dancers at the grand opening of the John ‘Thunderbird Man’ Emhoolah Jr. library in Denver, Colo. (Photo / Montoya Whiteman)

gagement for the Denver Public Library said the Denver Public Library Commission began considering a branch name in summer 2020. Library staff met with a variety of members from the community to discuss the branch renaming and Indigenous community members helped inform the process.

Throughout 2021 a diverse group of individuals were recruited to develop naming criteria followed by an open submission period seeking name recommendations from the community. Five finalists were identified from an impressive field of nominees for the community to vote on. They are,

Chief Black Kettle, recognized as one of the most prominent Cheyenne Peace Chiefs and member of the Council of 44. Chief Black Kettle survived the Sand Creek Massacre of Nov. 29, 1864, who was killed at the Washita Massacre on Nov. 17, 1868.

Chief Nawat (Left Hand) was a principal chief of the Southern Arapaho. He could speak multiple Native languages

and was a fluent English speaker. He was a negotiator who participated at the Treaty of Fort Laramie and the Fort Wise Council. He perished during the Sand Creek Massacre.

Esequiel “Kelly” Lovato, a Chicano activist, community leader who was instrumental in the creation of the La Alma Recreation Center. He was focused on serving underserved youth.

Helen L. Peterson who was appointed as the first director of the Mayor’s Committee on Human Relations in Denver in 1948. Ms. Peterson devoted her life to promoting equal rights, encouraging voter registration, and political involvement for minorities.

After a community vote, the number one choice was John “Thunderbird Man” Emhoolah Jr. Branch Library. The name was adopted by the Denver Library Commission in October 2021.

A Family Honors P’awh-Sote K’oot-Tho-Kee (Thunderbird Man)

Emhoolah’s family traveled from

THUNDERBIRD MAN / pg. 4

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# Jacksonville's Cummer Museum displays artwork by Cheyenne warriors in 1870s St. Augustine

By Matt Soergel, Florida Times-Union

They were prisoners of war, 72 warriors the U.S. government forcibly removed from their homeland on the Plains in 1875 and put on trains heading eastward across a strange country, bound for subtropical Jacksonville.

From there they got on a St. Johns River steamboat going south to the ancient city of St. Augustine, where its formidable fort would be their prison for the next three years.

From that steamboat, they would have passed right by what is now the riverfront Cummer Museum of Art & Gardens in Jacksonville.

Almost 150 years later, the Cummer is showcasing the art that three of those warriors, Cheyenne men, created during their imprisonment at Fort Marion, known today as the Castillo de San Marcos.

The drawings, done with colored pencils on Army ledger paper, show their lives before and after captivity. Richly detailed memories of hunting and courting and communing on the Plains, and images of prisoners' drills in Army uniforms, of St. Augustine and its lighthouse, of the train and steamboat that took them there.

The exhibition, called "Imprisoned but Empowered: Cheyenne Warrior Artists at Fort Marion," continues through the end of February at the museum at 829 Riverside Ave.

"We really wanted to focus on the men who created the works and their personal stories," said Holly Keris, chief curator at the Cummer. "Going from really lively, colorful remembrances to very strict, organized, almost



*Nock-ko-ist, also known as James Bear's Heart, Cheyenne, 'Three Warriors,' colored pencil on paper. (Courtesy photo)*

monochromatic, you can tell which part of their history obviously resonated more."

Remembering life at home

The Native American prisoners were captured in the Buffalo War of 1874-1875 and then exiled to Florida. Cheyenne, Kiowa, Comanche, Caddo and Arapaho warriors made up the 72 prisoners, whom the government tried to assimilate into Western culture while imprisoning them.

The Cummer show focus on three artists among the 15 Cheyenne at Fort Marion.

Nock-ko-ist, also known as James Bear's Heart, learned carpentry at a Black college in Virginia after his release from St. Augustine. He then returned to Cheyenne country, where he died of tuberculosis in 1882.

His drawings include

scenes of hunting turkeys and buffalo, of warriors with shields and headdresses and one of two warrior men courting women. He also drew Anastasia Island and the St. Augustine Lighthouse, as well as the steamboat and train that took him there.

Tickh-ke-matse, known as Squint Eyes, later went to work at the Smithsonian with an ethnographer "to create Southern Plains sign language and Cheyenne language resources," curators said. After going home, he worked as an Army scout, then lived with the Cheyenne in Montana, dying in 1932.

He drew pictures of sailing in St. Augustine, along with colorful images of warriors and his memories of hunting antelope and buffalo.

O-kuh-ha-tuh was known as Making Medicine

and David Pendleton Oak-erhater, taking the Pendleton name from a St. Augustine family. He became an Episcopalian deacon and served in Cheyenne communities. He lived until 1931, and the church made him a saint in 1985.

His work includes scenes of hunting and life on the Plains, alongside images of St. Augustine:

prisoners performing drills, shingling the roof of military barracks and giving archery lessons to women.

The work is from the Arthur and Shifra Silberman Collection at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum in Oklahoma City, Okla.

*A great curiosity*

Gordon Yellowman, chief curator of the show, is an en-

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# Rounds, Inhofe Introduce Indian Buffalo Management Act

U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.) joined Sens. Mike Rounds (R-S.D.), member of the Senate Indian Affairs Committee, Martin Heinrich (D-N.M.), Tina Smith (D-Minn.) and Ben Ray Lujan (D-N.M.) in introducing the bipartisan Indian Buffalo Management Act, legislation to create a permanent buffalo program at the U.S. Department of the Interior and help promote and develop tribal capacity to manage buffalo.

"The American buffalo is more than the state animal of Oklahoma — it is a respected and honored resource for Native American communities in Oklahoma and across the country. I'm proud to co-sponsor the Indian Buffalo Management Act, which will empower tribes to manage buffalo population, conserve habitats and restore cultural ties to the American buffalo," Inhofe said.

"The American buffalo is a treasured animal and resource for Native American communities across the United States," said Rounds. "The Indian Buffalo Management Act gives tribes the capacity to manage their buffalo populations, utilize the many benefits from buffalo and provide input into federal buffalo management policy. I am committed to helping tribes in South Dakota restore their historical and cultural ties to buffalo herds and make certain that this is a meaningful step for Native American communities."

Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. of the Cherokee Nation said, "This is really a great piece of legislation, and we are appreciative that Senator Inhofe has agreed to co-sponsor the bill in the Senate, as we are that Oklahoma Representatives Mullin, Cole, and Bice have in the House. The Cherokee Nation has reintegrated Buffalo into our culture owning a herd on our reservation for not only food sustainability but also the cultural significance to the Cherokee people. We are dedicated to reestablishing our oral and cultural traditions that were once passed down regularly

between generations and we therefore want to ensure that our buffalo herd has long term viability. The Indian Buffalo Management Act is a great step in that direction."

Chief Craig Harper of the Peoria Tribe of Oklahoma said, "We are very pleased to hear the news that Senator Inhofe has introduced the Indian Buffalo Management Act with a number of his Senate colleagues including Senators Rounds, Heinrich and others. The Oklahoma delegation is doing things right as Representatives Cole, Mullins and Bice have lent their names to the companion bill in the House. The Peoria Tribe has worked closely with the InterTribal Buffalo Council, and they have been helpful in the advancement of the reestablishing of our herd. Buffalo were of immense importance to the culture and diet of our people and we strongly support this legislation which will help Tribes establish and enhance such herds. This will also help with job creation. On behalf of the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, we thank Senator Inhofe and the other supporting legislators, in both chambers and on both sides of the aisle for this great bi-partisan legislation."

The Indian Buffalo Management Act provides secure, consistent funding for tribes and tribal organizations that have an established buffalo herd and management program, as well as provides the opportunity to expand the program to other interested tribes. The American buffalo is also referred to as bison.

The legislation creates a permanent buffalo restoration and management program within the Department of Interior to:

Promote and develop the capacity of tribes and tribal organizations to manage buffalo and buffalo habitat.

Protect and enhance buffalo herds for the maximum benefit of tribes.

Include tribes in the Interior Department's decision-making regarding buffalo.



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## SECOND TERM

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He said the pandemic forced decisions to shut down casinos and work with essential employees only, while still trying to provide for tribal members, making decisions to protect the most vulnerable tribal members.

"It kind of rendered us helpless at one point, we could no longer gather together in mass gatherings, transport people in vehicles, and being a social people, not interacting face to face was a huge challenge, not only in our tribal government but in our personal lives as well," Wassana said.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have lost many tribal members from COVID-19 in the past 24 months as the pandemic disproportionately impacted Native tribes across the country, including the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation.

According to new data released October 2021 by the Johns Hopkins Coronavirus Resource Center, American Indian and Alaska Native communities have been experiencing some of the highest rates of COVID-19 in the United States.

"I am most proud of how we've been handling the pandemic, with our COVID Task Force, our Dept. of Health and collaboration with the Clinton Indian Health Services," Wassana said. "And I wish I could say there is an end in sight, but I'm afraid we are in this for a time unforeseen, especially with the introduction of a new variant called Omicron that is new a new threat."

In addition to the handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, Wassana said the economic development of the tribes' enterprises are another source of pride for him and his administration.

"Our biggest endeavor was the new hotel/conference center and casino in Watonga, it was intense, and I'm proud of all the teamwork it took to complete this project in our first four years. I see



Gov. Reggie Wassana and Lt. Gov. Gib Miles (center) unveil the tribes' new Mobile Medical Unit in September 2021. Pictured l-r: Alan Fletcher, Dr. Derrell Cox, Brent Learned, Gov. Wassana, Lt. Gov. Miles, Darrell Flyingman, Charlene Wassana, Bonnie Kraft, Capt. Joe Bryant and Kateri Fletcher. (Photo / Rosemary Stephens)

it as a good thing our ability to actually start and finish a project of that magnitude, in spite of a global pandemic," Wassana said.

### Looking Ahead to the Next Four years

Wassana said he sees a lot of economic growth and tribal enrollment growth as he looks ahead into the next four years as governor.

"We have that Oklahoma City property we want to try to renovate and get that operational for services to our tribal members in the Oklahoma City and surrounding area, so that they don't have to drive out to Concho to receive services. And the Best Western we just purchased in El Reno. We owned all the property around it, about 96 acres, as well as the old Denny's, and we're looking at future development there that will generate millions of dollars back into the tribes," Wassana said.

Wassana also spoke of the land purchased in Woodward the tribes' are currently working to put into trust so it can be developed and a building an emergency response center in Geary, Okla.

"We are going to have to generate more revenue as we continue to try to assist more tribal members and as new tribal members are enrolled," Wassana said.

On the horizon for one of Wassana's biggest goals is the return of the Ft. Reno lands located in El Reno, Okla., back to the original owners, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Working behind the scenes for the past few months, Wassana said he is encouraged at the progress towards making this a reality and recently received some good news from the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA) about the land at Ft. Reno.

"The USDA is really positive about the return of the land, with a couple of conditions they will be more than happy to turn over the Ft. Reno lands back to the tribes and we're in the process of planning meetings now in Washington D.C to make those things happen, but when we get closer to the point where there are some signing ceremonies or something like that going on we will release more information," Wassana said.

If successful, Wassana's administration will be the first to accomplish what others have attempted to do for years. As 2022 approaches, Wassana said he and Lt. Gov. Miles will be looking at where the tribes are at and where they need to go, with the best staff and resources to better serve tribal members.

