

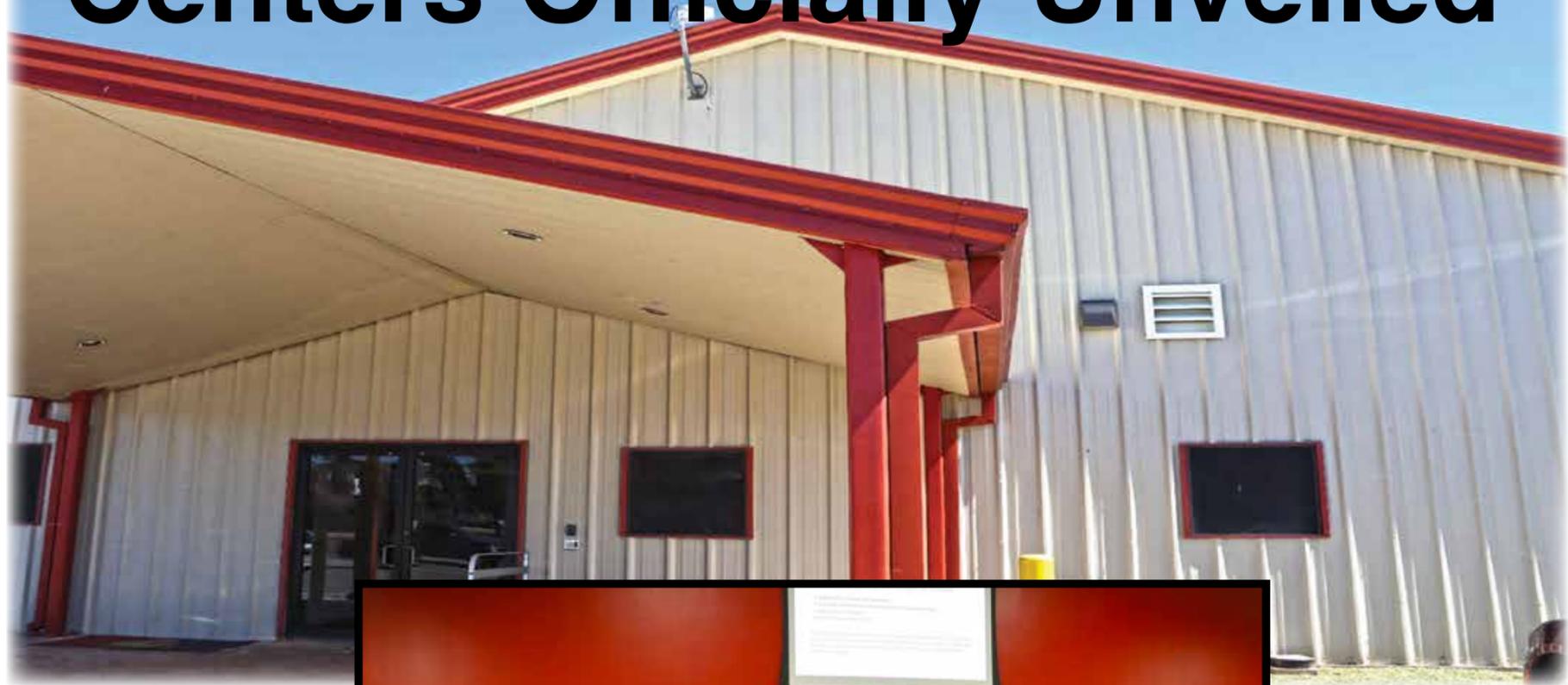
Cheyenne & Arapaho TRIBAL TRIBUNE

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April 1, 2021 - Vol. 17, Issue 7

Emergency Response Centers Officially Unveiled



Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

(CONCHO, OK) In the latter days of March 2020 the coronavirus pandemic became public knowledge as it swept across the country like a silent predator in the night.

In Oklahoma, Tribal Nations were one of the first to close their gaming facilities, tribal offices and businesses in an effort to protect their citizens and their employees, taking huge financial losses in doing so. It would not be long before more companies would follow.

In April 2020 the U.S. Congress, under former President Donald Trump, approved the first stimulus package entitled the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act (CARES). The CARES funding earmarked for Tribal Nations totaled \$8 billion. The guidelines accompanying the funds specified the funds were to help with tribal governments, infrastructure and to assist Tribal Nations in the prevention, preparation and response to the coronavirus. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes received \$63.4 million in CARES funding.

“One of my main goals and priorities was to help ensure that the Tribes used a portion of our CARES funds to improve our tribal infrastructure and to have emergency facilities and food pantry facilities” Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Gov. Reggie Wassana wrote in a release.

There were several groundbreakings conducted in July 2020 for Emergency Response Centers (ERC), and several more existing tribal commu-



Cutting the red ribbon officially opening the Concho Emergency Response Center is Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Gov. Reggie Wassana and Speaker of the 8th Legislator Kendrick Sleeper. Pictured l-r: Chieko Buffalo holding the red ribbon, Sonny Redshin, Parks & Recreation program director, Cheyenne District 3 Legislator Darrell Flyingman, Cheyenne District 2 Legislator George Woods, Sleeper, Wassana, and the crew from Candor Building Solutions. (Photos / Rosemary Stephens)

nity centers were slated for upgrades utilizing some of the CARES funding to bring those facilities in compliance to be used as ERCs also.

On Monday, March 29, the first ribbon cutting signifying the official opening of the Concho Emergency Response Center was held, with three more following on March 30 in Clinton and Seiling, Okla., and April 1 in Geary, Okla.

“The difference between the Emergency Response Centers and community centers has to do with the pandemic. If we have to isolate people we could put them up in here.

Everything in here is COVID friendly as far as cleaning and sanitizing ... all the materials. And if the EMS has to bring in people, they can come in from the outside, change out of their clothes, decontaminate, put their clothes in the washer, shower, put on new clothes and be able to bring their people in here. It will still be the same thing if we face any other emergencies, like winter storms or extreme heat or tornadoes. We can feed them here with the newly renovated commercial

See EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER pg. 7

FEMA to Help Pay Funeral Costs for COVID-19 Related Deaths

In early April, FEMA will begin providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after Jan. 20, 2020 for deaths related to coronavirus (COVID-19) to help ease some of the financial stress and burden caused by the pandemic. The policy was finalized today, and FEMA is now moving rapidly to implement this funeral assistance program nationwide.

To be eligible for COVID-19 funeral assistance, the policy states:

The applicant must be a U.S. citizen, non-citizen national, or qualified alien who incurred funeral expenses after Jan. 20, 2020 for a death attributed to COVID-19.

If multiple individuals contributed toward funeral expenses, they should apply under a single application as applicant and co-applicant. FEMA will also consider documentation from other individuals not listed as the applicant and co-applicant who may have incurred funeral expenses as part of the registration for the deceased individual.

An applicant may apply for multiple deceased individuals. The COVID-19-related death must have occurred in the United States, including the U.S. territories and the District of Columbia.

This assistance is limited to a maximum financial amount

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Tribes to get record funding from American Rescue Plan

By Joseph Tomlinson/Gaylord News

WASHINGTON — Tribes in Oklahoma are both hopeful and anxious as they wait for the funds and spending rules from the American Rescue Plan that President Joe Biden signed last week.

Native American tribes nationwide will receive more than \$31 billion as part of the American Rescue Plan, the largest one-time investment in history. However, the amount of money set to be given to Oklaho-

ma tribes on an individual basis is largely unknown and likely will be until further tribal consultation has occurred.

Nonetheless, some tribes in Oklahoma hope the plan will pull them out of the fight against COVID-19 and return to normal.

“I think (spending will) be less (focused) on the PPE and testing and (more focused on) the economy (being) decimated and the making things kind of get back to somewhat of a

new normal,” said James Weigant, COVID Task Force coordinator for the Osage Nation. “But at the same time, you’re hearing rumors of a fourth wave in Europe, and you know, the other shoe could drop, and we’re back into the trenches again.”

Out of the \$31 billion tribes will receive, \$20 billion will focus on combating COVID-19 and stabilizing safety nets in tribal communities. Additionally, \$1 billion will be split evenly among the 574 federally

recognized tribes, portioning about \$1.7 million to each tribe, including the 38 federally recognized tribes in Oklahoma, said Libby Washburn, special assistant to Biden. The remaining \$19 billion will be distributed to each tribe using an undisclosed formula developed by the U.S. Treasury.

Another portion of that money is from Housing and Urban Development, in which Oklahoma tribes will

See TRIBAL FUNDING pg. 4

American Rescue Plan to be largest investment in Native programs in history

Native Americans face persistent and systemic inequities and COVID-19 has exacted an especially high toll in Indian Country. People living on reservations are four times more likely to have COVID-19 and American Indians (AI) and Alaska Natives (AN) are nearly twice as likely to die from COVID-19 than white Americans. Native American families and small businesses also face severe economic challenges associated with the pandemic. And the loss of Native Elders threatens the sacred preservation of language, tradition and culture. Tribal governments and Native communities urgently need additional support and assistance from the Federal Government.

The American Rescue Plan will change the course of the pandemic in Indian Country, deliver immediate relief for hard-hit Native American families and Tribal businesses, and build a bridge towards economic recovery and resilience for Tribal Nations. These investments build on actions President Biden has taken in his first weeks in office to rebuild the Nation-to-Nations relationship, including signing a Presidential Memorandum that directs the whole of federal government to reinvigorate formal consultation with Tribal Nations, expanding access to the Strategic National Stockpile for Native communities, and expanding FEMA assistance for Tribal governments. The bill is one of the most progressive pieces of legislation in history, with more than two thirds of its tax cuts and direct payments going to families making less than \$90,000 per year. It will:

Mount a national vaccination program, contain COVID-19 and safely reopen schools. American workers should not have to lie awake at night wondering if they'll make it home from work safely the next day or if they'll bring home the virus to their loved ones and communities. The American Rescue Plan will address the pandemic that will:

Invest about \$160 billion to provide the supplies, emergency response, testing and public health workforce to stop the spread of COVID-19, while distributing vaccines as quickly as possible and addressing racial disparities in COVID-19 outcomes. These emergency measures will help combat the heavy toll this virus is exacting and will deliver community-based and culturally competent care.