"We have a lot to look forward to, and in looking to the future, adding more tribal members, we want our services to help provide for our children and our grandchildren," Wassana said.

## THUNDERBIRD MAN

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Family member Deb Emhoolah attends the grand opening of the John "Thunderbird Man" Emhoolah Jr. library in Denver, Colo. (Photo / Montoya Whiteman)

near and far to celebrate the library renaming ceremony. John's wife, Geneva Emhoolah, came from a large family. Her sisters and their families participated in the honoring event and family who could not attend could see the event by livestream.

John's granddaughter Crystal White Shield and great granddaughter Joslyn Running Wolf represented the family. They shared special moments of John as a knowledge keeper and knowledge giver whose legacy lives on.

Colorado State Governor Jared Polis dedicated the Colorado State Flags flown at the Colorado State Capitol Building on Nov. 13, 2021, in honor of John Emhoolah. The family also received flown flags folded in the traditional thirteen-point style accompanied by a certificate of authenticity bearing the governor's signature and embossed state seal.

John volunteered and served advisory roles with organizations like the Denver March Powwow Committee, the Native American Resource Group at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, Denver Mayor's Advisory Council, Tesoro Cultural Center, History Colorado, Tallbull Memorial Council and more.

He was invited to special events for schools, meetings, and conferences in the non-profit and business sector carrying his message of traditional spiritual ways and prayer for all people.

Rationale to the Denver Public Branch Library Renaming

The Denver Public Library renamed the Byers Branch library as part of their commitment to equity. A library team researched over 25 branch library names to better understand the history of the individuals the branches are named after and their contributions.

Through this research, it was acknowledged that William N. Byers caused great harm to the Cheyenne and Arapaho people as a strong supporter of the Sand Creek Massacre. At the time, Byers was the owner and editor of the Rocky Mountain News that published Governor Evans's proclamation precipitating the horrific massacre in 1864.

The Denver Public Library renamed the branch to align with the library's values and is reflective of the rich and diverse Colorado history.

The branch opened in 1918 as one of Denver's five historic Carnegie Libraries and recently underwent a renovation as part of the Elevate Denver bond program passed by Denver voters in 2017.

The John "Thunderbird Man" Emhoolah, Jr. Branch Library is located at 675 Santa Fe Drive in Denver. Visit the Denver Public Library <http://denverlibrary.org/content/byers-branch-library> for more information. Stay connected by Facebook @tbirdman.dpl.

## CHEYENNE WARRIORS

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rolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes, for whom he is the director of language and culture. He's also an artist who contributed a work to the show inspired by the style of the Cheyenne warriors at Fort Marion.

He said their imprisonment and attempted assimilation, far from home, families, their way of life, "broke their spirits." And in their art he sees their longing for home.

Yellowman hopes the exhibition shows visitors the complexity of these warriors' lives.

"I'd want them to know who the artists were, where they came from," he said. "For them to understand that with limited art materials, they did an outstanding job, colored pencils and paper. And take away from that the understandings of limitation and confinement, limitation of resources and that they took full advantage of that. They survived. These drawings survived."

Under guard, the warriors were allowed to leave the

prison walls, becoming a great object of curiosity to residents and visitors in St. Augustine. They hunted sharks, gave archery lessons and were allowed to sell their art, a way to send money home.

"The tourists and the curio shops and the women of high society in that area had never seen that kind of artwork," Yellowman said.

Still, under the watchful eyes of their captors, with their hair cut short, wearing U.S. military uniforms, in a humid, strange place far from families, the prisoners knew they were far from free, he said.

"They found their freedom through their artwork," Yellowman said. "That's how they escaped being confined in their prison walls. They were very creative and thoughtful. They had vivid

imaginings that went beyond just creating artwork; they were just sitting down with almost Polaroid images of their life. That art really highlighted the loneliness, the lonesomeness, of not being home, not being free."

## Holiday Festivities & Weight Gain Struggles

day meals can be made healthier.

Most holiday meals are not bad for you if they are prepared properly added fat and sugar increase calories.

Cut away all visible fat from meat before cooking.

Roast poultry on a rack, so fat can drip away, and remove the skin before eating.

Remove fat from homemade soup; cool soups, and skim off the fat that rises to the surface; and use lots of vegetables.

Make sauce with fat-free broth or low-fat milk, thickened with flour.

Prepare fruit salads without dressing. Just enjoy the fruit.

Ask for salad dressing on side to dip your fork in before each bite, saving hundreds of calories (1 T dressing 100 calories)

Roast root vegetables after tossing with olive oil and seasonings instead of preparing a creamy vegetable casserole.

Use whole grain bread for stuffing

Substitute skim milk for

whole milk or cream in desert recipes

Decrease sugar in recipes by 1/4 cup

After meals, rest for a while and then take a walk with family to burn off some calories, look for activities or the family to enjoy such as bowling.

Here's a list of some tips that may help you during the holidays:

Before you have a holiday meal, take the edge off your appetite by eating a couple crackers.

Establish a plan for eating before you sit down and enjoy smaller servings.

Concentrate on social conversation; sit away from the food.

Don't tempt yourself; avoid having mixed nuts, candies and cookies available for grazing.

Opt for low-calorie beverages.

Eliminate appetizers. Try a chilled sparkling juice in a stemmed glass instead.

Don't give up the family favorites but enjoy them in moderation.

Stay active over the holidays. Take a walk and enjoy the winter wonderland.

Eat a nutritious snack before you attend parties. Choose treats such as fruit, low-fat yogurt, string cheese or a small handful of nuts. This will help you curb your appetite and make rational decisions about what to eat and what not to eat.

Contribute a healthy dish to the gathering. This is the perfect way to ensure there is something healthful for you and others to eat. Raw vegetables with low-fat dip, whole-grain crackers with low-fat cheese and fresh fruit are great choices.

Fill your plate with low-calorie items. Make up most of your plate with low-calorie foods like fruits, vegetables and lean proteins. And don't indulge on just any special treat. Instead of wasting calories on foods that you can have any time of the year, pick special items that are unique to the season and special to you.

Be mindful of your hunger level. Ask yourself how hungry

you really are before grabbing

for goodies. When indulging, focus on quality, not quantity. Eat slowly and savor every bite. Pay attention to the smell, taste and texture of each item.

Don't overdo holiday baking. Limit holiday baking to just one or two favorites and make them in small quantities. If you can't imagine holidays without a variety of treats, host a baked goods exchange so you'll have a small assortment of goodies.

Pick the right drink. Choose water or low-calorie drinks instead of eggnog, cider, and other high-calorie festive drinks. Alcoholic beverages contribute empty calories and can cause you to make poor judgments with food. Drink alcohol in moderation, if at all.

Visit the people, not the food. Move socializing away from the buffet or appetizer table to prevent mindless nibbling. Keep in mind what the holidays are truly about, spending time with family and

Tara Conway, MS, RD, LD, CDCES

C&A Diabetes Wellness Program

friends.

The 80/20 rule can help you keep some balance in your holiday routine while still enjoying what you love. The goal is to fill up on nutrient-rich food 80% of the time. This includes **high-fiber carbohydrates, lean protein, healthy fat, dairy, fruit, and vegetables.** And don't forget that exercise routine as well!

For a personalized weight management plan that meets your individual needs, consult a registered dietitian either at the Diabetes Wellness Center or the Clinton Service Unit.

For more information and tips on health and wellness contact Tara Conway at the Diabetes Wellness Program 405-422-7685 or toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27685 or by email, [tconway@cheyenne-andarapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:tconway@cheyenne-andarapaho-nsn.gov) or Jenna Crider at 405-422-7656 or toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27656 or by email, [jcrider@cheyenneandapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:jcrider@cheyenneandapaho-nsn.gov).



# Cheyenne and Arapaho youth take first place in 2021 Native Youth Business Plan competition

Latoya Lonelodge  
Staff Reporter

With the right determination and support system, dreams can become reality. Kiara Pekah, 16, can vouch for that, when she turned a school project into a first-place business competition plan.

Pekah may just be your average teenager, as she is in her junior year at Sovereign Community School (SCS) in Oklahoma City. In her ninth-grade year of school at SCS, Pekah said what started out as a school assignment given to her class by her teacher soon turned into the classroom forming different teams to participate in the 2020 Native Youth Business Plan Competition held in collaboration with First Nations, American Indigenous Business Leaders (AIBL), and The National Center for American Indian Enterprise Development (NCAIED).

“My teacher found out about it on Facebook and thought it would be cool for the students to do it as an assignment, and from the assignment we all participated in the classroom,” Pekah said.

Teams of youth participants would submit their business plans to compete in one of three divisions, including high school, college and university, and tribal college. Finalists for the competition would be selected to present their business plans at the onstage competition held at the AIBL and Reservation Economic Summit (RES) Conferences in Las Vegas, Nev.

At first, Pekah said as kids, they didn’t think they’d be going to Las Vegas to actually participate and

compete.

“After we participated, I think maybe a month later, we had gotten an email that we were actually invited to Vegas so it was really exciting. The teachers at Sovereign were a really good support system and they were pretty helpful in getting us there on the first year,” Pekah said.

In being invited to compete as finalists, Pekah said her team placed third in the competition with their business plan that was named Herbal Medicine Café.

“It was a café that we had planned to possibly have on campus at Sovereign Community Schools and the main goal of it was to make that connection between medicinal herbs that we could maybe find out about on our campus, and perhaps on reservations or on Oklahoma land,” Pekah said.

Pekah said the idea behind their first year’s competition plan was to make the connection between bringing medicinal herbs to a café.

“Just to show the health benefits of them, we wanted to share that with other students at the Sovereign Community Schools,” Pekah said.

Her teammates for the first year’s competition included Taloa Perkins and fellow Cheyenne and



Sovereign Community School places first in the high school team division for the 2021 Native Youth Business Plan competition. Pictured are team members Kiara Pekah, Cheyenne and Arapaho, Isabel WhiteEagle, Cheyenne and Arapaho, along with NCAIED staff members. (Courtesy photo)

Arapaho youth Isabel White Eagle.

In deciding to compete for a second time at the Native Youth Business Plan Competition that was scheduled to be held in July 2021 in Las Vegas, Pekah said she teamed up with White Eagle and together, they came up with a business plan involving a restaurant.

“A restaurant where the goal was to connect stories about the Indigenous food along with bringing it to the metro of Oklahoma City to make that tie,” Pekah said.

Despite getting a late start to

their business competition plan, Pekah said she and her teammate spent a lot of hours at the metropolitan library in downtown Oklahoma City during the summertime.

“We kind of had a late notice, we had an invitation from one of the directors of the competition and we had about a month to prepare, compared to other teams who started a month and a half earlier,” Pekah said.

Pekah said they spent constant hours in the study room trying to

pick back up on where they were from the first year’s competition to get the new plan into shape.

Deciding to go in the restaurant industry route for their business plan, Pekah said with the idea of creating an Indigenous restaurant, they had seen a lot of restaurants already opening up.

“The Wahpepah’s Kitchen in California and there is a Café Dojo in New Mexico, and we just kind of got those ideas from other restaurants, Oklahoma doesn’t have one

**BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION / pg. 7**

# CADOE Introduces Academic Excellence and Enrichment Program

By Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

(CONCHO, OK) Big plans are underway for the upcoming New Year in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Department of Education, as they get ready to implement a newly established academic program.

Introducing the Academic Excellence and Enrichment Program (AEE), set to begin in January 2022. The program will be the first stepping-stone in introducing a new tribally funded pilot program for various school districts in grades fifth through eighth.

Mahgan Muskett, federal program administrator for the Department of Education, said the need and idea to implement the AEE program came from the department’s previous grants with the STEP program, that had ran its course through 2019, and the NYCP program that is currently running with Clinton Public Schools.

“We took just different goals and objectives that were written into both of those grants and applied them to this pilot program

that will 100% tribally fund-ed,” Muskett said.

The AEE program will serve as a pilot program in its introductory stage for various participating school districts, such as El Reno, Darlington, Calumet, Kingfisher, Watonga, Canton, Seiling and Hammon.

Muskett said the schools will play a crucial part in the process, as they need both the schools and parents participation in collecting data for student incentives with the pilot program.

“We’re really working on an incentive program, where the students will be rewarded for good attendance, good grades, parent participation in the schools, and having good character, like no discipline reports and those are kind of the four main areas that we’re looking to focus on with the pilot program,” Muskett said.

With plans to implement the program in January 2022, Muskett said they will run the program until the end of the year to observe, work out

**AEE PROGRAM / pg. 6**

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES EMPLOYEE ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE presents

CHECK OUT OUR EVENT ON facebook.

FACE MASKS ENCOURAGED STAY SAFE!

# Christmas CRAFT FAIR

**THURSDAY DECEMBER 9, 2021**  
**9:00 AM TO 4:00 PM**  
**CONCHO RESPECT GYM**  
**220 E BLACK KETTLE BLVD, CONCHO, OK**

*Unique Christmas Gifts for everyone on your list*

Jewelry | Art | Baked Goods | Preserves | Crafts | Ornaments | Clothing | Candles | Candies  
 Home Décor | Purses | Blankets | Throws | Many One-of-a-Kind Gifts

employee committee  
**concession BOOTH**  
 no other food vendors please

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**  
**FREE PARKING**  
**NO ADMISSION**

**VENDORS**  
**\$50\* BOOTH FEE**  
 INCLUDES 6' TABLE & CHAIRS  
 \*\$25 for C&A Tribal Members

**FOR MORE INFORMATION: (405) 422-7531**

All proceeds benefit Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Employee Events

# AEE PROGRAM

continued from pg. 5

the kinks and see what will work and won't work.

"To see how much participation we have, and that'll give other schools a chance to see what this could look like and hopefully other school districts will want to join in, because the goal is to have all 16 school districts want to work with the tribes," Muskett said.

In identifying areas associated with the previous STEP and NYCP grants, Muskett said the department saw a need to motivate students to want to go to school and make good grades.

"A lot of parents, such as myself, give our children goals to meet and those goals, once they're met, usually there is a reward at the end of it," Muskett said.

Whether it is money for good grades or other rewarding incentives for youth to work towards, Muskett said a lot of native youth don't have that instant gratification where they're working towards something and get a reward.

"We want to help encourage them and find something to motivate them to want to come to school, to want to do well, to want to stay out of trouble and then getting them to talk to their parents into saying if you come to my parent teacher conference, I earn this many points to put towards winning this Xbox they're going to draw for," Muskett said.

The students will have the opportunity to earn points, that will be called buffalo bucks, and at the end of the semester, the students

will have a big event where they can come with their families and pick up their buffalo bucks to use towards the purchase of incentives and rewards.

In introducing the program and trying to get things started, Muskett said they had a few bumps in the road with staffing issues that set them back. However, the AEE program is moving forward.

"We've started to advertise in the *Tribal Tribune*, the information has been posted on our Department of Education Facebook page, and we are sending out letters on Nov. 22 to all the families that their schools are participating," Muskett said.

Muskett said the program is also having parent meetings on Dec. 8 via zoom, with two time options of 12 p.m. and 6 p.m. to attend.

With the program, Muskett said they are looking for a lot of involvement from the parents and students.

"This is just the bottom of the building block because with this program, as it grows, the level of involvement from just the tribes gets bigger," Muskett said.

In starting Muskett said the program would begin by monitoring grades and attendance, while pulling that data from schools and having parents send it in.

"Just be on the lookout for updates and information, we'll be getting flyers out as we try to send reminders to families and the biggest thing is just encouraging kids to stay in school and participate in school so they're

able to earn these incentives," Muskett said.

In creating an academic program that will be tribally funded, such as the AEE program, Muskett said while federal funding grants are great, that funding eventually runs out.

"You're providing these services to the students, to the family, to the community and after that time is up, the grant just disappears and all the services stop, so thinking about the long term, we want to build that momentum with that grant," Muskett said.

Muskett said since the AEE program will be tribally funded, they can continue building that momentum and move forward with the schools and students.

"That is the biggest goal, is building a program that's going to last, that we can build on and not always relying on federal grants," Muskett said.

With their start date quickly approaching for the new year, Muskett said the program will be fully staffed and ready to go.

## PARENT

## INVOLVEMENT



## MATTERS

"I'm excited about watching this program grow, how we can all come together and work together to help these students improve in the classroom and want to be in school, and find their niche, what they're good at, what they like, and what will keep them coming to school throughout the rest of their years," Muskett said.

For more information about the Academic Excellence and Enrichment Program contact Muskett at 405-422-7412.

### CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO VETERANS

#### 18 TO 54 YEARS OF AGE

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Veterans Care Assistance Act was passed by the Tribal Legislature October 9, 2021.

This act provides a \$150.00 monthly payment for those who are eligible and make an application.

#### ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Member. (Provide a Tribal ID, CDIB)
- Must be between the age of 18 – 54
- Must be a Veteran with an other than Dishonorable Discharge (Provide copy of DD-214)
- Must be rated 10% or more by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (Provide Award Letter)

A one-page application has been created and will be posted online soon. In the interest of the documentation needed, it would benefit each Veteran applicant to have these documents on file with the Tribes' Office of Veterans Affairs. If you have a file with us, you may want to check and make sure we have all your documents. We will not process any incomplete application.

Any questions pertaining to this notice should be referred to the Director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Office of Veterans Affairs.

George Bryan Sykes, Director  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes  
Office of Veterans Affairs  
102 Wolf Robe Circle  
PO Box 167  
Concho, OK 73022  
Email: [gsykes@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:gsykes@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov)  
Phone: (405) 422-7789  
Cell: (405) 248-7520

### CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAM

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Department of Education is pleased to introduce the Academic Excellence and Enrichment Program (AEE)

The AEE Program mission will be to provide support by educating and empowering youth and families while developing life-long skills for both academic and social situations.

This program will serve Cheyenne and Arapaho enrolled tribal members grades 5th - 8th with the following participating schools:

- |         |         |            |            |
|---------|---------|------------|------------|
| Calumet | Canton  | Darlington | Kingfisher |
| Geary   | Seiling | El Reno    | Watonga    |

• Parents and guardians of 5th-8th grade students will receive a letter outlining the program, letters will be mailed on November 22, 2021.

• Two Zoom meetings on December 8, 2021, for parents and guardians. Two options available 12:00 noon and 6:00 PM.



Please Scan QR Code for Zoom Meeting

12pm Meeting



6pm Meeting

Thank you and we look forward to working with your family and our public schools starting on January 3, 2022. Please contact Mahgan Muskett at 405.422.7412 with any questions you may have about the program.



The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Veterans Affairs hosted a 'Veterans Day Lunch & Go,' on Nov. 10 at Lake El Reno in El Reno, Okla. Over 54 Veterans attended the event.

The OVA office will be hosting a Christmas Brunch & Go for Veterans beginning at 10 a.m., Dec. 16 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla.

Photos via Facebook

**Tribal Veterans Brunch & Go**  
December 16, 2021 10:00AM - 12:00PM  
Concho Emergency Response Center

Season's Greetings

- Breakfast burritos made by Francine Williams
- Drawing of the Quilt Raffle

Office of Veterans Affairs Contact Info: (405) 422-7622

# BUSINESS PLAN COMPETITION

continued from pg. 5

of those yet so we just kind of grew off of that," Pekah said.

When their business plan, named Fresh Fix Restaurant, was a finalist for the competition, Pekah said it was a giant jump of nerves as they made their way to Las Vegas once again to compete. In traveling to Vegas in the previous year, Pekah admitted it was her very first time to travel outside of Oklahoma.

"It was very eye opening because it was the first time I'd ever been out of Oklahoma, as a small-town Indian girl I was going to this big city that maybe had different customs, had different ideas around things, so going into that was a whirlwind of emotions along with also having to focus on the competition," Pekah said.

In raising funds for their travels, Pekah said the school offered to throw a benefit dance for extra spending funds, along with stipends that were provided by First Nations and NCAIED for traveling.

In returning to Vegas to present their business plan in front of a crowd and judge panel, Pekah said their business plan on the restaurant industry put them in first place among three other teams, where they were the only team from Oklahoma.

Winning first place, Pekah said her team was rewarded \$2,500 and had the opportunity to put the money aside for future business endeavors associated with their business plan.

"I know a couple of other teams had done that and we had the opportunity to maybe set it aside for schooling," Pekah said.

Pekah said she hopes to take the necessary steps towards investing into a restaurant or business of her own in the future that would support her business plan.

Having the opportunity to travel to Las Vegas and present a business plan in front of various other Indigenous businesses, Pekah said she learned the most in her experience through the public speaking part of it.

"Public speaking was the really big one, it was a crowd of maybe 40 to 100 people and that was a giant step in itself because I grew up being that kid not able to speak in front of the class of maybe 12 kids, and to have that jump from 40 to 100, it was a lot to push you out there," Pekah said.

Overall, Pekah said her



*Kiara Pekah, Cheyenne and Arapaho, attends Sovereign Community Schools in Oklahoma City and has placed in the Native Youth Business Plan Competition for the past two years.*

experience in being a part of the business plan competition was amazing.

"We got to see other youth having their ideas and having the idea to implement them, and how it would impact Native communities from the different communities that they were from," Pekah said.

Pekah said there were teams from Washington, South Dakota and Arizona.

"We were surrounded by Indigenous business leaders that were actively having their own businesses, were actively selling their goods at the conference, there was an artisan market there and just all the knowledge we learned from making the business plan," Pekah said.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, Pekah said she got to learn the importance of having small businesses.

"I've actually got to meet a couple of small business Indigenous owners and what they've done for their businesses and just the good that they have done because some have used their business to promote good in the Native community," Pekah said.

In getting to experience the business side of things, Pekah credits the staff at Sovereign Community School for being a good support system through the process.

"It was all new to us and I think if we didn't have that support system, we definitely would've fallen off and be like, 'oh well I don't want to go, I don't think I can go that far with it,' and having

them beside us saying think of what this could do and what you could bring back, such as knowledge and the stuff that you could share," Pekah said.

Pekah is considering participating for a third time in the business competition but has not yet decided. However, she said she has grown an interest to possibly attend business school, along with medical school.

"I thought of maybe tying those together to see what I can do for the Native communities," Pekah said.

Pekah said she is also working on starting an AIBL Chapter at Sovereign Community Schools.

"Starting a chapter at Sovereign would kind of help us as a team to create another business plan and make little, tiny steps to implement them, so at the moment we're currently trying to get that up," Pekah said.

According to firstnations.org, the Native Youth Business Plan Competition was designed to help Native students increase their knowledge and enhance their business, entrepreneurial, and academic skills to prepare them for business opportunities. The competition also provides an educational experience for students by learning the process of creating and presenting a business plan, while stimulating real-world experience of entrepreneurs seeking start-up funds.