Provide \$130 billion to help schools serve all students, no matter where they are learning, and help

achieve President Biden's goal to safely open the majority of K-8 schools within the first 100 days of his Administration. These investments include set asides at the local and state level to ensure states and districts address the learning loss and social and emotional needs of students disproportionately impacted by COVID-19, including students of color, English learners and students with disabilities.

Deliver immediate relief to American families bearing the brunt of the crisis.

The American Rescue Plan devotes about \$1 trillion towards building a bridge to economic recovery for working families. All told, a single parent with one young child making the minimum wage could see his/her income increase from the equivalent of \$7.25 to around \$11 per hour. The plan will:

Give working families a \$1400 per-person check, bringing their total relief payment from this and the December down payment to \$2,000. More than 85 percent of households will receive a check and checks in this bill are bigger than the checks in the CARES Act or in the December bill. And, for the first time, adult dependents are entitled to a check as well. This means a lower or middle-income family of four will see an additional \$5,600 in their pockets.

Extend current unemployment insurance benefits and eligibility to Sept. 6, 2021 (saving 11 million Americans from losing benefits), provide \$300 per week supplement and help protect Americans from surprise tax bills on unemployment insurance they received last year in 2020.

Help American stay in their homes by providing emergency aid to cover back rent. In addition, the bill provides assistance to help struggling homeowners catch up with their mortgage payments and utility costs through the Homeowners Assistance Fund. And it provides additional funding for families and individuals who are recovering from or at risk of homelessness.

Increase the value of Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits. The American Rescue Plan will increase SNAP benefits by 15 percent through September 2021. The bill also funds partnerships with restaurants to feed American families and keep workers in the restaurant industry on the job. And, it provides U.S. territories like Puerto Rico additional nutrition assistance funding, in addition to funding to make sure women, infants and children get the food they

Department of Treasury	The set-aside funding for tribes under the Treasury Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund is \$20 billion, \$1 billion of which will be allocated equally among all federally recognized tribes. The remaining \$19 billion will be allocated in a manner determined by the Secretary of Treasury. Costs must be incurred by Dec. 31, 2024 and used for any of the following purposes: (1) Respond to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19 or its negative economic impacts, including assistance to households, small businesses, and nonprofits, or aid to impacted industries such as tourism, travel, and hospitality (2) To respond to workers performing essential work during the COVID-19 public health emergency by providing premium pay to eligible workers of the tribal government that are performing such essential work, or by providing grants to eligible employers that have eligible workers who perform essential work (Note: essential work and premium pay are further defined in the legislation) (3) For the provision of government services to the extent of the reduction in revenue of such tribal government due to such emergency (4) To make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure
Department of Treasury	\$100 million for tribal governments to carry out critical capital projects directly enabling work, education and health monitoring, including remote options, in response to the public health emergency with respect to COVID-19. Treasury will establish a process of applying for grants to access funding within 60 days of enactment.
Department of Treasury	\$250 million per year for fiscal years 2022 and 2023 to pay to eligible tribal governments in amounts that are determined by the Secretary taking into account economic conditions of each eligible tribe. An eligible tribal government may use funds under this program for any governmental purpose other than a lobbying activity.
Department of Treasury	\$498 million is to be allocated to a homeowner assistance program for tribes and native housing programs.
Department of Treasury	\$500 million is to be allocated to tribal governments in a proportion the Secretary of Treasury determines appropriate to support small businesses through the Small Business Credit Incentive Act of 2010.
Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)	A total of more than \$6 billion is set aside for Indian Health Service (IHS), for purposes of lost 3rd party medical reimbursements, clinical health services, telehealth infrastructure, IHS electronic health records, Urban Indian organizations, COVID-19 vaccination distribution, vaccine related activities and mental and behavioral health. In addition, funding shall be available for the acquisition of health facilities to respond to COVID-19. Over \$1 billion is dedicated to native families, including Tribal TANF and other childcare programs and support. Additional funding in the amount of \$20 million is provided to HHS Administration for Native Americans (ANA) for emergency language preservation, which must be distributed in 180 days of enactment of the legislation. \$19 million is set aside to be administered for purposes of preventing and responding to domestic violence.
Department of the Interior	A total set-aside of \$900 million has been allocated to the Bureau of Indian Affairs. This funding is set aside for tribal housing improvement, tribal government services, and potable water. \$850 million has been provided to the Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) for FY 2021 to be allocated by the Director of BIE within 45 days of enactment to remain available until expended.
Department of Education	\$190 million will be provided to the Department of Education for grant programs benefiting American Indian, Native Hawaiian and Alaska Native education. Additionally, over \$230 million will go to tribal colleges and universities and other native serving higher education institutions.
Department of Housing and Urban Development	A total of \$750 million has been set aside for Native American housing block grants, Indian community development block grants and to provide funding for technical assistance. These funds remain available until Sept. 30, 2025 in order to prevent, prepare for and respond to COVID-19.

need to help address food insecurity.

Increase the child tax credit from \$2,000 per child to \$3,000 per child (\$3,600 for a child under age 6) and make 17 year-olds qualifying children for the year. This means a typical family of four with two young children will receive an additional \$3,200 in assistance to help cover costs associated with raising children. The families of more than 66 million kids will benefit.

Increase the earned income tax credit for 17 million workers by as much as \$1,000. The top occupations that will benefit are cashiers; food preparers and servers, and home health aides, frontline workers who have helped their communities get through the crisis.

Expand childcare assistance to help hard-hit child care providers cover their costs and increase tax credits to help cover the cost of childcare. This is the single biggest investment in child care since World War II.

Give families an additional tax credit to help cut child care costs Families will get back as a refundable tax credit as much as half of their spending on child care for children under age 13, so that they can receive a total of up to \$4,000 for one child or \$8,000 for two or more children.

Provide an additional \$1

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Sunday, April 4, 2021

From 10am-1pm

Cheyenne and Arapaho Election Commission Announces 2021 Primary/General Elections

(CONCHO, OK) The Cheyenne and Arapaho Election Commission will begin election proceedings for the 2021 Primary and General Elections on May 3, 2021.

The Following Public Offices are up for Election:
Executive Office
Governor
Lt. Governor
District Legislative Office

Arapaho District 1
Arapaho District 2
Cheyenne District 2
Cheyenne District 4
District Election Commission

Arapaho District 3
Arapaho District 4
Cheyenne District 1
Cheyenne District 3

The Primary Election will be Oct. 5, 2021. The General Election will be Nov. 2, 2021.

Beginning May 3, 2021, nominations for public office will open to qualified candidates. Registration packets will be available at the Election Commission office located in the Dept. of Education building in Concho, Okla. Filing Fee will need to be paid before receiving a packet.

Nominations will close on June 1, 2021. All interested candidates must submit their completed registration packet along with their verification of candidate eligibility by 5 p.m. on June 1, 2021.

Candidate Filing Fees
Governor-\$250
Lt. Governor-\$250
District Legislative Office-\$200

District Election Commission-\$100

The non-refundable filing fee must be a cashier's check or money order payable to the Election Commission.

Waivers of the filing fee are available upon request if the person meets or falls

below the current federal poverty guidelines and can document this with their prior year federal income tax. This determination must be made before a packet can be picked up.

The Minimum Qualifications for Governor and Lt. Governor Candidates are as follows:

1. The Candidates for Governor and Lt. Governor shall be enrolled members of the tribe, at least 35 years of age and each must possess at least a Bachelor of Science Degree from an accredited school;

2. No person convicted of a felony within the last ten years shall serve as Governor or Lt. Governor unless pardoned;

3. At the time of filing a nomination petition, the candidate shall physically reside in a voting district and if elected, reside in a voting district for the duration of their term;

4. The candidates shall submit copies of his or her Federal Income Tax Returns for the previous five years and provide a written list of all of his or her personal and real property;

5. The candidates cannot owe any money or owe any debts to the tribes;

6. The Governor and Lt. Governor will run as a team.

The Minimum Qualifications for District Legislative Candidates are as follows:

1. A candidate for District Legislator shall be an enrolled member of the tribes, at least 25 years of age and shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent;

2. No person convicted of a felony within the last ten years shall be eligible to serve as District Legislator unless pardoned;

3. At the time of filing a nomination petition, a can-

didate for District Legislator shall physically reside and be a registered voter in the district for which he or she seeks elective office and if elected, the candidate SHALL reside in that district for the duration of their term;

4. The candidate cannot owe any money or owe any debts to the tribes.

The Minimum Qualifications for District Election Commission Candidates are as follows:

1. A candidate for District Election Commissioner shall be an enrolled member of the tribe and shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent;

2. No person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to serve as an Election Commissioner;

3. At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for District Election Commissioner shall physically reside in the district for which he or she seeks elective office and if elected, reside in that district for the duration of their term;

4. The candidate cannot owe any money or owe any debts to the tribes.

For more information contact the Election Commission toll free at 1-800-247-4612 or any of the following Election Commissioners:

A1 Ray Mosqueda
405 306-9281

C1 Sandra Hinshaw
405 593-7944

A2 Dale Hamilton
405 248-7584

C2 Norma Yarbrough
405 538-6664

A3 Pat Smothers
405 535-7863

C3 Ramona Welch
405 464-2716

A4 Elizabeth Birdshead
405 464-6043

C4 Sarah Orange
405 637-6036

Economic impact of tribes increases substantially as tribes anticipate future economic relief

By Kaitlyn Deggs, Gaylord News

The economic impact of the tribes in Oklahoma has increased substantially during the past few years, and funds from the American Rescue Plan are only going to continue this trend.

The Oklahoma Native Impact study, authored by Kyle Dean, director of the Center for Native American and Urban Studies at Oklahoma City University, said the expansion of tribal influence has led to improvements across the state.