## PEDIATRIC COVID-19 VACCINATION

5 - 11 Years of Age

American Indians and Alaska Natives & local non-Natives 5-11 years of age may schedule for COVID-19 vaccination. Those 12 years of age and older may also schedule to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Schedule an appointment for COVID-19 vaccination at a time convenient to you through our Pediatric Clinics

CLINTON INDIAN HEALTH CENTER  
(580) 331-3466

EL RENO INDIAN HEALTH CENTER  
(405) 234-8411

WATONGA INDIAN HEALTH CENTER  
(580) 623-4991

To schedule an appointment for Pediatric COVID-19 vaccination outside of our Pediatric Clinics, call (580) 331-3466 for the following appointment times.

EL RENO - November 15th (Mon.) 3-5 PM

CLINTON - November 16th (Tues.) 3-5 PM

CLINTON - November 17th (Wed.) 3-5 PM

WATONGA - November 18th (Thurs.) 3-5 PM

CLINTON - November 19th (Fri.) 3-5 PM

Indian Health Service Clinton Service Unit

## PEDIATRIC VACCINE

## OBITUARIES

### Tina Louise Rednose

Tina Louise Rednose was the oldest of five siblings. She was born to Edwina Wanda Rednose-Ross and Kenneth 'Ice Water' Johnson on Jan. 17, 1970 at Clinton Indian Hospital.

She lived in Watonga her whole childhood, where she also attended and was baptized at Union Baptist Church and also visited Indian Baptist Church. She also showed her talents playing the flute throughout middle and high school and worked at End O' Main Restaurant and Catering.

She met Devon Beachem II in high school and began a loving relationship that produced four children. She relocated to Oklahoma City and continued her catering service passion with a long-standing career at Ken-

tucky Fried Chicken.

There's no doubt that Tina was a social butterfly, and she kept her dearest friends in her heart every day. Her daily 'good morning' and 'good night' texts were a gentle reminder of the heart she possessed, in short, a big one.

Also known as Me-Ma, she spent the remainder of her days giving full-time care and love to her four grandchildren, Kyrieanna Marie Beachem, Josiah Devon Beachem, Kabrie Beachem, and Das'jhana Ire Louise Rednose.

Celebrating her home-going and holding on to her loving memories are her four children, Tylee Bertrand Rednose, Caroline LaDawn Beachem, Robin Monique Rednose, Devon 'JR'



Beachem, her five siblings, Robin A. Rednose-Lewis and Perry Lewis, Danielle M. Robinson and Leon Robinson, Kendell D. Johnson, Kenise Johnson, and Kenecan "Pooh" Johnson. As well as a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A public viewing was held Nov. 12 at the Watonga Church of the Nazarene in Watonga, Okla. Funeral service was held Nov. 13, at the same venue.

### Matthew Wade Reyes

Matthew Wade Reyes was born May 13, 1972 to Alfredo Reyes Jr. and Alta Black Owl. He passed away Nov. 11, 2021 in the Weatherford Regional Hospital.

Matthew was raised in Thomas, Okla. where he graduated from Thomas High School in 1990. While in high school he was active in football, basketball, track and band. He went on to continue his education at the Haskell Indian Nation College in Lawrence, Kansas.

While living in Lawrence he was employed with Roebuck and Sears Company. He later attended Culinary School at Sipi College in Albuquerque, N.M.

He was married to Rebec-

ca Cometsevah-Nez on July 4, 2009 in Clinton, Okla. He worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes at the casino in Concho. He was a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, he was traditional and enjoyed Native dancing.

He was preceded in death by his mother.

He is survived by his wife Rebecca, daughter Sophia Reyes, three sons, Ryan Reyes, Benjamin Buffalo and wife, Laney, and Steven Burk and wife Talyer, his father Alfredo Reyes Jr., sister Valerie Reyes and her partner, Queenie, brothers, Mario Reyes, David Reyes and wife Rebecca, Nick Reyes,



Mark Reyes and wife, Brenda and Danny Reyes.

A wake service was held Nov. 15 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. funeral service was held Nov. 16 at the same venue, officiated by Rev. Delfred Whitecrow, followed by an interment at the Mound Valley Cemetery in Thomas, Okla.

### Maurine Vivian (Fixico) Yeahquo

Maurine Vivian (Fixico) Yeahquo passed away at the age of 62 on Nov. 13, 2021, in Oklahoma City. She was born Feb. 9, 1959, in Oklahoma City to Rev. Thomas Fixico Sr. and Katie (Haag) Fixico.

She grew up and spent most of her life in Seminole and Shawnee. She graduated from Strother High School and attended Indian Nation University in Lawrence, Kansas. Maurine was a homemaker. She enjoyed cooking and spending time with her family.

Maurine is survived by her companion Dwight Starr, her brothers, Marlon Fixico of Blackfoot, Idaho, Edmond Fixico of Parshall, N.D., Thomas Fixico Jr. of Shawnee, Gerrald Fixico of Oklahoma City, and Milo Harjo of Shawnee, and her sister Beverly Mason of New Town, N.D.

She was preceded in death by her parents and her brother Lorne Fixico.

Wake service was held Nov. 16 at the Swearingen Funeral Chapel in Seminole, Okla. Funeral service



was held at the Snake Creek Baptist Church #2, followed by an interment at the Snake Creek Cemetery in Seminole, Okla.



### Indian Health Service Clinton Service Unit Open forum to discuss Medicare programs

December 3, 2021 at 2pm

Join Zoom Meeting at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2679348668>

Or, call by phone to  
1-(346)248-7799

When prompted, enter Meeting ID:  
267 934 8668#



- Are you about to turn 65 or have questions about the different types of Medicare?
- Do you have questions about your current Medicare coverage or maybe you're thinking of making changes to your existing coverage?
- Have you thought about a Supplemental policy to help pay your out-of-pocket costs?
  - Have you thought about whether you need a Medicare Part D Prescription plan to cover your medications?
- Do you have questions about the pros and cons of having a Medicare Advantage Plan?

**Medicare Open Enrollment is  
October 15, 2021 to December 7, 2021**

Hosted by April Gooday, Business Office Manager

## OBITUARIES

## OBITUARIES

*Ethel Alice Blindwoman*

Our sister Ethel Alice Blindwoman, born June 2, 1956 to Thomas Jr. and Minnie Blindwoman, and died on Nov. 10, 2021. She graduated from Kingfisher High School and attended Southwestern State University in Weatherford, Okla.

Thru Ethel's employment places she made many friends. From Pioneer Telephone Coop to C & A Tribes, St. Labre Indian School in Ashland, Mont. and then returning to work with C & A Tribes, with the Elder Care Program and the C & A Casino Personnel Dept. Ethel was noted for her 'humor' in dressing up for Halloween at Concho sending family members hilarious birthday cards with our pictures and memorable one-singing us 'Happy Birthday' over the phone at the stroke of midnight. We will miss her singing on our special days. At times she was a caregiver to

all nieces and nephews.

Ethel Alice leaves five sisters, Vergenta Little Calf, Tommie White Woman, Wilma Yardley, Clara Blindwoman who lived with her since last year and Irene Redbird Deere. Two special aunties, Juanita Rednose Nullake and Mary Rednose Howard Narconie, last two sisters of Minnie Blindwoman.

Immediate family members are, Alo Rednose and family, Robert and Betsy Tasso and family, Gary and Brooke Howard and family, Jason Good Blanket and family, Matt and Red Tiger and family, Donita Duffy and family, Jamie Hornor and family, Rheadonna Lorenz and family, Noreen Red Cherries and family, Earlene Teeth Clown and family, Dana Buffalomeat and family, Susie Wolf Mule and family, Burl Buffalomeat and many nieces and



nephews and grandchildren of Ethel Alice.

Special thank you to the family of Vera Buffalomeat, Kiowa sisters, Sharon Cozad-Pena, Lenora Cozad Berryhill, Donna Geionety Ernestine and Jeanette Standings.

A wake service was held Nov. 14 at the Kingfisher Emergency Response Center in Kingfisher, Okla. Funeral service was held Nov. 15 at the Sanders Funeral Chapel, followed by an interment at the Kingfisher Cemetery.

*Harriette Irene Cooley*

Harriette Irene Cooley, or 'Peggy Pratt' to her family and friends, was born on April 23, 1933 in Sacaton, Ariz., on the Gila River Reservation, the daughter of Albert Walter and Daisy (Wolfchief) Cooley. She grew up with two brothers and one sister, Ruth, Albert and Redbird.

She was born into a proud Cheyenne Arapaho family, that never knew the word "cannot!" From an early age she was taught to believe in herself and all she was capable of doing. Her father worked in the interment camps for the Japanese People during WWII, helping to get water to the vegetables and plants they raised to make ends meet. Upon graduating high school, she joined the United States Air Force during the height of the Korean War, and became a parachute rigger, serving her country and her people honorably from Aug. 5th, 1952 until she was discharged June 23, 1954 at Andrews Air Force Base.

She was never afraid to take the lead, she served with a group of men, working tirelessly alongside them, for as long as it took to get the job done. Once out of the military, she entered an university in Albuquerque, N.M., and began her studies to become a Licensed Practical Nurse. Upon graduating, she began a long and distinguished career lasting for over 60 years, taking care of those entrusted to her care, until she retired at the age of 84. Her favorite job was raising her six adored children, William, Eldon, Daisy, Chauncina, Diana, and William. They were her pride and joy. She loved to spend time with her children and grandchildren, fishing, camping and boating.

She always had pets around, she loved animals and they trusted her, from the cockatiels to the fighting fish, everyone found a home with Peggy. She was

artistically talented, painting in oils and chalk. She could touch any plant and make it bloom, garden to raise vegetables so she could can the produce, she crocheted and could cook a wicked tamale, fried chicken and dumplings. She enjoyed watching TV, especially the old classics like Gunsmoke. Her wonderful sense of humor and her infectious laugh made people happy just to be in her presence. She had the drive and skill to teach herself to fix anything on her house, from plumbing to the electrical, she could make it work. She even built a couple of homes in her day and time. Never one to sit down and be idle, she always saved a little time to be with the grandchildren she adored. She worked and worked some more. From St. Joseph's Children's Hospital to over 30 years at Cherokee County Nursing Center in Tahlequah, she made every life she touched just a little bit better for her being there.

Her health deteriorated and she passed from this life on Nov. 7, 2021 at her home, surrounded by those who knew and loved her best. She was 88 years old and leaves a legacy of living boldly, loving without boundaries and accomplishing all the dreams she had. She has gone on to join her grandparents, Mastamaha Wolfchief and wife Hilda Throwsfirst, Albert Walter Cooley Sr and wife Marian Rhoades, her mother and father, one brother Albert, one sister Ruth, youngest son William Pratt III, great grandchild Layla Rainy Grass and great grandson Baby Boy Blackfox.