"Significant growth over this time frame has allowed tribes to spend more dollars on other economic opportunities within their region and to increase government services and invest in roads and other capital projects," Dean said. "All have led to increases in employment and community impact."

The study names tribal activity as the ninth-largest industry in Oklahoma. It also states that the total economic impact of Oklahoma tribes in 2017, the latest year for which data is available, amounted to \$12.9 billion, up from \$10.8 billion in 2011. Before the 2017 data was released, the most recent data on tribal economic impact came from 2011.

The tribes increased their employment numbers by more than 10% during that six-year time period. While Dean's study represents a cumulative economic impact, the tribes contribute to the state economy in their own ways and make investments that aid in providing financial support to tribal and non-tribal Oklahomans.

The Choctaw Nation alone in 2019 "invested more than \$183 million in new projects and supported 18,152 Oklahoma jobs, paying wages and benefits of \$839 million to Oklahoma workers," said Michelle

Weaver, the tribe's communication specialist.

The benefits of tribal influence on the economy do not stay in one area. Oklahoma tribes contribute to a range of economic sectors.

"The Choctaw Nation provides numerous job opportunities ranging from healthcare, education, social services, administration, information technology... just to name a few," said Weaver.

Tribes have provided substantial amounts of money to support education. The study stated that Oklahoma tribes provided \$198 million to fund Oklahoma education in 2017. That includes exclusivity fees from gaming compacts.

"Last year we gave about \$5.7 million to different school districts, and that's something that goes on top of what they're already budgeted for through the state," said Bryan Warner, deputy principal chief of the Cherokee Nation.

In addition to their support of Oklahoma public education, tribes have spent money to further the education of tribal citizens.

According to the study, Oklahoma tribes spent \$80.5 million in 2017 for tribal education programs, scholarships and donations to various Oklahoma education institutions.

The study explains that the influence the tribes have is due to their enduring presence in the region. The permanence of tribal boundaries ensures the tribes will continue their impact for all types of Oklahoma communities.

That includes aiding Oklahoma's extensive rural population, which tribes often focus on.

"A lot of what we do is try to provide opportunity to help the human capital in

small rural areas," said Warner. "We represent communities that might have been forgotten about."

Those communities especially have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. The data has not been released, but Dean predicts he will see a decline in revenue and employment from the tribes.

However, Dean says tribal actions taken to protect citizens from financial losses will likely be reflected in the numbers for 2020 and 2021.

"Some tribes did keep their employees on payroll even though their facilities were closed, so while I expect to see a decline in employment, these tribal actions will mitigate losses due to COVID relative to other businesses in the state," Dean said. "Tribes did receive CARES Act dollars which offset a small portion of these revenue losses."

The tribes are also set to receive billions of dollars from the American Rescue Plan of 2021. This would result in the largest infusion of cash into tribal communities in history. On Thursday, HUD announced it was sending \$66 million to Oklahoma tribes in housing block grants to help pay for construction of tribal-owned housing.

Overall, tribal influence in Oklahoma shows no signs of stopping. While the COVID-19 pandemic has hit tribal and non-tribal communities hard, tribes are looking at what positive economic impacts they could have on the future, including increasing employment numbers.

"The sky is the limit for what we can do," said Warner.

Gaylord News is a reporting project of the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication.

OIGA Moves Conference and Trade Show to Aug. 16-18

Safety First: See Your In Oklahoma City, in the Middle of Indian Country

(OKLAHOMA CITY) With the safety of vendors and attendees in mind, OIGA has moved its annual Conference and Trade Show to Aug. 16-18. Originally scheduled for late July, the decision was made to move the conference in order to give people more time to obtain COVID-19 vaccinations.

"OIGA is dedicated, first and foremost, to the wellbeing, safety and prosperity of our members, vendors and attendees. While hosting a July event was possible, it is our feeling that by moving into August, we will provide a much safer event for everyone," said OIGA Chairman Matthew L. Morgan.

The 2021 OIGA Conference and Trade Show, otherwise known as 'the biggest little show in Indian Gaming,' will be held in Oklahoma City Aug. 16-18, in the brand-new, state-of-the-art

Oklahoma City Convention Center and will draw nearly 3,000 vendors, visitors and guest speakers to downtown Oklahoma City to celebrate and advance our industry.

Oklahoma is home to one of the largest gaming markets in the United States with more than 80,000 electronic machines on the floors of our over 130 operations. The OIGA Conference and Trade Show has always been the largest regional show in the country and are looking forward to hitting that mark again.

"We are looking forward to seeing everyone. After cancelling last year's events, it's going to be extra special to see our friends and colleagues from across the country and around the world. We look forward to a wonderful Conference and a spectacular Trade Show at Oklahoma's City's brand-

new Convention Center and world-class Omni Hotel," Morgan added.

The welcome reception and Poker Tournament will be held on Monday, Aug. 16. Tuesday morning will be dedicated to conference sessions. The Trade Show floor will open early on Tuesday for maximum networking and instead of the formal luncheon, OIGA's Annual Awards will be presented on the Trade Show floor stage, with a more casual meal. Wednesday will be filled with more sessions and fun at the Trade Show.

If you have never attended the OIGA Trade Show, you are in for a treat! It is a lively, fun, informative, high-energy assembly of some of the biggest names in the gaming and hospitality industries.

To register or for more information visit oiga.org.

CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

School Clothing Program

2021/2022

Important Dates:

- Friday April 2nd, 2021 - Applications become available
- Wednesday July 14th, 2021 - We begin processing applications
- Friday October 29th, 2021 - Application deadline

CHILD MUST BE ENROLLED CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO AND HAVE THEIR OWN CDIB.

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

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2020 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST/OK CHAPTER MEDIA AWARD WINNER

TRIBAL FUNDING

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receive about \$65 million under the Indian Housing Block Grant program, Washburn said.

Under a separate program from HUD — the Indian Community Development Block Grant program — there is a \$280 million pot from which tribes nationwide can seek grants. Housing infrastructure has been an ongoing issue for many tribes in Oklahoma throughout the pandemic, and Washburn expects Oklahoma tribes to take advantage of these programs.

The Osage Nation, like other tribes, is developing an early and broad spending plan that remains difficult to finalize without further guidance from the federal government, but they're focusing on key areas, one of them being infrastructure.

"We're trying to identify some of those areas," Weigant said. "It's still a draft and work in progress ... but infrastructure is a big part of that."

U.S. Rep. Tom Cole, R-Oklahoma, a Chickasaw Nation citizen who voted against the COVID-19 relief package, sent a statement to Gaylord News regarding the investment into tribal nations.

"While I disagreed with many provisions unrelated to the pandemic contained

in the legislation signed into law by President Biden, I am glad that additional resources will be made available to support the pandemic response of tribal nations. This includes additional funds for vaccine-related activities, virus mitigation efforts and mental health services," Cole said. "As home to 39 tribal nations, Oklahoma's tribes will certainly put its future allocation of these funds to good use. Indeed, the investment will benefit the health and well-being of both tribal members and surrounding communities."

Despite the amount of money set to be sent to Native American communities, Ben Barnes, chief of the Shawnee Tribe, has concerns about the distribution process.

The tribe received the minimum \$100,000 from the CARES Act in March 2020, owing to a stipulation within the distribution formula that mistakenly accounted that the Shawnee Tribe had a population of zero. Several other tribes faced similar issues regarding the census, including the Choctaw Nation, the Delaware Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma, and others nationwide.

As a result of this uncorrected error, the Shawnee Tribe, which reported a population of 3,021 to the U.S.

Treasury, was effectively denied up to \$12 million in the CARES Act. The tribe filed suit against the Treasury, and Shawnee Tribe v. Mnuchin is ongoing.

"My concern with the American Rescue Plan is they're going to try and come up with some weird formula. And they're not going to use a tribe's actual number of citizens for the distribution," Barnes said.

In a statement to Gaylord News, Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. also voiced concern about the needs of his tribe, including mental health services, Indigenous language preservation, domestic violence, substance abuse services as well as broadband infrastructure, sanitation infrastructure and much more.

"Tribes are unique in terms of the American Rescue Plan in that distribution of the funds will be based in part on tribal consultation, and there are strict timelines that federal agencies must adhere to in order to ensure timely distribution of funds," Hoskin said. "Based on our experience with the CARES Act funds, we are concerned about possible onerous, restrictive agency guidelines that could impede on our ability to serve our citizens and communities. We've asked the Biden Administra-

tion to allow for flexibility in use of the funds and defer to tribal nation decision-making given we are in the best position to know the needs of our communities."

The Biden administration released a memorandum during the president's first week in office stating that they will "(make) respect for tribal sovereignty and self-governance, commitment to fulfilling federal trust and treaty responsibilities to tribal nations," as well as stating "regular, meaningful and robust consultation with tribal nations" is a "priority." Tribes remain hopeful the Biden administration's commitment to Native American communities will shine through in the American Rescue Plan and help put COVID-19 behind them.

"(Native Americans) were hit among the hardest in the entire country," Washburn said. "This is really helping them build back to where they were and get on a stronger footing for the future."

Gaylord News reporter Libbey Dean contributed to this article. Gaylord News is a reporting project of the University of Oklahoma Gaylord College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Cronkite News has partnered with OU to expand coverage of Indigenous communities.

April: Sexual Assault Awareness Month



A woman's eyes slowly scan a neatly stacked row of shoeboxes. She glances down and notices the scuffs and frayed laces on her own sneakers. These well-worn shoes symbolize the difficult journey she has made. Each movement forward has been an act of defiance against the trauma of sexual violence and toward a journey of healing.

This woman is one of the more than one in three (35%) of American Indian/Alaska Native women that have experienced rape during their lifetime.

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and we are asking our community to go "One Step Further" in helping to prevent and eradicate sexual violence. Going one step further embodies the idea that even if you have been involved in the movement to end sexual violence for minutes- or for years- you can still take your actions one step further to make positive changes in your community. To support survivors, you may:

Demand accountability against sexual offenders, even if they are friends or family members.

Encourage friends and family to educate themselves on prevention of sexual violence by learning about consent.

Stand with survivors, making a public statement that you believe survivors of sexual assault.

Revive tribal cultural norms and values to respect a woman's right to autonomy over her body.

Recognize, especially as Native men, language and attitude have the power to effect change in your community by creating respect for women and girls.

Understand that sexual

assault is not traditional to our culture.

Support victims as they discuss trauma that is extremely difficult, private, and emotional.

Create laws and policies to ensure support, justice and hope for victims and survivors of sexual assault in our sovereign nations.

We all start at different places when it comes to creating awareness around an issue like sexual assault. Some may already be an outspoken advocate for survivors, and others might be hearing that they can make a difference for the very first time. It's important to know that everyone can make a difference in bringing awareness to sexual assault.

The woman mentioned previously in our story is just one of many of our relatives that have experienced the pain of sexual assault. However, this woman's story stands apart from others; She had sisters who believed her when she spoke of the rape. She had support when she went to the hospital, to law enforcement and to court. She also had an advocate to help her through the entire process. She lived in a community that upheld laws to protect women and children. Her community took their actions one step further to protect all victims of sexual assault.

Our tribal community deserves to be safe and free from sexual assault. Please contact our program if you would like to learn more about how you can join us in taking 'one step further.'

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Sexual Assault Services Program 24-hour crisis line: 405-308-0156 | climpy@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

FEMA

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of \$9,000 per funeral and a maximum of \$35,500 per application.

Funeral assistance is intended to assist with expenses for funeral services and interment or cremation.

In the coming weeks, a dedicated 800 number will be established to help individuals who apply. In the meantime, potential applicants are encouraged to start gathering the following documentation:

An official death certificate that attributes the death to COVID-19 and shows

that the death occurred in the U. S. The death certificate must indicate the death "may have been caused by" or "was likely the result of" COVID-19 or COVID-19 like symptoms. Similar phrases that indicate a high likelihood of COVID-19 are considered sufficient attribution.

Funeral expense documents (receipts, funeral home contract, etc.) that include the applicant's name, the deceased individual's name, the amount of funeral expenses, and the dates the

funeral expenses were incurred.

Proof of funds received from other sources specifically for use toward funeral costs. Funeral assistance may not duplicate benefits received from burial or funeral insurance, financial assistance received from voluntary agencies, federal/state/local/tribal/territorial government programs or agencies, or other sources.

More information regarding this assistance can be found at COVID-19 Funeral Assistance | FEMA.gov.

Contact Us

If you have any questions, please contact Office of External Affairs:

Congressional Affairs at (202) 646-4500 or at FEMA-Congressional-Affairs@fema.dhs.gov

Intergovernmental Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-IGA@fema.dhs.gov

Tribal Affairs at (202) 646-3444 or at FEMA-Tribal@fema.dhs.gov

Private Sector Engagement at nbeoc@max.gov

House votes to reauthorize Violence Against Women Act

The House voted 242-172 to reauthorize the lapsed Violence Against Women Act (VAWA), which gives legal protections to women who have experienced domestic and sexual violence.

Why it matters: The original landmark 1994 law, sponsored by then-Senate Judiciary Chairman Joe Biden, expired in 2019. President Biden promised to reauthorize VAWA during his campaign.

In a statement earlier this month, Biden urged both chambers of Congress to "come together in a bipartisan manner to ensure swift passage of VAWA legislation."

"Domestic violence is being called a pandemic within the COVID-19 pandemic, with growing evidence showing that the conditions of the pandemic have resulted in escalated rates of intimate partner violence, and in some cases more severe injuries," the president said.

Details: The bill expands aid and services for victims and survivors of domestic violence, and authorizes funding for grants and other forms of support for groups working with survivors.

The legislation ensures that unemployment benefits cannot be denied to individuals who leave jobs due to sexual harassment or assault, domestic or dating violence or stalking, CNN reports.

It also closes the so-called "boyfriend loophole" in gun laws by banning dating partners convicted of domestic violence from owning and purchasing guns. The restriction currently only applies to married or divorced couples.

Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee (D-Texas), House Judiciary Chair Jerry Nadler (D-N.Y.) and Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-Pa.) introduced the bill to reauthorize VAWA on International Women's Day.

What to watch: The House voted in 2019 to reauthorize the legislation shortly after it expired, but it did not pass the then-Republican controlled Senate.

Democrats now control the Senate with a razor-thin majority, but it's unclear whether VAWA will win enough Republican votes to reach the 60-vote filibuster-proof threshold.

The legislation has been reauthorized three times in 2000, 2005 and 2013.

Clinton Service Unit & the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Present

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LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE

NYCP Assists Native Youth with Academic and Emotional Needs

Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

At the heart of the student body within Clinton Public Schools is the Native Youth Community Project (NYCP). It is a project providing mentorship services and assisting students in their academic endeavors and emotional needs. In a nutshell.

The NYCP grant was awarded in 2018, in a continued effort to assist youth, under the the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe's STEP program.

With their goals of helping students in need, NYCP strives to increase a student's GPA, assist with college and career readiness, increase parent involvement, provide cultural education and tutor students.

Servicing Clinton Public Schools, NYCP staff has been able to work with third through eighth graders who attend Southwest Elementary, Washington Elementary and Clinton Middle School in Clinton, Okla.

Three education specialists work with the principals and counselors, targeting the student's every need.

"We mentor, we tutor, we advocate for our students. I serve the students in any way, shape or form they need," Hauli Gray, education specialist said. Gray has been working with the students at Washington Elementary School.

"I also provide a lot of mentoring," Gray said, the area she finds most fulfilling.

"We build the relationships with our students and give them somebody within the school that they can be comfortable with, somebody that they can connect with," Gray said.

Gray said creating leaders among the students is the goal and her primary focus.

"The way that we do that is try to help them identify their values, their purpose, and we start with goal setting and big things like respect, being respectful in their classrooms, at home, with their peers," Gray said.

At Clinton Middle School, education specialist Kourtney Meat has been working with the seventh and eighth graders. Helping with tutoring, Meat meets with 15-20 students weekly.

"Right now we're focusing on goal setting and preparing them for their state testing coming up in April," Meat said.

"The counselor usually gives me referrals when students' grades are dropping and I'll pull those students out and we'll just work on science, algebra, or whatever they need help with to get their grades up."

In dealing with student absences in the schools, Meat said the NYCP is working on providing incentives to persuade students to show up for school.

With truancy being one of the biggest obstacles they face within the schools, Gray said it's safe to say the staff has had to adjust to some of the same things in helping students.

"We're trying to think of new innovative ideas, providing incentives to try to help encourage the students to get to school and be at school, not only that, but to learn while they're there," Gray said.

NYCP school social worker, Mary Davenport, works with all three schools, but primarily with Washington Elementary and Clinton Middle School.

"I work primarily off of referrals when it

comes from the faculty or the parent, sometimes the student themselves, or from the education specialists. They'll identify something there that wasn't identified before and they'll send a referral to me to work with the students," Davenport said.

Davenport said she also works with parents that have to attend truancy court.

"Truancy court can be very intimidating for families that aren't familiar with it, so I go to help advocate for the families, be supportive, and help the family as a whole to understand the importance of education and see what else we can address to make improvements so we can progress out of truancy court," Davenport said.

Davenport said one of her main focuses is helping students identify their Individualized Educational Plan (IEP).

"I think a lot of times, Indian country as a whole, we have students that have IEP's and we're not really familiar as a family on how to advocate on what that means for our children, so I'm a very big supporter of advocating for families and parents of IEP's so they know and understand what that paper means," Davenport said.

With IEP's, Davenport said it's important to understand how it affects a student's learning ability.

"We really can't help them learn if they don't understand themselves where their strengths and weaknesses are, so that's something we've really been focusing on, I think that's a really good area," Davenport said.

Davenport also provides counseling for students and their families who exhibit behavioral, or other issues, in the classroom.

At Southwest Elementary School, Deidra Flurry, education specialist, works with 57 students in the third and fourth grades.

Alongside tutoring and mentoring, Flurry said she has more flexibility in the elementary school and is able to provide talking round tables for students.

"We have different topics that we talk about. I know Hauli and I both addressed respect, how we respect ourselves, how we respect others, and what exactly respect means," Flurry said.

With NYCP serving all Native students and not just enrolled Cheyenne and Arapaho youth, Flurry said they also discuss culture and identifying their Native heritage.

"Another important role that we all have in the NYCP program is building that positive relationship with the school administration and the teachers as well," Flurry said.

Having an open communication across the schools and their staff is what NYCP staff is trying to build on.

"It also helps us empower our parents at the same time because if we already have that communication, it's easier to convey things to parents and it's easier for them to feel comfortable seeing that somebody else has built this relationship with their students in school," Flurry said.

In early 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic had begun its course throughout the communities, forcing businesses and schools to shutdown, the NYCP staff was put on temporary furlough when the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes shut down.

When the fall semester had begun, Project Director Mahgan Muskett said the schools

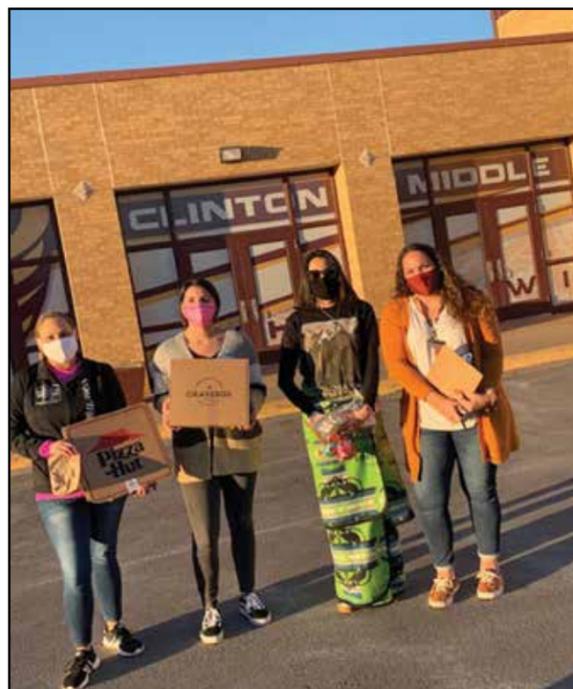
See NYCP pg. 7

had requested the staff return to work and continue their work with students.