She will be cherished by her children, William St Clair of Tahlequah, Eldon St Clair of Skiatook, Daisy Nells and husband James of Park Hill, Okla., Chauncina Blackfox of Tahlequah, and Diana Orr and husband Clint of Locust Grove, Okla. She leaves one brother, Redbird Cooley and wife Genevieve of Gallup,



N.M. She will live on in her 23 grandchildren, Brandon Grass and wife Charmayne of Jenks, Cassie Gutierrez and husband Alex of Tulsa, Ariel Bighorse and husband Anthony of Locust Grove, Cody St Clair and wife Cyn-di of Laramie, WY, Cammi Capps and husband Chris of Ft Collins, Colo., Meko St Clair of Laramie, Wyo., Sophia St Clair of Skiatook, Okla., Phillip Daw Jr of McCloud, Okla., Paul Daw and companion Veronica Gambler of Riverton, Wyo., Lee Nells and wife Sonja of Moodys, Okla., Lena Nells of Park Hill, Okla., Lance Nells and companion Lana Turner of Moodys, Okla., Elijah Nells of Washington, and April Beaver and husband Robbie of Stilwell, Okla., Stephanie Blackfox of Tulsa, Chauncina Blackfox of Tulsa, Reese Blackfox of Tulsa, Nina Cooley and husband Jerokin of Tulsa, Tisha Blackfox Tulsa, Lewis Blackfox of Tulsa, Jeffery St Clair of Tahlequah, Jerrod St Clair of Tahlequah, Brittney Nells and companion Aaron Tucker of Park Hill, 52 great grandchildren, one great-great-grandchild, many nieces, nephews, cousins and a host of friends and loved too numerous to mention.

Visitation was held on Nov. 10 at the Reed-Culver Funeral Chapel in Tahlequah, Okla. Funeral service was held Nov. 12 at the same venue with Pastor Bill Holcomb officiating, followed by an interment at the Tahlequah Cemetery in Tahlequah Okla.

*William Michael (Pawnee) Buffinton*

William Michael (Pawnee) Buffinton was born July 11, 1998, in Oklahoma City. He was a member of Southwest Baptist Church in Oklahoma City and a member of the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps. He passed away Nov. 13, 2021 at the age of 23.

He is survived by his mother Betty Jo Blackwolf of Bethany, brothers, Aaron Blackwolf and Gregory Buffinton, both of Bethany, and sisters, Katherine Blackwolf and Danielle Black-

wolf, both of Bethany, uncle Freeman Pawnee of El Reno and numerous aunts, uncles, nieces and nephews.

His father Gregory Pawnee Sr., uncles, William Leslie Pawnee Jr. and Mike Pawnee and aunts, Muriel Littlecalf and Lisa Pawnee, preceded him in death.

An all-night wake service was held Nov. 19 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral service was held Nov. 20 at the same venue officiated by Rev. Waylan Upche-



go and Rev. Jay Mule, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery.

*Charlene Rose Harrington*

Charlene Rose Harrington of Clinton, Okla., passed from this life on Nov. 11, 2021. She was born March 10, 1970 to Chuck and Fern (White Crow) Harrington.

Charlene was raised in the Seiling and Clinton areas, and attended Riverside Indian School in Anadarko. She enjoyed listening to music, cruising the back roads, and also spending time with her grandkids, she loved them so much.

In addition to her parents, Charlene was preceded in death by her son

Royal Turner, brothers, DeWayne White Crow, George Harrington, and Andrew Harrington, sisters, Janice White Crow, Debbie White Crow, Wanda "Tweety" Red Hat, and Jernelene Chavez.

She is survived by her children, Angela Montano, Ramon Montano, and Tasha Turner, all of Clinton, brother Oliver White Crow of Clinton, sisters Bertha Thunderbull of Geary, Okla., Edwina White Crow of California, and Donna Harrington of Clinton.

An all-night wake service was held Nov. 14 at



the Seiling Emergency Response Center in Seiling, Okla. Funeral service was held Nov. 15, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Cantonment Cemetery in Canton, Okla.

*Herschel Lee Kaulaity*

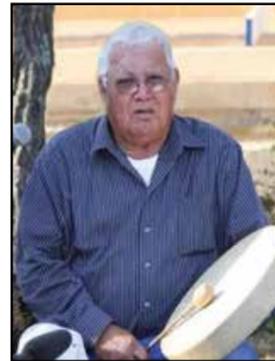
Herschel Lee Kaulaity was born Nov. 9, 1933 in Lawton, Okla. He passed away Nov. 9, 2021 at the Comanche County Memoria Hospital in Lawton.

He served in the U. S. Navy and was a member of the Korean War Veterans, Kiowa Gourd Clan, Kit Fox Society, V.F. W. American Legion, and the Kiowa Native American Church. He was a Cheyenne Sundance Priest, Big Medicine Drum Keeper, and co-founder the Denver March Powwow.

Surviving him is his son Joseph Bruce Kaulaity, daughters, Carol Kaulaity, Lillie Nelson, Mary Kaulaity and Sandra Kelley, adopted

sons, Dave Ortiz and Robert Tabor Jr., adopted daughter Jessie Botone, sons-in-law, Willie Nelson Sr. and John Kelley, sister Carolyn Levi, special aunt-mother Marie Whitebird, special sister-cousin Ruth Maldonado, 11 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren.

His father Elton Kaulaity, mother Rose Greany Tallbear, sisters, Juanita Marie Kaulaity Lorentz and LuAlice Tallbear Lerma, brother DeForest Tallbear Sr., grandparents, Joe and Sally Kaulaity, son Michael James Kaulaity, grandson Dennis Sindone, and great-grandson Nate Tutor preceded him in death.



An all-night wake service was held Nov. 12 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral service was held Nov. 13, at the same venue, with Rev. Alvin Deer officiating, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery.

*Ralph Lincoln*

Ralph Lincoln was born on Oct. 17, 1958 in Clinton, Okla., to John and Margaret (Blind Bull) Lincoln. He passed away on Nov. 7, 2021 in Snyder, Okla. at the age of 63. Ralph attended Geary Schools. He lived most of his life in Geary, working as a farm laborer. Ralph loved hanging out and visiting with his family and friends. He was a member of All Tribes Indian Church in Geary, Okla.

Survivors include his nephew Leroy Madbull of Geary, Okla., his niece Margaret Sutton of El Reno, Okla., two grandchildren, Leann Madbull of Geary, Jennifer Madbull of Geary, his great granddaughters, Kara Rachelle

Birdshead, Angelina Kiara Birdshead, Autumn Rose Birdshead, Melissa Wayne BigMedicine, and Haylee WhitePlume Paddyaker, great grandson the only boy, David Lee Madbull Davidson, his nephew Anthony Thunderbull of Thomas, Okla., his friends, Curtis Scabbyhorse, Sparky Willey, Oscar Pratt, Adam Pratt and Jerry Fire, as well as many other relatives and friends.

Ralph was preceded in death by his parents, John Lincoln and Margaret Blind Bull Lincoln, his brothers, Arthur Madbull, John Lincoln Jr., Gilmore Madbull, Silas Lincoln and Benjamin Lincoln, his sisters, Martha Madbull, Julia Madbull, Cinda Pekah and Linda Lin-



coln.

A wake service was held Nov. 10 at the Geary Emergency Response Center in Geary, Okla. Funeral service was held Nov. 11 at the Geary First Baptist Church with Rev. Waylon Upchego and Rev. Patricia Waysepappp officiating, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery.

*Rosalind Anita Martin*

Funeral service for Rosalind Anita Martin, born Sept. 24, 1946 and passed away Nov. 2, 2021, was held Nov. 13 at the Rollie Mortuary Chapel in Gallup, N.M.

*William 'Bill' Alfred Wilson*

William 'Bill' Alfred Wilson was born Sept. 16, 1938 to Demars Woodrow Wilson and Mary (Blackwolf) Wilson in Clinton, Okla. He passed away Nov. 1, 2021 in the Clinton Therapy and Living Center in Clinton, Okla. Bill was raised in the Thomas area and attended Thomas schools thru the 7th grade. He transferred to Haskell Indian Institute in Lawrence, Kansas, where he graduated with an associate degree. He retired from the Indian Health Services as

an X-Ray Technician at the Clinton Indian Hospital. He was a member of the Native American Church; he enjoyed watching sport on the television, traveling and loved a good cold beer. He is preceded in death by his parents, a sister Carol Rice and a son Daniel. He is survived by son John Wilson of Bay City, Mich., two sisters, Linda Beartrack of Kingfisher, Okla., and Janice Wilson of Thomas, brothers, Edward Wilson of Norman, Okla., and Robert Wilson of El Reno, Okla.



Funeral service was held Nov. 17 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla., officiated by Pastor Gerald Panana, Luke Wilson and Eddie Wilson.

# SC CHALLENGE

continued from pg. 3

ballots and several other areas of concern.

Relief being sought by Blackbear and Hamilton, according to the motion filed, includes either declaring Blackbear/Hamilton winners of the 2021 election or to allow for a new general election to be held and to clarify "Special Election" according to Article IX, Section 11 Special Elections in regards to Bill No. 8L-RS-2021-06-001, 'A 2021 Bill to call for a Special Election to Amend the 2006 Constitution of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Tribal Enrollment Requirements.'

The Supreme Court heard oral testimony on Nov. 23 and scheduled to reconvene on Dec. 2 to issue a ruling.

(Right: The first 15 pages of Supreme Court Case No. SC-2021-0003, Wilma Blackbear, Governor Candidate & Roberta Hamilton, Lt. Governor Candidate vs Election Commission of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, in their official capacity)

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES  
OF OKLAHOMA  
FILED MAY 12 2021  
IN THE SUPREME COURT  
DOCKET PAGE  
FILM IMAGE  
IN THE SUPREME COURT  
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

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

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Wilma Blackbear,  
Governor Candidate &  
Roberta Hamilton,  
Lt. Governor Candidate  
} Petitioners  
vs  
} Case No. SC-2021-0003  
Election Commission of the  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.  
In their official capacity  
} Respondents

COMES NOW Petitioners Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton, requesting the Cheyenne and Arapaho Supreme Court of provide relief in areas concerning the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes 2021 Elections. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Election Commission conducted the 2021 General Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Governor and Lt. Governor, C1 Election Commissioner, C2 Legislator, C4 Legislator, A1 Legislator, A2 Legislator and C3 Election Commissioner. Gubernatorial Candidate Wilma Blackbear and Lt Gubernatorial Candidate Roberta received 525 votes while Gubernatorial Incumbent Reggie Wassana and Lt Governor Incumbent Gib Miles received 1362 votes. Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton filed a

challenge to the Election Commission on Tuesday, November 9, 2021. The Certificate of Service is attached. **(Exhibit 1)**

BRIEF

There was not an official public posting from the Election Commission as to when the Election Commission would certify the election results. Lt. Governor Candidate Roberta Hamilton had a conversation with Election Commissioners Pat Smothers and Norma Yarbrough **(Exhibit 2)** on Thursday, November 4, 2021, at the Elders Conference in Clinton, Oklahoma. In this conversation, both Election Commissioners stated the Election Commission was having a working session to certify the General election results on Thursday, November 4, at 3:00 p.m. at Concho, OK. The General Election results with Election Commissioners signatures appeared on the Tribal global website on Monday, November 8, 2021. **(Exhibit 3)** The results are assumed to be certified but there isn't a date of certification on the page. According to the Constitution ARTICLE IX - ELECTIONS Section 12. Certification of Election Results. "The Election Commission shall certify all election results within twenty-four hours of the election...". The certification of results of the 2021 General Election was over the 24-hour period.