"They had already identified a lot of mental health issues with their students when school started back from them being out for so long. Mr. McPhail, the assistant superintendent from Clinton Public Schools contacted Carrie Whitlow, Department of Education executive director, and wanted an update in trying to get feedback on when we were going to be able to return," Muskett said.

In being away from the students during that time, Muskett said it put a damper on the project and on the mental health of students.

With the NYCP grant originating from the STEP program, Muskett said the program saw a need and a component for the opportunities that NYCP would pro-



NYCP staff hand out care-packages, meals, cultural activities and gifts as part of their monthly drive-thru's for Clinton Public Schools in Clinton, Okla. (Courtesy photos)



Staff members of the Native Youth Community Project include (l-r): Deidra Flurry, Mahgan Muskett, Mary Davenport, Cheryl Candy, Kourtney Meat and Maria Moore.



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2021 Graduate Tribute

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DEADLINE TO SUBMIT PHOTOS - MAY 10, 2021

Second Chances: Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Reentry Program Provides Hope for the Future

Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

When Mark Smith Jr., stepped out of the prison system he called 'home' for 25 years, he knew one thing for sure ... he never wanted to return.

Smith was just 14 years old when he was sentenced to serve 80 years for his crime. At a time when he should have been playing ball in the field or hanging out with his friends, Smith was preparing himself for a life behind bars. He would serve 25 years of his 80-year sentence before receiving parole and a second chance at life.

His parole hearing, held in May 2019, laid out several stipulations he would have to meet before being released. He would participate in a six-month work release program, psychological evaluations, and the big one, the Tribal Reentry Program.

And that's when Norene Starr came into Smith's life and introduced him to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Reentry Program.

"Our mission is to reintegrate every direction of a life, the physical, mental, spiritual balance, always moving up the ladder towards the milk way," Starr said.

The reentry program, she said, is a program geared at assisting those that are incarcerated to reenter society and become a functioning member.

"We want them to reenter the family structure, and the workforce. Starting over is difficult and everyone deserves a chance to change and make a better life for themselves," Starr said.

Smith is one of the first successful candidates to go through the Tribes' reentry program, celebrating his one-year of freedom on March 25, 2021.

"I had contacted Norene and stayed in contact with her before my expected release date. I am a tribal member and heard about the program through my cousin. Norene came to visit with me a few weeks before I was to be released and we had a really good conversation. The reentry program really helped me coming out of prison," Smith said.

For Starr, the reentry program is a dream come true and a goal she has had since 2007. She has walked the same path as many whom she is working with through the reentry program, and knows firsthand how important second chances are.

"Upon my own release from prison, going into sober living that was only Christian based, I wanted and needed more of a solid foundation. We want to give others the



Norene Starr (l) and Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Gov. Reggie Wassana (r) presents Mark Smith Jr. with his Completion of Reintegration certificate. Smith is the first successful candidate to complete his reintegration through the Tribes' Reentry Program. (Photo / Christopher Roman Nose)

opportunity to build self-esteem, recover from alcoholism and drug addiction and repair the family bonds using stories from our elders, our culture, ceremonies, teachings and building sweats and learning how to set up tipis, along with bead work, making regalia, singing and dance," Starr said.

According to a U.S. Dept. of Justice report on American Indians and Crime released in 1999, on any given day, an estimated 1 in 25 American Indians age 18 or older are under the jurisdiction of the criminal justice system, 2.4 times the per capita rate of whites and 9.3 times the per capita rate of Asians. However African Americans, with a per capita rate nearly double that of American Indians are more likely to be under the care or custody of the correctional authorities. The report was based on data collected over a five-year period.

A more recent report released March 11, 2021, showed U.S. incarcerations in 2019 reflected American Indians/Alaska Natives were the second highest incarcerated at 420 incarcerations per 100,000. African Americans were the highest rate of incarceration with 600 incarcerations per 100,000 of the population.

The recidivism rate is high if one is released back into the same environment from where they came from, however, statistics show the odds of successfully reintegrating back into life outside of the prison system are greater when incarcerated individuals have family and community support, and a strong foundation to build from.

"Sober living teaches how to pay rent and bills, how to buy and purchase groceries, how to manage money for everyday living costs, it is safe and a clean environment that encourages us to want to stay out of prison,"



Starr said. "It's the community that we live in that is the make or break time and it is imperative to change our minds and decide to go and grow with the help of others just like us."

With the full support of Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Gov. Reggie Wassana, Starr has big plans for the coming months to strengthen the reentry program for Tribal citizens.

"The tribes are trying to help our tribal citizens faced with adversity and challenges to overcome. We want to help those who want help with their reintegration into mainstream society, to help change their lives for the better and in do so, help strengthen and change the tribes for the better," Gov. Wassana said.

Starr encourages any tribal citizen who is expected to be released from prison in the next six months to a year, to contact her for assistance with sober living, felon friendly jobs, medical and mental health assistance, if needed.

For Smith, his desire to change and take advantage of a second chance started in prison, where he completed his Associate Degree in Applied Science. But the assistance he has received from the tribes' reentry program has made a big difference in his life, he said.

"I have a loving family, a nice place to live with my family and I've got a decent

job. Right now I am working in a factory but I would like to pursue better opportunities. I want to thank Norene for helping me through this, she's been a great help and she's a good person. And I know I have strong support to succeed," Smith said.

To learn more about the Reentry Program contact Starr at 405-422-7734.

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTER

continued from pg. 1

kitchen and everything is up to code,” Damon Dunbar, head of the planning and development team overseeing each of the ERCs construction and upgrades for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Opening the event, Dunbar introduced Alan Fletcher, who gave the invocation and performed the blessing of each room within the new ERC. Following the invocation, Gov. Wassana approached the podium welcoming everyone to the ribbon cutting of the Concho ERC.

“You know this was the existing community hall, but with the funds from the CARES Act, we renovated it to the Emergency Response Center and everything that has been done to this building are attributes to be able to use this facility in storms, fires, health related issue, but our main concern was COVID. We tried to develop this building where it would be COVID friendly ... if we had to actually quarantine people we could that safely,” Gov. Wassana said.

The Concho ERC renovations include a new state of the art commercial grade kitchen, updated restrooms with new showers, hardwood flooring and beautifully

Painted walls with a modern feel. Also new, a high tech sound system equipped with high quality large projection screen on the wall.

“When we received these monies not many people knew how much time and discussions went into trying to decide what to do for the good of the whole tribe and it was difficult. But we really did think about it and put a lot of effort into these ideas and this is the first of many openings of these ERC facilities. When this pandemic is over the tribes can use these buildings for whatever purpose they want to use it for, so we tried to keep that in mind too for when the pandemic is over,” Gov. Wassana said.

He closed with special recognition of all those involved in the planning, implementing and overseeing



the project, including New Fire Design, Candor and the 8th Legislature, as well as Dunbar, Casey Peyton, Daniel Tallbear and Trey Oglesby for the new sound system.

“I want to tell everyone thank you that had a helping hand in these Emergency Response Centers. I’m happy and excited for our people and our tribe. If we ever have emergencies, like Reggie mentioned, tornadoes or another ice storm, or especially

COVID we have these facilities to help us. But when it’s all over I’m excited that we can come back and pick up where we left off and start having dances again ... keep our culture alive,” Kendrick Sleeper, Speaker of the 8th Legislature said. “Our children and our grandchildren will have nice places to come to gather for years to come and make memories like we have.”

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN

continued from pg. 2

billion for states to cover the additional cash assistance that Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) recipients needed as a result of the crisis.

Lower or eliminate health insurance premiums for millions of lower-and middle-income families enrolled in health insurance marketplaces. A family of four making \$90,000 could see their monthly premium come down by \$200 per month. This will help well over a million uninsured Americans gain coverage. The plan also subsidizes premiums for continuation health coverage (COBRA).

Support communities that are struggling in the wake of COVID-19. Millions of American workers reside in communities that suffered disproportionately in recent months. The plan provides critical support to these communities by providing emergency grants, lending and investment to hard-hit small businesses so they can rehire and retain workers and purchase the health and san-

itation equipment they need to keep workers safe. This includes a Small Business Opportunity Fund to provide growth capital to main street small businesses in economically disadvantaged areas, including minority-owned businesses.

Distribute more than \$360 billion in emergency funding for state, local, territorial and Tribal governments to ensure that they are in a position to keep front line public workers on the job and paid, while also effectively distributing the vaccine, scaling testing, reopening schools and maintaining other vital services. State and local employment has fallen by around 1.4 million jobs since the pandemic began including layoffs of 1 million educators, compared to around 750,000 job losses during the Great Recession.

Help hard-hit public transit agencies avoid layoffs and service reductions, which disproportionately harm workers who are more likely to be dependent on public transportation.

MASKS FOR VETERANS



The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Veteran Affairs held a drive-thru event March 23 at Lucky Star Casino in Concho, Okla.

The office handed out Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) to assist tribal veterans during the covid-19 pandemic. The PPE was donated by South Korea to Native American Veterans.

NYCP

continued from pg. 5



On March 24, 2021 the NYCP staff hosted an Ester basket drive-thru for students attending Clinton Public Schools in Clinton, Okla. (Courtesy photo)

vide. “More of an opportunity to do wraparound services, to provide direct services to our students and meet not just the academic needs but their emotional needs in going after NYCP for Clinton Public Schools, is that need was identified,” Muskett said.

With COVID putting a strain in the project’s effort in reaching out to parents, the once a month parent nights had to be stopped due to social distancing ordinances.

In lieu of the parent night, Maria Moore, NYCP coordinator, said they started hosting monthly drive-thrus.

“I would say that was one of the biggest obstacles, was not having our parent nights and having to figure out different ways we could still be there for the parents and the families and provide for them,” Moore said.

Moore said the schools have been pretty open as far as hosting school activities. Community partners within the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes were invited to partake in the after school activities, such as Diabetes Wellness, Suicide Prevention, Tradition Not Addiction, Food Distribution, Social Services, Employment Training Administration and R.E.Sp.E.C.T.

“They still wanted Deidra and Hauli to contin-

ue as normal as possible. They just started back with their after school activities and they had really good turnouts, better than we did last year,” Moore said.

In planning for the future, with NYCP in their third year of the four-year grant, Muskett said they’re taking the knowledge they gained from STEP and NYCP and are in the process of developing a program that will be funded 100% by gaming funds.

Muskett said the goal would be to target all the public schools and provide direct wraparound services to students.

“We’re hoping to unveil it this fall and we’re still in the works of actually getting it developed, starting to get everybody hired and starting to put us in positions to be able to step in directly and service our other schools outside of Clinton,” Muskett said.

Muskett said the program would be called the Cheyenne and Arapaho Academic Enrichment and Excellence Program.

“The idea is that we’ve been identifying those needs in NYCP and in STEP from working in these communities, it kind of guided us to be able to develop this program because now we have a focal point of what our community needs and what we need to be providing to our students,” Muskett said.

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OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Leon Dean Cheney

Leon Dean Cheney was born on Feb. 27, 1962 to Harry Robert Cheney Jr. and Adelia Bernadita (Bates) Sanchez Cheney. Leon passed from his earthly life on March 18, 2021 at the age of 59 years and 19 days.

Leon attended the Longdale School from first grade through eighth grade. He then finished his education in Canton, Okla., graduating with the class of 1981.

In 2006, Leon was united in marriage to Deanie McGee at Canton Lake. The couple made their home in Seiling and Longdale. He had three children, Joshua Ross Cheney, Misty Foster and Gavin Cheney.

Leon has worked in various occupations through the years, as a rig hand in the

oilfield, he was a hog farmer, he worked in the rock quarry and worked for Riggs Tree Service.

He moved to Ripley, Okla., where he has resided with his partner, Barbara Foster, for the past five years.

Leon enjoyed hunting and fishing and the outdoors and especially enjoyed being with his family. He attended the Assembly of God Church in Seiling, Okla. in his younger years and later became a member of the First Church of God in Ripley.

Leon is preceded in death by his parents Harry and Adelia Cheney, his wife Deanie Cheney and daughter Misty Foster.

He is survived by sons, Joshua Ross Cheney of Seiling Okla., and Gavin Cheney.



Also left to cherish his memories are sisters Stella and husband Michael Morris of Woodward, Okla., Glenda and Jose Ruiz of Longdale, and Ramona and husband Doug Brassfield of Texas, and brothers Robert Cheney of Longdale and Tony and Talina Cheney of Longdale, also special friend Barbara Foster, numerous other relatives and a host of friends.

Martin Roman Nose

Martin Roman Nose was born Dec. 12, 1957 to Sidney Roman Nose and Edna (Swallow) Roman Nose in Clinton, Okla., and passed away March 7, 2021 in the Clinton Alliance Health in Clinton, Okla. Martin was raised in Hammon and attended Hammon Schools. He enjoyed traveling and moving around and had made his home in many places. He did labor type work. He enjoyed going to powwows, drawing, muscle cars and just having a good time where ever he was.

He is preceded in death by his parents, seven sisters, Nora, Mira, Nadine, Wynonna, Dusty, Zenoma, Alberta and brother Theodore. He is survived by two daughters, Angela Roman Nose and Ramona Roman Nose and three sons, J.D. Roman Nose, Tony Roman Nose and Martin Roman Nose Jr., all of Montana, sister Stella Briones of Clinton and brother Wayne Roman Nose of New Mexico. He is also survived by several grandchildren and numerous nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral service was held



March 12 at the Elk City Indian Baptist Church in Elk City, Okla., officiated by Pastor Delfred 'Bunny' Whitecrow, followed by a burial at the Hammon Indian Cemetery in Hammon, Okla.

Sidney Clarence Roman Nose

Sidney Clarence Roman Nose was born May 5, 1976 to Stella Roman Nose in Clinton, Okla., and passed away March 13, 2021 in San Mateo, Calif. Sidney was raised in Hammon and attended Hammon Schools. He had made his home in Western, Oklahoma, Lawrence, Kansas and lived in San Mateo, Calif. for the past four years. He worked as laborer most of his life. He was a member of the Indian Baptist Church, a member of the Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, he enjoyed fishing and loved sports, especially Track. He is preceded in death by his wife.

He is survived by son Nakoma Roman Nose of Tahlequah, Okla., his mother Stella Roman Nose of Clinton, sisters, Denise Davis-Quinones of Oklahoma City, Juanita Sankey of El Reno, Okla., Edna Hargus of Henrietta, Okla., and Reta Frazier, Oklahoma City, brothers, Native Roman Nose of Oregon, Joe Ketcher of California, Harold Ketcher of Pennsylvania, Tony Olivera of Oklahoma City, Junior Ray Rhodes of New Mexico, and Eli Davis Jr. of Elk City, Okla. He is also survived by several nieces, nephews and cousins.

A traditional wake service was held March 23 at the Elk



City Indian Baptist Church in Elk City, Okla. Funeral service was held March 24 at the Elk City Indian Baptist Church, officiated by Rev. Delfred 'Bunny' Whitecrow, followed with a burial at the Hammon Indian Mennonite Cemetery in Hammon, Okla.

Edward Eugene Mosqueda

Edward Eugene Mosqueda was born on Dec. 21, 1961 in Clinton, Okla. to Frank and Imogene (Howling Buffalo) Mosqueda. He departed this life on March 22, 2021 in Oklahoma City with his family by his side.

Eugene was one of eight brothers born to the Mosqueda family. He was raised in Canton and graduated with the class of 1981 at Canton High School. After graduation Eugene worked for many years in the oil patch as a rough neck and driller. He served on the Business Committee for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and later served as the Arapaho District 1 legislator. Eugene sang at many funeral services with his brothers. He will be missed by many.

Eugene was preceded in death by his parents; one daughter Dianna Mosqueda, and one brother Dennis Lincoln.

He is survived by his companion Eugenia Surveyor of the home, three daughters, Mandie Mosqueda of Canton, Okla., Tasha Pembroke of Fairview, Okla., and Kiana Ruiz of Longdale, Okla., two sons, Mitchell Mosqueda of Rawlins, Wyo. and David Wanzer of Longdale, six brothers, Ray Mosqueda, Fred Mosqueda and wife Mary, Frank Mosqueda and Toni, Lewis Mosqueda and wife Patricia, Tim Mosqueda and wife Penny and Adrian Mosqueda and wife Missy, numerous nieces, nephews, extended family and many friends.



An all-night wake service was held on March 25 at the Mosqueda residence in Canton, Okla. Funeral was held March 26 at the Longdale Gymnasium in Longdale with Rev. Waylan Upchego officiating, followed by an interment at the Canton Indian Mennonite Cemetery.

Jimmy Willie White Eagle

Jimmy Willie White Eagle was born Feb. 23, 1938 to William "Bill" Blackbear White Eagle and Ella (Bead) White Eagle in Clinton, Okla., and passed away March 7, 2021 in the Acute Rehabilitaation Center in El Reno, Okla. at the age of 83. Jimmie was raised in the Canton and Longdale area and attended most of his schooling in Canton. He has been a farmer in the Hammon area most of his adult life. He was a member of the Native American Church, he enjoyed going to peyote meetings, fishing, playing cards, auto mechanics and in younger years he enjoyed riding horses and going to rodeos.

He is preceded in death by his parents, son Max Thomas White Eagle, brother Floyd, three sisters, Rosie Magpie, Margaret White Eagle, Pearl Oliver and grandson Alfredo White Eagle and five cousins.

He is survived by three daughters, Cynthia Rose White Eagle of Geary, Okla., Jamie Sue White Eagle of Gracemont, Okla., and Joan King of Illinois, sons, Floyd White Eagle of Weatherford, Okla., Jimmy White Eagle of Anadarko, Okla., Max White Eagle also of Anadarko, and Shane White Eagle of Ponca City, Okla. He is also survived by two granddaughters, Catrina Tell and



Julia Buttry, two grandsons, Andrew Adams and Jason White skunk, nieces and nephews and cousins, Ella Akeen and Floyd White Eagle Blackbear.

Graveside service was held March 11 at the Concho Indian Cemetery in Concho, Okla.

Buddy Gene Two Babies

Buddy Gene Two Babies Jr. was born on Sept. 9, 1961 in Clinton, Okla., to Buddy Gene and Ella Faye (Williams) Two Babies. He departed this life on March 23, 2021 at his home in El Reno, Okla., surrounded by his family.

Buddy was raised in Oklahoma City and graduated high school at Riverside Indian School with the class of 1978. He worked for many years as a frame carpenter. Buddy loved playing basketball and running cross-country. He also enjoyed watching OU football and OKC

Thunder basketball.

Buddy was preceded in death by his parents; and two sons, Christopher 'Chip' Two Babies and Mark Anthony Two Babies.

Survivors include his wife Debra Gail Two Babies, companion Julia Dorsey, two sons, Thomas 'Allen' Two Babies, Brian Gene Two Babies and his wife Teresa Lynnae, one daughter Stella Two Babies and her husband Amos, brothers Jerry and Thomas Two Babies, Joseph Smart and his wife Hannah and grandchildren Amaya,



Kailyn, Lyla and Elena Two Babies.

Graveside service was held March 27 at the Canton Cemetery in Canton, Okla., with Rev. Waylan Upchego officiating.