On Saturday, June 12, 2021, the 8th legislator approved. Bill No. 8L-RS-2021-06-001 **(Exhibit 4)** "A 2021 Bill to call for a Special Election to Amend the 2006 Constitution of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Tribal Enrollment Requirements". This Bill states "(1) to allow individuals who possess one

eighth (1/8). Cheyenne and/or Arapaho or more blood from either parent or ancestor to be enrolled with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, and (2) to include other Native American blood within the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and (3) for the purpose of maintaining genealogy records." A copy is attached, but Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton could not obtain the signed Bill but retrieved it from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune. **(EXHIBIT 5)** The Legislative Branch submitted and delivered Bill No. 8L-RS-2021-06-001 to the Tribal Council Coordinator, Office of Records and Judicial Branch.

**(EXHIBIT 6)** According to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Constitution ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS, Section 1 Request for an Election (a) "The Tribal Council may initiate the process to amend the Constitution by calling a Special Election. The Legislature may initiate the process to amend the Constitution by calling a Special Election by law. The Election Commission shall call and hold a Special Election to amend Constitution within 90 days of an official request from the Tribal Council or enactment of a law by the Legislature." ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS, Section 2. Requirements. "The Constitution may be amended by a majority of the voters who vote in the Special Election, provided, that at least thirty percent of the registered voters cast a vote in the Special Election. Amendments approved by the voters shall become effective immediately unless otherwise indicated in the amendment." As mandated by the Constitution, a Special Election was not held for the Legislative Bill No. 8L-RS-2021-06-001 within 90 as stated in ARTICLE XIII - AMENDMENTS, SECTION 1(a)"... within 90 days ...or enactment of a law by

the Legislature." Instead, the Election Commission put Legislative Bill No. 8L-RS-2021-06-001 on the ballot of the Primary Election of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on October 4, 2021. This was 112 days after the Legislators passed the Bill. The Primary Election was not a Special Election. The blood quantum issue, Bill No. 8L-RS-2021-06-001, was illegally placed on the gubernatorial ballot. This issue may have been placed on the Primary Election ballot by design. The timing and placement of the amendment is suspect, however, does not follow the Constitutional mandate. At time of this filing, we have not saw the Official Certification of the Primary Election.

Lucky Star Casino Administration (CEO) is hired by the Executive Branch. The CEO makes decisions within Lucky Star Casino. Lucky Star Casino Watonga started offering "incentives" to tribal members on October 1 which is before the primary election. **(Exhibit 7)** A Grand Opening was scheduled on October 2 which is before the primary election along with "incentives" as indicated by the attached flyer. **(Exhibit 8 & 9)** There were employee drawings for tribal employees for a total of 60 prizes. **(Exhibit 10)** The drawings were drawn on October 1, 2021, which is three days before the primary. Lucky Star Casino sponsored "incentives" to Lucky Star employees totaling over \$34,000 to employees who were COVID vaccinated. **(Exhibit 11)** In addition, there was a \$200,000 in Vax Cash, including a 2021 Ford Jackpots advertised in the same time period. **(Exhibit 12)** All these incentives and prizes came from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, which the incumbent Governor is Commander In Chief. This gave the Incumbent Governor/Lt Governor a leading edge in the

election as beneficiaries of the "incentives" as tribal members will remember who they will vote for when it is time to vote.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Election Commission is constitutional mandated by oath to have a secure election which fosters trust among tribal members. During the General Election on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, there were 10 polling sites. These were Canton Emergency Response Center, Seiling Community Center, Watonga Emergency Response Center, Kingfisher Response Center, Geary Community Center, Concho Respect Gym, Clinton Emergency Response Center, Weatherford SWOSU-Business Enterprise Center, Hammon Emergency Response Center and Elk City Baptist Church. **(Exhibit 13)** There were no security personnel at all the election poll sites as evidenced in a conversation with C2 Election Commissioner Norma Yarbrough **(Exhibit 14)**. The Hammon polling site had run out of ballots during the hours of operation for the voting as stated in Official Observers Sara Whiteshield's and Jennifer Bailey's statements. **(Exhibit 15)** **(Exhibit 16)** Each of the 10 polling sites had ballots for all districts so a tribal member could go to any site to vote. This was verified in a conversation with C2 Election Commissioner Norma Yarbrough. **(Exhibit 17)**

Absentee ballots had not been received by out of state voters as indicated by Facebook postings on October 14, 2021 **(Exhibit 18)** Many out of state voters indicated they had not received their ballots. As indicated by the attached statement, a registered voter who lives out of state did not receive an Absentee Ballot for the General Election although she received an Absentee Ballot in the

Primary Election. **(Exhibit 19)** Roberta Hamilton contacted A3 Election Commissioner Pat Smothers on November 5, 2021, at 3:50 P.M. to ask her what date the Absentee Ballots were mailed out and she stated she would have to check with Chairperson Sara Orange. She later contacted Dale Hamilton and told him Sara Orange told her there was not a timeline for mailing out ballots and that she was given a court case on this. Dale Hamilton's statement is attached **(Exhibit 20)** Cheyenne and Arapaho Const. Article IX- Section 7 Ballots, (b). "Absentee voting shall be permitted for eligible voters...established by law". According to the Election Law, Article IV - Ballots, polling Procedures, Recounts, Protests & Challenges Section 4.1 Ballots B. "Absentee ballots shall be provided pursuant to Article II 2.2(G) of this Ordinance..." Additionally, the Election Commission put out an Absentee Ballot Announcement **(Exhibit 21)** in 2019, where it states, "General Absentee Ballots need to go out no later than 21 days before the General Election" and "If you reside anywhere OUTSIDE of these cities you are considered OUT-OF-DISTRICT VOTERS and will automatically receive an absentee ballot." A tribal member's statement that although she received an Absentee Ballot for the Primary, she did not receive an Absentee Ballot for the General Election. In addition, another tribal member Francis Hamilton, Sr, who resides in-district in El Reno, did not request an Absentee Ballot for the Primary but was mailed one. He did not receive an Absentee Ballot for the General Election, so he went to the polls to vote. **(Exhibit 22)** On November 20, 2021, Dale Hamilton, Sr contacted AES (Automated Election Services). Mr. Fulton, who is with AES, verified the

General Election Absentee Ballots were mailed out on October 15, 2021, **(Exhibit 23)** on the Election Commissions ability to ensure Absentee Ballots are received by an out of district (in-state and out of state) voter. The jump drives, which were given to Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton as part of the election packet received when they filed, contained the final list of registered voters and the number of absentee voters was 2,626. According to Sara Whiteshield, Observer at both the Primary and General Elections, **(Exhibit 24)** it was announced by Election Commission Chairperson Sara Orange at the counting the number of absentee ballots sent out during the Primary Election was 2,949 and the number of absentee ballots sent out for the General Election was 2,789. There is a difference in these numbers.

Roberta Hamilton has a video and picture of a non-tribal person hand carrying absentee ballots into the El Reno post office at 3:05 pm. **(Exhibit 25)** Cheyenne and Arapaho Const. Article IX-Elections Section 7 (b) and according to the 2021 Act to Amend the Election Law Section 2.830 Regular Elections (C) "Election winners shall be determined by those ballots returned by mail to the El Reno Post Office not later than 3:00 P.M. on the date set in the Election Announcements for counting ballots." The Election Commission's Absentee Ballot Announcement in 2019 states "You CANNOT hand deliver them to Postal Workers, Election Office to Election Commissioners at any time. MUST GO THROUGH THE U.S. MAIL!!!!!!" **(Exhibit 21)** The video was taken at 3:05 P.M. on Tuesday, November 2, 2021. The ballots were accepted by the Election Commissioners Sara Orange and Norma Yarbrough who were present in the

video and by a statement of Norma Yarbrough who stated they accepted the ballots hand carried into the El Reno Post Office. **(Exhibit 26)**

During the counting of absentee ballots on Tuesday, November 2, 2021, there were three Election Commissioners opening the ballots. The attached statement from Official Observer Sara Whiteshield, **(Exhibit 15)** during the counting of absentee ballots in the General Election, Elections Commissioners A1 Ray Mosqueda and C2 Norma Yarbrough opened the ballots without checking signatures against an appropriate list of registered voters. According to the 2021 Act to Amend the Election Law Section 2.827 B "When all ballots are returned to the Tribal Headquarters, the Election Commission shall begin the counting process by checking the name and signature on the back of the addressed envelope against the appropriate list of registered voters to ensure that they are the proper voter..." Lt Governor Candidate Roberta Hamilton attended the Election Commissions Public Meeting on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 **(Exhibit 27)** and asked the Election Commission if they check the Absentee Ballot envelope signature against a voter's list at the time they are opened and counted. Sara Orange answered the question by saying "we are not handwriting experts". The Election Commission did not follow the Elections laws in verifying signatures of the Absentee Ballots when counting them. Cheyenne and Arapaho Const. Article IX Section 7. Ballots. (b) "Absentee voting shall be permitted for eligible voters....established by law." and (c) "The Election Commission shall properly account for all official ballots.....to ensure the integrity of the official ballots."

Per the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Constitution, Article IX Elections, Section 7 Ballots B "Absentee voting shall be permitted for eligible voters who do not reside in the district or who are unable to vote at the polls for reasons established by laws." Marie Whitebird **(Exhibit 28)** and John Paul Blackbear, **(Exhibit 29)** who are voting tribal members, requested Absentee Ballots as they were out of state. A request for a ballot was made via text made from John Paul Blackbear **(Exhibit 30)** to C1 Election Commissioner Sandra Hinshaw's phone number as listed on the Election Commissioners Phone List **(Exhibit 31)** **(Exhibit 29)**. Marie and John Paul also received an Absentee Ballot which was sent to their home address at 820 North Forrest Avenue, Watonga, OK. It was postmarked 9/13/2021. **(Exhibit 32)** **(Exhibit 33)** Meanwhile another Absentee Ballot was sent to Marie Whitebird's address in Durango, CO while another Absentee Ballot was sent to John Paul Blackbear in Odenton, Maryland. Both Marie Whitebird and John Paul Blackbear received two Absentee Ballots. According to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Constitution, Article IX, Section 7 Ballots (c). "The Election Commission shall properly account for all official ballots and shall utilize a bar code or equivalent system to ensure the integrity of the official ballots." Another tribal member Sean Reed was contacted via text by C1 Election Commissioner Sandra Hinshaw asking if he would be voting by polls or absentee ballot. **(Exhibit 34)** From these incidents with Absentee Ballots during both the Primary and General Election, the actions of the Election Commission violate Article IX Section 7. Ballots. (c)

"The Election Commission shall properly account for all official ballots.....to ensure the integrity of the official ballots."

During the time frame of registering Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal members for the 2021 Elections, the Election Commission used a Jot Form to register tribal members. **(Exhibit 35)** Upon attending the Election Commission Public Meeting **(Exhibit 27)** on Wednesday, October 27, 2021 at 3:00 P.M., Lt Governor Candidate Roberta Hamilton asked the Election Commission if they felt they could verify a signature on a Jot Form and if they felt they could trust if the person filling out the Jot Form is the same person who is being registered to vote. Election Commission Chairperson Sara Orange was the only person who answered Roberta's question by saying she trusted the Jot Form. I asked where the Jot Form originated from and if it was from the election company AES. Sara stated the Jot Form was handled by the IT Department at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Complex. Since IT is under the umbrella of the Executive Branch of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, this presents alarm as to the security of the Jot Form. In addition, there is no real way to verify if the person filling out the Jot Form is truly the person being registered as the signatures cannot be verified. According to the Election Law, Section 2.2 Voter Registration B "A standard Election Commission approved voter registration form shall be made available to the prospective voter upon request and the voter registration forms will be made available..." As indicated on the attached statement from Dale Hamilton, Sr, **(Exhibit 36)** former A2 Election Commissioner, the Election Commission did not approve to use the Jot Form.