Jacqueline 'Jackie' Sue Goodbear

Jacqueline 'Jackie' Sue Goodbear was born on Nov. 9, 1961 in Oklahoma City to Leonard Goodbear Jr. and June Whiteplum Goodbear. She passed away on March 24, 2021 in Oklahoma City with her son James by her side. Jackie was a furniture upholsterer and enjoyed spending time with her friends and family.

She is survived by her sons, James Goodbear (Dursilla McIntosh), and Duyen Goodbear, grandchild-

dren, Morning Star Faith Goodbear, Jaren James Goodbear, Cheyenne Kayla Goodbear, Jenna Goodbear, Cameron Goodbear, Lisa Romero, and Samantha Goodbear; brother, Richard Goodbear, sisters, Shelly Yeahquo, Wynonna Blossom, Minnie Goodbear, and Paula Goodbear.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brother Leonard Goodbear Jr., and sister Gail Goodbear.

Graveside service was



held March 29 at the Concho Indian Cemetery with Rev. Gerald Panana officiating.

Peggy Sue White Tail-Rodriguez

Peggy Sue White Tail-Rodriguez was born April 6, 1957 to Beverly Wilson and Hailman White Tail Sr. in Clinton, Okla., and passed away Feb. 27, 2021 in Stockton, Calif. Peggy's Cheyenne name is 'Red Feather Woman.' She attended her early school days in Thomas, Okla., and attended schools in Weatherford, Okla., as well as Denver High School in Denver, Colo. She was a competitive swimmer and achieved a gold medal. She married Jilo Rodriguez and they had two sons, Manuel Rodriguez (now deceased) and Mario White Tail. She enjoyed being with her two grandchildren, Aniyah and Jilo Jr. She worked in the factory prior to marriage and she

loved being a housewife. She is preceded in death by her son Manuel and husband Jilo and brother Manuel Curtis, her parents, Hailman White Tail Sr. and Beverly Wilson, her grandparents, Pauline and Ralph White Tail, Susie Wilson and Manuel Atencio. She is survived by her son Mario White Tail, three sisters, Winnifred White Tail-Mendivil and Carole Curtis and husband Marland Hadley Sr., and Olga White Tail, and two brothers, Hailman White Tail Jr. and Andrew Curtis. She is also survived by nieces Irene Martin, Christina Mendivil, Beverly Hadley, and Leanna Hadley, nephews, Marland Hadley Jr., and Carlos Mendivil, grandchildren, Carlos Mendivil Jr., Keilani



Tahah, Kayne Quintana, Desmond K. Hadley, Ian Hadley and Kaydon Hadley. Peggy Sue took pleasure seeing and spending time with her family and she will be greatly missed. She can now rest in her hometown in Thomas, Okla.

Graveside service was held March 17 at the Mound Valley Cemetery in Thomas, Okla.

Amber Lynn Young Bull

Amber Lynn Young Bull was born Aug. 14, 1990 to Edmond Wayne Youngbull and Deanna Rae (Standingwater) Youngbull in Elk City, Okla. She passed away March 9, 2021 in the Norman Regional Hospital in Norman, Okla. at the age of 30. Amber Lynn was raised in Elk City and attended school in Hammon. While in school she was active in basketball. She worked for the Dollar Tree Store in Oklahoma City. She was a member of the Indian Baptist Church and just liked hanging out with friends.

She is preceded in death by her dad and brother Corey Youngbull. She is survived by her daughter Aaliyah Jim, mother Deanna Davis, two brothers, Cody Youngbull, and Brandon Standingwater of Burns Flat, Okla. She is also survived by adopted grandmother Ruby Big Horse, of Washington.

A traditional all night wake service was held March 14 at the Elk City Indian Baptist Church in Elk City, Okla.

Graveside service was held March 15 at the Ham-



mon Indian Mennonite Cemetery, officiated by Rev. Delfred 'Bunny' Whitecrow Jr., Eleanor Whitecrow and Johnny Youngbull.





Benefits of Dark Chocolate

iron, magnesium, copper, manganese and has plenty of potassium, phosphorus, zinc and selenium. It is not recommended that you eat 3.5 ounces daily, only eating a small piece a day to improve overall health.

Dark chocolate is full of antioxidants such as polyphenols, flavonoids and catechins, which combat free radicals in cells that cause diseases. Dark chocolate may improve blood flow and lower blood pressure by stimulating endothelium, the lining of the arteries, to

produce nitric oxide (NO). Nitric Oxide sends signals to the arteries to relax, which lowers resistance to blood flow therefore, reducing blood pressure. These studies show the effect is usually mild.

Dark chocolate also raises HDL cholesterol and protects LDL cholesterol from oxidation, improving risk factors for heart disease. Dark chocolate can also reduce insulin resistance another common risk factor for many diseases like diabetes and heart disease. The flavo-

noids may also help protect you from sun damage and improve blood flow to the skin. Dark chocolate could improve brain function. One study showed that eating high-flavonol cocoa for five days improved blood flow to the brain. Cocoa contains stimulant substances like caffeine and theobromine which may be the key reason it can improve brain function in the short term.

There is considerable evidence that cocoa provides powerful health benefits, being especially protective

against heart disease. This doesn't mean to go out and consume vast amounts of dark chocolate as you still have to consider calories. Also, be careful of the dark chocolate on the market. Good quality dark chocolate needs to contain at least 70% of higher content to be considered high quality.

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 emailing tconway@cheyenneand-arapaho-nsn.gov, or Jenna Crider 405-422-7656, toll free at 800-247-4612 ext. 27656 or by emailing jcrider@cheyenneand-arapaho-nsn.gov.

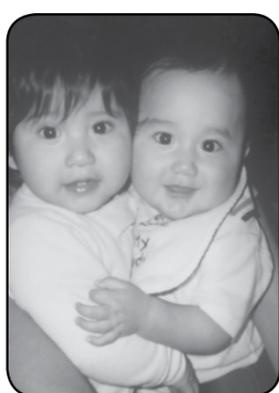
Source: <https://www.helathline.com/nutrition/7-health-benefits-dark-chocolate>

Tara Conway, MS, RD, LD, CDE
Jenna Crider, RD, LD, IBCLC
C&A Diabetes Wellness Program

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 11th Birthday Darren April 5
We love you very much
God Bless You!
Love your family



Happy 15th Birthday Hunter PJ Navanick.
We love you so much
Huntee! Love mom, dad and Johanna Navanick.



Todd Whiteskunk and family would like to thank the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes for sending masks to them in South Dakota

Thank You

Thank you message for the funeral services for Jasper H. Washa Sr.

At this time, we want to thank everyone who offered prayers and visited the family. We would like to give special thanks to you Rev. Gerald Panana, who conducted the services, and a very special thank you to Craig Hart for singing at the graveside services.

Thank you
The Family of
Jasper H. Washa Sr.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
Concho School Demolition Project
EPA Brownfields Project
Building's 10 & 11
Estimated beginning date: April 2021
As part of our tribes Brownfields grant, C&A Tribe's EPA is working on improving our Concho community by tearing down two old building's that contain hazardous material and waste. This will help to provide redevelopment for our tribe and safety to our current residents.
For questions concerning the project contact Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes EPA 405-422-7469 or 405-422-7730

Alone Together
I am at the mountain's bosom
Swaddled by her beauty, like a baby.
Seeking vision in a world, my mind has made
Worn and weary from a treacherous path
My soul hidden in the past
Who I am, I no longer see
In the still waters looking at me
What have I become, I ask
The serene and patient stones
Guide me to the warrior
Where the beauty of creations known
Tell the warden to release hi
From his self-imposed cell
That the walls he build
No longer prote3ct but hinder happiness
That underneath it all
You haven't changed, merely forgotten who you are
That while you sit in the shadows of cold stone walls
The sun still shines, birds still sing
And the mountain's music still calls
That his heart is the torch
That will guide him from that dark place
Pray your prayers and make your chants
Send your hopes to the heavens and your tears to the Creator
Let you pain become the reality
That you still feel and are alive
Instead of listening to echoes in the night
Seek the early dawn's drum
Remember your past loves and thank them for the moments they bring
Bring your woes to the healer
And let the medicine soak beneath the scars
Remember the mountains are never far
The distance away is the journey
And to trek it is to live.
That peace comes after the suffering, not before.
And when you gaze into the mountain's heart, remember the walls you once built
That away from it all is still
A way from it all.
Nicholas Faulkner

OBITUARIES

Sheldon Leroy Hawk Sr.

Sheldon Leroy Hawk Sr. was born on Dec. 24, 1973 in Kingfisher, Okla. to Leroy Hawk Sr. and Marla Jean Lee Hogner. He passed away on March 10, 2021 in Oklahoma City at the age of 47. He resided with his daughters, Synika and Sydney Hawk and grandsons in Oklahoma City.

be missed by many of his family and friends.

Sheldon was saved and baptized at Mack-Alford Correctional Center in Stringtown, Okla. Sheldon loved his family and will be greatly missed by all. He will always be his mother's warrior.

He is survived by his children, Synika, Sydney, and Christine Hawk, Sheldon "Nish" Hawk Jr., Nicholas Hawk, and Rhilynn Wilson-Hawk, his grandchildren, Joel Gonzalez, Felipe Portillo, Danica, Dexter, Octavia Hawk, and baby Wesley Johnston, his mother, Marla Jean Lee Hogner, sisters, Chelsea Pratt and Sammay James, Sandy, Karen Lee, Susan Hawk of Germany, and Tashina Hawk, brothers, Johnny Bernal, Troy Lee, Tony Pratt, Shawn, Johnny, James, Leroy Jr., Christopher, and Trevor Hawk, father, Leroy Hawk Sr., companion Brittany Yates



of the home, many "NDN" brothers, many nieces and nephews, favorite uncle 'Smoke,' as well as many other relatives and friends.