In addition, Dale's statement points out he tried to verify the information on the Jot Form and called the phone number and the person answering the phone number did not know the person listed on the Jot Form. He also called another number to verify another Jot Form and the person stated he was registered in C2 not A2 as he is a Cheyenne not Arapaho as indicated on the Jot Form. So, it is questionable on how he was registered for A2 and not C2. In addition, using the Jot Form violates Article I BILL OF RIGHTS Section 1 Bill of Rights (c) "...violates the rights of the People to be secure in the privacy of their persons, houses, papers, electronic and telecommunication information..."

During the election, Governor Candidate Wilma Blackbear and Lt Governor Candidate Roberta Hamilton had conversations with Election Commissioners C1 Sandra Hinshaw, C3 Pat Smothers and C2 Norma Yarbrough. In these conversations, these commissioners had to "check with Sara". Sara Orange is the Chairperson for the Election Commission and was seated during the Boswell Administration. It appeared from the conversations with the Election Commissioners there was a "supervisor" who was Sara Orange as they had to check with her in order to get our questions answered, even as far as contacting the ballot company AES. If indeed this was the case, the structure of the Election Commission mirrors the Election Commission of 2017 where Sara Orange served as Chairman of the Election Commission. During the 2017 election, she ordered no communication between the ballot company and election commissioners and the chain of command be followed. She mandated any and all communication to the ballot company was to go through her. This

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



HAPPY 12TH BIRTHDAY CHLOE GRANDMA CAROL LOVES YOU



December 1st Babies Minnie and Trevor TallBear Happy Birthday to you both. We love you and hope that you guys have many more to come. Hope you have the best day! Love always, mom, dad and your siblings

Happy Birthday James Blackowl Dec. 2 The BIG '55 Love your family & friends



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is supported by the attached statement of Dale Hamilton, Sr. who was on the Election Commission during this time period. (Exhibit 37) According to the 2021 Act to Amend the Election Law, Section 2.817 Duties of the Election Commissioners (A) "The Chairman shall preside over all meetings of the Commission. The Chairman shall exercise any authority delegated to him by the Commission. The Chairman shall not vote on Election Commission matters unless necessary to break a tie vote. The Chairman shall have the authority to convene meetings of the Commission and to recommend the agendas for all meetings. The Chairman shall have the authority to delegate other duties, as he/she deems necessary, to other members of the Commission." These duties of the Chairman are clear and does not appear to give Chairperson Sara Orange supervision authority over other seven Election Commissioners and/or cut off communication to the ballot company. Part K of this section states "the Election Commission have a duty to conduct all elections in a fair and impartial manner in accordance with the laws of the Tribes." Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe Constitution Article IX Section 3 Election Commission "There shall be an election commission to conduct all elections in a fair and impartial manner in accordance with the laws of the Tribe." Each Election Commissioner is elected from their respective district and are all equal in this responsibility. This produces doubt on the Election Commission to conduct a fair election as one person is the only one to communicate with the election company and leaves out the other seven Election Commissioners in the election process. The terms of the Election

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Congratulations Kathleen TallBear on getting your permit. Love, momma bear, dad and siblings



Health Education Department/M-Power has a winner!

Congratulations! Mona Condulle was a winner in the nationwide 10th annual Point-of-Sale Tobacco Marketing photo contest. She submitted her photo taken at Vickie C's store located in El Reno, Okla. She was in the Exterior Ads division. She titled her picture, "Marketing to the extreme."

The tobacco industry spends countless dollars on marketing and promotions at the point of sale. By plastering advertisements outside retail stores, on windows, building walls, fences, lightpoles, or even, as in the case with one of our winning photos for this category, on functional items like ice chests outside



of stores, tobacco companies catch the eyes of adults and youth alike. Additionally, these exposures to advertisements like these has been shown to increase initiation and continuation of tobacco use, especially among youth. And they don't even have to go inside to be exposed.

Commissioners are not in accordance with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Constitution. In a recent Supreme Court Case No. SC-2021-02 Scroggins and Cruz vs Election Commission, the Supreme Court issued an Opinion and Final Order acknowledging "one of the sets of "Election Commissioner" election went "off-cycle" other than those prescribed in Article IX, Section 15(b)." Further in the same Supreme Court Case, the Supreme Court stated, "We have not been asked in any case decided since this Court assumed its present composition to resolve that constitutional problem, and we have not done so before this date." It further states "We take judicial notice that Article IX, Section 15(b) provides for the election of all Election Commissioners in NON-gubernatorial election years for four-year non-staggered terms, and we have concluded for a wide variety of reasons that such timing of Election Commissioner elections both makes common sense and was intentional. Nevertheless, because former-Governor Boswell sometime during the Spring of 2011 [after her December 27-28, 2010 unconstitutional Courthouse takeover], "dueling" Election Commissions and "dueling" claimants to other tribal offices ensued...Insofar as the Election Commission is concerned, some time during the "administrations" of Janice Boswell and/or Eddie Hamilton, one of the sets of "Election Commissioner" elections went "off-cycle" [i.e., were conducted at times other than those prescribe in Article IX, Section 15(b)]. "

An Activity to Date for the General Election (Exhibit 38) shows final numbers of the 2021 General Election. The issued Ballots (assumed to be Absentee Ballots) was 2061. According to the Official Election Results of the

13

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- Read the Annual Notice of Changes mailed to you by your health plan.
- Check the plan formulary—the list of covered prescription drugs—to make sure yours are covered.
- Have a Medicare Advantage plan? Check to see that your providers are still in the plan's network and if there are any changes in co-pays.
- Look for plans that best meet your changing health, life, and financial needs.

Use the Plan Finder at Medicare.gov. Review your current coverage and compare it to your other choices, including Part D prescription and Medicare Advantage plans. It's easier to compare costs, coverage, and quality ratings with the Plan Finder. Find it and other tools at Medicare.gov, or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-433-4227) (TTY 1-877-486-2048) for help, or join us at the upcoming event listed below.

Medicare Savings Program. Need help with Medicare costs? You may qualify for help from your state to pay for Medicare premiums and other costs. If your income for 2021 is below \$10,000, it might be worth contacting your state's Medicaid program about Medicare Savings Programs that could be available for you. To find out more, contact 1-800-MEDICARE.

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## Help Wanted Red Buffalo Communicator

Blue Cross & Blue Shield or like policies paid by the Federal Government so no cost is incurred by your Native American customers.

Red Buffalo Communicators must be able to talk to small and large groups, and owners of small companies. Must understand and know how this policy will help the Indian Health Clinic. Starting pay is from \$15 to \$25 per hour. Reimbursement for automobile expenses. Reimbursement for finger food provided to customers during your presentation.

**Part or Full positions available.**

Must have a mobile phone that has text and picture capabilities. Paid training \$10 per hour for one to three days. Meeting once a month to discuss problems, meet other Red Buffalo Communicators, share new discoveries, or anything else that needs to be address by Red Buffalo personnel.

Phone: 405-487-7011 and ask for Leroy Downs, Pawnee Nation

General Election (Exhibit 39) According to the number of Absentee Ballots announced at the counting of ballots (Exhibit 24) the number was 2789. The difference is 728 undocumented ballots.

**RELIEF SOUGHT**

Petitioners Wilma Blackbear and Roberta Hamilton, Candidates for Governor and Lt Governor, now prays the Supreme Court will provide relief. They are asking for

- Due to several issues of concern with the 2021 Primary and General Elections, we pray the Supreme Court either declare Governor Candidate Wilma Blackbear and Lt Governor Roberta Hamilton Governor winners of the 2021 General Election or allow for a new General Election held within the time limits to allow the newly elected Governor and Lt Governor be seated by the Constitutionally mandated time.
- The Supreme Court rule Bill No. 8L-RS-2021-06-001 "A 2021 Bill to call for a Special Election to Amend the 2006 Constitution of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Tribal Enrollment Requirements" Unconstitutional due to the mandated time line was not followed and it was not held in a Special Election. We also ask the Supreme Court to clarify "Special Election" according to ARTICLE IX, SECTION 11 SPECIAL ELECTIONS.
- For the stability of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe, we ask the Supreme Court to resolve the constitutional problem with the Election Commission as stated in their opinion in SC-2021-02 Scroggins and

14

## LEGAL NOTICE

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

IN THE MATTER OF DISSOLUTION OF MARRIAGE OF:  
GINA ARANDA )  
VS. ) Case No. JFD-2021-0031  
JONDUN POOR )

**CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

TO: JONDUN POOR  
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 herewith served upon you and to file your Answer with the above-named Court within twenty (20) days of service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service. Within the same time, a copy of your Answer must be delivered or mailed to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court P.O. Box 102 Concho, OK 73022.

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

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

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

Dated this 22nd day of November 2021.

Lafonda Wintersrow, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

PETITIONER:  
Gina Aranda

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A Gallery of Nations

Eleanor Lefthand  
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Cruz vs Election Commission, "We take judicial notice that Article IX, Section 15(b) provides for the election of all Election Commissioners in NON-gubernatorial election years for four-year non-staggered terms, and we have concluded for a wide variety of reasons that such timing of Election Commissioner elections both makes common sense and was intentional. Nevertheless, because former-Governor Boswell sometime during the Spring of 2011 [after her December 27-28, 2010 unconstitutional Courthouse takeover], "dueling" Election Commissions and "dueling" claimants to other tribal offices ensued...Insofar as the Election Commission is concerned, some time during the "administrations" of Janice Boswell and/or Eddie Hamilton, one of the sets of "Election Commissioner" elections went "off-cycle" [i.e., were conducted at times other than those prescribe in Article IX, Section 15(b)]. "

Respectfully Submitted,

Wilma Blackbear, Governor Candidate 11/22/21  
Roberta Hamilton, Lt Governor Candidate 11/22/21

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

# ATHLETES' SPOTLIGHT

## Tetona Woods, EL RENO HIGH SCHOOL

Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

Striving to keep the family tradition alive, Tetona Woods, 17, looks forward to her senior year of playing basketball and playing at the next level of college basketball.

Born in Kingfisher, Okla., and raised in Calumet, Okla., Woods just recently made the move to El Reno, where she currently plays point guard for the El Reno Lady Indians Varsity Basketball team.

Woods said while she's been playing since the second grade, it took her awhile until she got more serious on the court. And her motivation for continuing to play, Woods said, came from watching her older brother play the sport as well.

"Just looking up to him, he's someone I always looked up to, like I wear his number now, he's just someone I always wanted to be, after I saw him play, I just wanted to play," Woods said.

Woods said playing alongside her teammates is what makes playing basketball most enjoyable for her.

"Just to feel the rush of the game, like even if we're winning or losing, that feeling of getting to play, I guess my favorite part would be just playing the game," Woods said.

Looking forward to her senior year on the court, the official start date for El Reno Varsity basketball is Dec. 3.

"I look forward to playing with my team and hope-

fully win a ring, that's what I'm really pushing for, but really just getting to play with my team and get better as we go is what I'm looking forward to," Woods said.

Woods said her goals for the season involve bettering herself as player and teammate.

"To finish, and get better at shooting, but also just going for the gold ball," Woods said.

Last season, Woods said the team made it to the state semi-finals, however, they were beat out by Sapulpa.