Sheldon was preceded in death by his grandmothers, Mildred Horner and Nellie Hawk, step father Samuel M. James Jr., sister Tonya Bernal and a brother.

An all night traditional wake service was held March 16 in Geary, Okla. Funeral service was held March 17 at the First Baptist Church in Geary, Okla., followed by a burial in the Sunset Cemetery in Geary, Okla.

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Message From Your District Legistor: Darrell Flyingman, Cheyenne District 3

companies that have information on job availability. Job opportunities are numerous. So, are you prepared and ready? Many jobs are available, so if you really want a job make the effort to find one.

To get a job, first you must qualify. For instance, some jobs requires a high school diploma, a two year college degree or certificate, or a Bachelor's or higher degree. Second, your police record, and third, a good character and experience.

Qualification means the applicant must meet certain standards like an education or experience, be mentally and physically fit to find and keep the job, have a clean police record that qualifies you as a good candidate for the position and salary range.

So, finding a good paying job means that as we grow, our preparation begins early in life to properly prepare ourselves for the future. Without proper preparation and planning, we set ourselves up to fail. Be prepared!

Here are some reasons to help and support our people to be successful.

Planning for the future increases the desire and challenge to work. It clarifies and encourages the goals, persistence, and conviction of an individual; and improves and

increases self-discipline, self-esteem, and responsibility of the job-seeker. Help yourself and family members be ready to succeed, set goals and plan a future. Any failure or negative experience—put it behind you and focus on the future.

Preparation starts and continues throughout our lives. We move from one job to the next carrying our experiences and knowledge about the job, ourselves and others, to the next job. No matter your age, we continue to learn and progress forward as we age within the work system.

In my life, after I graduated from high school in Colony, Okla., I thought my life would be easy ... it wasn't. I looked for jobs with a good starting pay, but as a high school graduate, with no plans and goals, I went back to work for the farmers.

My life plan at that point was to work for the local farmers, pulling cotton, chopping cotton and bucking bails of hay. I went nowhere with my goals of growth, vision and what I wanted in life, so I decided to join the Marines Corps, which was the best move in my young life.

What I found out while in boot camp was that I could do better than many Marines, which is when

my life turned around. Prior to that, I felt inferior to other people and learned that I was just as good or better with my skills as any other Marine Corps boot.

I felt my life was worth something, so I changed my way of thinking and doing things, but it's not easy. It was hard work and took self-discipline and control which changed my attitude and behavior. I retired from the military service after 23 years and as a Master Sergeant, later retiring from the BIA as a GS-14 in Human Resources. My life has been good.

Lastly, I want to encourage our people to stay away from drugs and alcohol as they can hurt or kill your motivation, your spirit and mind and your body.

Plan, plan and plan your life work and your vision of where you want to be! We have smart, talented and good young people in our Tribes, and your children and generations to follow depend on what we all do to carry our Tribes forward.

Prepare your future knowing that your family depends on your decisions.

Finally, if you are thinking about joining the military and need some advice please contact me. I'm always concerned about the safety of our Nation.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes Court Document: Notice by Publication for Guardianship of M.M., minor child. Filed Mar 17 2021. Court Clerk: Paula Levi.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes Court Document: Notice by Publication for Paternity Proceeding. Filed Mar 23 2021. Court Clerk: Paula Levi.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes Court Document: Notice of Hearing by Publication. Filed Mar 17 2021. Court Clerk: Albinia Brown.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes Court Document: Notice by Publication for Name Change. Filed Mar 18 2021. Court Clerk: Lalreda Scott.

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ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

By Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

El Reno High School Powerlifter, Caleb Hulbutta

With a sudden glance of intimidation, standing 6'2 tall and weighing 255 lbs., Caleb Hulbutta, 17, stands confident in his demeanor and is even more head strong when it comes to competing in heavy weight powerlifting.

In his junior year at El Reno High School in El Reno, Okla., Hulbutta competes on the powerlifting team in the 275 lb. weight class.

He first took an interest in weightlifting in the seventh grade, finding himself hooked from the get-go. Hulbutta comes from a small rural school, Darlington Ele-

mentary and didn't have the chance to compete or put his skills to the test in weightlifting until his freshman year of high school.

Hulbutta said his dad, Chuck Hulbutta, got him into weightlifting and inspired him.

"It's just something to look forward to everyday and that you love to do, it's just one of my passions. I love weightlifting a lot and I try to make it a priority everyday," Hulbutta said.

For powerlifting, Hulbutta competes for his best powerlift in three categories: squat, bench and deadlift.

Hulbutta's personal re-

cord is squatting 515 lbs., benching 325 lbs., and putting up his deadlift at 575 lbs.

Having recently placed for the first time at the state level, Hulbutta placed third at the Large School Powerlifting 5A State Championship.

"This is my first year making it to state. I did good, I got 485 lbs. on squat and then 315 lbs. on bench and then 570 lbs. on deadlift," Hulbutta said.

And while it was his first time making it to state, Hulbutta said it was a fun experience for him.

"I never made it to state before because I was just not there yet, but this off season I really stepped it up and I made it to state and got third," Hulbutta said.

"At the state meet Caleb had a 1350 lb. total for third place, compare that to the end of January in Dickson when he had a 1215 lb. total, pretty much within a month and a half he's gone up 135 lbs. That's pretty impressive," Austin Fedderson, head powerlifting coach said.

Fedderson said Hulbutta was also the Northwest Region Champ in Woodward, Okla.

"Caleb has been one of our main poster kids in the program, if there's any ex-

ample of what the weight room and program can do for someone, I always point to him," Fedderson said.

And in the weight room, Hulbutta said what is most challenging in powerlifting is the mentality.

"It's really mental, like it's either you get it up or you don't. It's really a mind game," Hulbutta said.

But despite his personal struggles, Hulbutta said his family helps inspire him.

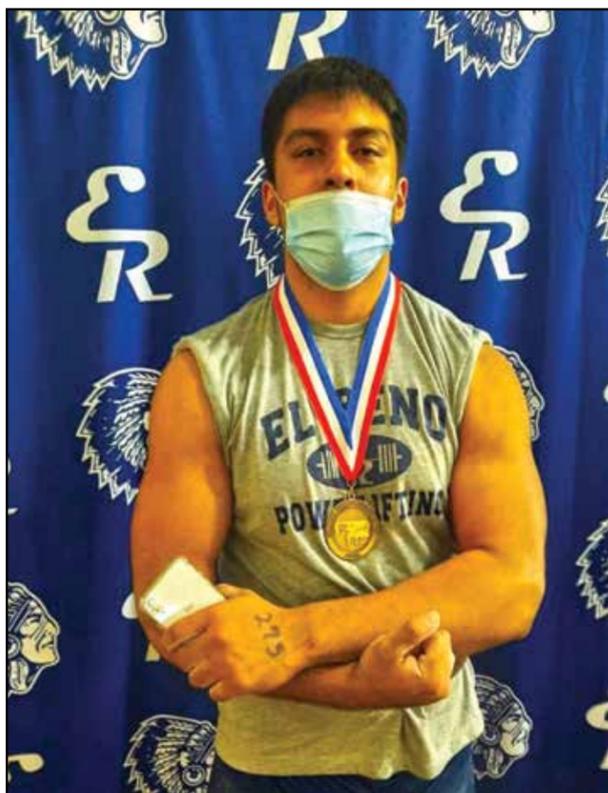
"I just want to have a bright future in whatever I do and try to make them proud," Hulbutta said.

With his goals set on making it to state and winning, Hulbutta placed first in every meet throughout the season leading up to the state championship.

"It was a good feeling to know that all the hard work in the weight room paid off," Hulbutta said.

While COVID-19 continued to affect communities throughout Oklahoma, Hulbutta said he didn't let it affect his weightlifting time.

"My dad has a gym in the garage and that's where I've been working during the pandemic," Hulbutta said.



Hulbutta said he works on legs and upper body the most and is in the gym everyday, twice a day.

In the comfort of his own home for workouts, Hulbutta also does virtual learning and said it's been good as far as convenience.

Hulbutta has maintained a 3.8 GPA through his junior year. Looking ahead to his senior year next fall, Hulbutta said he looks forward to playing football and to focus more on school work and trying to get better at both. Hulbutta plays left tackle and defensive end for the El Reno football team, where powerlifting has primarily helped him in the sport.

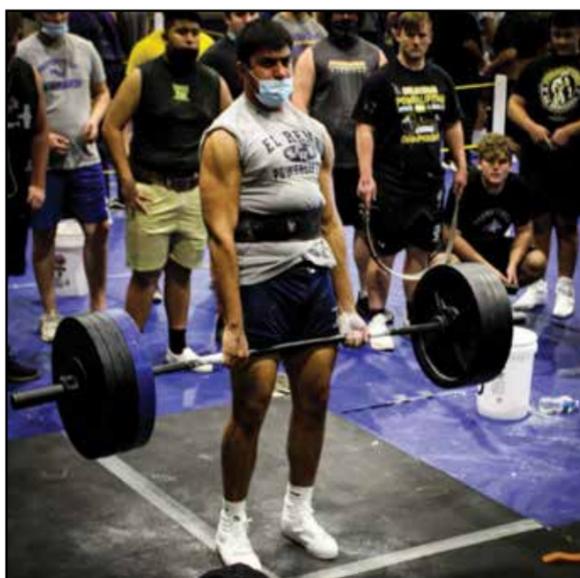
"It just gets your mind and your body stronger so

it's not as challenging," Hulbutta said.

With no plans set in stone after graduation, Hulbutta hopes to see himself continue playing football at the collegiate level. He is scheduled to graduate in 2022.

"Caleb has completely changed his body, mind, and spirit from when he came to us before his freshman year, the dude loves working and getting better and it's shown definitely in powerlifting, but more so on the field," Fedderson said. "He's a leader for us, someone who others will follow and look to."

Caleb's parents are Chuck and Linda Hulbutta. His siblings are Ryan and Shelby Hulbutta, and his grandmother is Mary Hulbutta.



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