With high hopes in her final season, Woods said she feels bittersweet as she enjoyed her high school basketball career.

"Just playing against the teams and everything, I just really like it, so it's kind of makes me sad to think this is really my last season and I'm never going to get it back so I'm just trying to soak it all up while I can," Woods said.

And while soaking it all in, Woods said when she's playing, basketball brings her happiness and makes her feel relieved of everything once she's out on the court.

"Anything that I'm going through in life, it just helps me forget about everything and just like when I play, I play just to play I guess, I just forget about everything and I'm just out there to play," Woods said.

In preparing for the season, Woods said she's been in the gym three to four times a week, alongside after school practices with the team.

"I really been trying to get into the gym a lot more, I'm playing a lot more five on five, up and down with people that come up there too, but I've been really trying to work on my shot, getting my jump shots down and my three's down," Woods said.

While working on her shot, Woods said that's what she wants to work on the most for the season.

"I know that I can shoot but I got to build up that confidence and just get to the gym more to get that, just adds muscle memory pretty much," Woods said.

Apart from high school basketball, Woods said she's also played for Oklahoma Fusion basketball and with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes R.E.Sp.E.C.T. team. In being a part of the Oklahoma Fusion team, Woods said it was a different experience for her.

"Just because we are playing people from out of state and there's different ways of them playing, it was like a challenge, there was a lot of good players there that really challenged me so I just did the best I could, I think it was really good for me and I liked it personally," Woods said.

In finding inspiration to get up and show up for practice every day, Woods said she's always reminded of her brother and grandmother when she plays.

"My grandma really loved watching me, and after she passed away I kind of got more into it because I feel like I'm doing it for her," Woods said.



Through her years of playing basketball, Woods said she would like to apply herself more in the leadership role and work on her communication skills on the court.

"I'm really anti-social so I don't really talk to people as much, but on the court you have to really communicate and be a leader, especially being in your senior year, you have to be a leader on the court and get your voice out there," Woods said.

Improving her communication and leadership skills is something Woods hopes to take with her in playing for college basketball.

"I haven't really decided a college yet, but I want to go to college and maybe play college basketball and become a coach from there, because I really want to be a coach," Woods said.

Looking back on her basketball years, Woods said she's grown a lot as a player.

"I used to just throw shots

out there and I would just be really fast, that's really all it was, but I got my dribbling down, I got finishing partly down, and my shot has definitely gotten better, so I've grown a lot over the last few years," Woods said.

With the season opener approaching quickly, Woods has already had two college scholarship offers from Crowley's Ridge College in Paragould, Ark., and the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Ark., that she is still deciphering on.

With hopes to continue playing basketball at the college level, Woods said she looks most forward to learning from her coaches and becoming a better player.

"I know I can be better than I am right now and if I do continue to play then I just hope that I pick the best coach for me, so I'm just really looking for someone that can uplift me and bring me to the player I know I can be," Woods said.



# THE BIGGEST JACKPOTS ARE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
JOLLY JACKPOTS <b>\$1,000</b> CASH DRAWING @ 10 PM SUNDAY - FRIDAY <b>FOREVER YOUNG</b>	JOLLY JACKPOTS <b>\$1,000</b> CASH DRAWING @ 10 PM SUNDAY - FRIDAY <b>SECRET SANTA STASH</b> WIN UP TO \$50 FREE PLAY!	JOLLY JACKPOTS <b>\$1,000</b> CASH DRAWING @ 10 PM SUNDAY - FRIDAY <b>SECRET SANTA STASH</b> WIN UP TO \$50 FREE PLAY!	JOLLY JACKPOTS <b>\$1,000</b> CASH DRAWING @ 10 PM SUNDAY - FRIDAY <b>SECRET SANTA STASH</b> WIN UP TO \$50 FREE PLAY!	JOLLY JACKPOTS <b>\$1,000</b> CASH DRAWING @ 10 PM SUNDAY - FRIDAY <b>SECRET SANTA STASH</b> WIN UP TO \$50 FREE PLAY!	JOLLY JACKPOTS <b>\$1,000</b> CASH DRAWING @ 10 PM SUNDAY - FRIDAY <b>SECRET SANTA STASH</b> WIN UP TO \$50 FREE PLAY!	JOLLY JACKPOTS <b>\$1,000</b> CASH DRAWING @ 10 PM SUNDAY - FRIDAY <b>EVERY SATURDAY 7 PM - 11 PM \$1,000 CASH DRAWING EVERY HOUR</b>

# JOLLY JACKPOTS

EVERY SUNDAY - FRIDAY  
10 PM

**\$1,000**  
CASH DRAWING

EVERY SATURDAY  
7 PM - 11 PM

**\$1,000 CASH DRAWING**  
EVERY HOUR

EARN ENTRIES STARTING MONDAY, NOVEMBER 23

10 POINTS EQUALS ONE ENTRY



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# VACCINES, COVID & STAYING SAFE BOOSTERS FOR ADULTS

**VACCINES & BOOSTERS**

**BOOSTERS NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL ADULTS!**

**PFIZER VACCINES FOR CHILDREN 5-11 YEARS NOW AVAILABLE & ARE VERY SAFE.**

**GET YOUR FLU SHOT AT THE SAME TIME.**

**IT'S GOOD TO MIX & MATCH WITH BOOSTERS!**

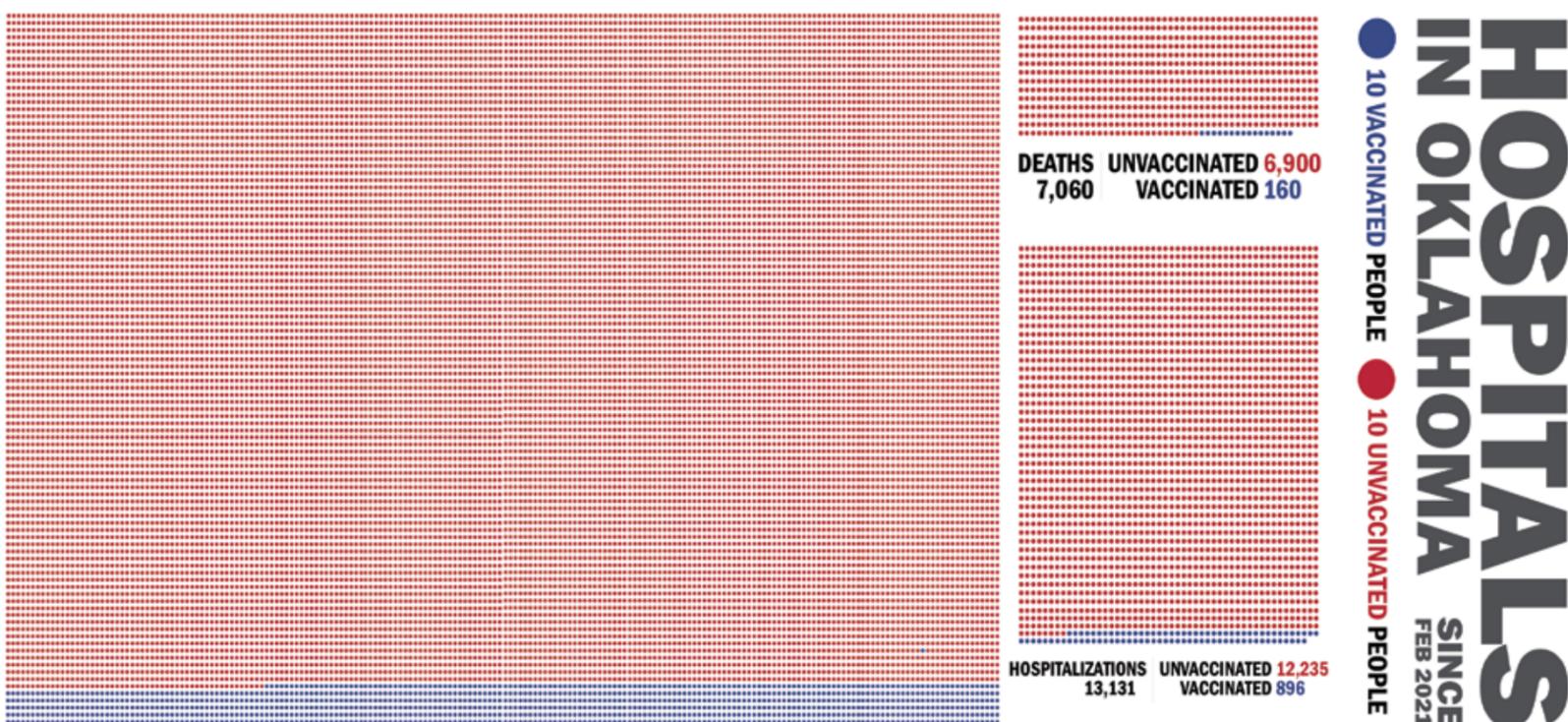
**WE RECOMMEND THOSE WHO GOT J&J TO GET A MODERNA OR PFIZER BOOSTER.**

**BOOSTER RECOMMENDATIONS ARE IN THIS CHART.**

## HOW DO COVID-19 VACCINE BOOSTERS COMPARE?<sup>1</sup>

First Vaccine	Pfizer BIONTECH			moderna			janssen   PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF Johnson & Johnson		
# Vaccine Doses	2			2			1		
Booster Options	moderna	Pfizer BIONTECH	janssen   PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF Johnson & Johnson	Pfizer BIONTECH	moderna	janssen   PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF Johnson & Johnson	moderna	Pfizer BIONTECH	janssen   PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANIES OF Johnson & Johnson
# Antibodies <i>The higher the better!</i>	17.3 x	14.9 x	6.2 x	9.7 x	7.9 x	4.7 x	56.1 x	32.8 x	4.6 x
Rank <i>1st is the best option.</i>	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd	1st	2nd	3rd

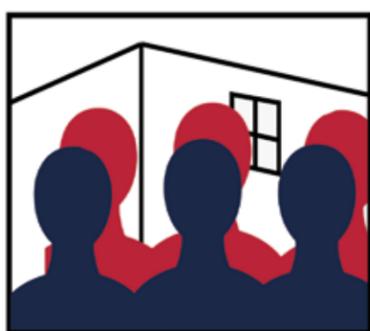
<sup>1</sup>Reference: "Heterologous SARS-CoV-2 Booster Vaccinations - Preliminary Report" (SARS-CoV-2 Vaccine Booster Trial), Table 2, SARS CoV-1 IgG Binding and Neutralizing Antibody Assays, Geometric mean fold rise. Copyright © 2021 Rob Swanda, PhD, drswanda.com.



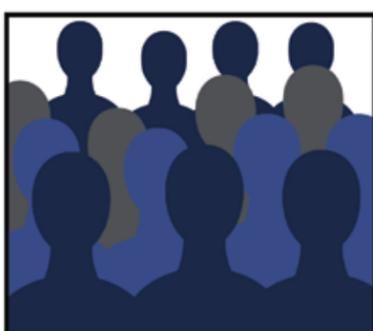
COVID CASES 225,415    UNVACCINATED 212,625    VACCINATED 12,790

Out of 1,942,273 vaccinated Oklahomans, only 0.6% have gotten COVID.

**AVOID THE THREE CS**



**1 CLOSED SPACES**



**2 CROWDS**



**3 CLOSE CONTACT**

The risk of getting COVID is really high when the 3 Cs overlap!



Department of Health  
COVID Task Force



Tribal Health Board  
Indian Health Service

