



Photo / Latoya Lonelodge

‘It was a massacre’

Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders push to rename Oklahoma site

Story by Molly Young

As the sun rose on a cold morning in 1868, hundreds of U.S. soldiers, led by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer, attacked Cheyenne families camped for the winter along the Washita River.

Stories passed down by survivors recount what happened as a massacre. Other evidence backs them up.

Yet when people visit the land today, the first thing they see is its official name: Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.

Cheyenne leaders asked Congress in the 1990s not to label the place where dozens of their ancestors were killed in a surprise attack as a battle. The name stuck, though, and the National Park Service has managed the western Oklahoma site ever since. Now tribal leaders are renewing their push for “battlefield” to go amid a broader reckoning by the U.S. government to reconsider racist or otherwise offensive landmark names and how they came to be.

“If you’re going to tell a story, tell it accurately and truthfully,” said Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana. “Don’t make it sound as if the genocide was proper and right.”



Cheyenne Chiefs Lawrence Hart, left, and Alfrich Heap-a-Birds, conduct the Massacre Memorial Day ceremony to honor Indians killed at the Massacre of the Washita, Saturday, Nov. 25, 1995 at Coyote Hills Ranch, Okla. (Photo / J. Pat Carter/AP)

take steps to limit how history and race are taught. Oklahoma’s new top schools official, Ryan Walters, pledged on the campaign trail to roll out “patriotic” training for history teachers.

Kenny Points, the park ranger who supervises the Washita site, said he and other park employees work with Cheyenne and Arapaho officials to make sure the tribes’ perspective is represented in exhibits and events. He declined to comment about the park’s name or any internal discussions surrounding that.

WASHITA / pg. 5

Could civil forfeiture be the next battleground in Oklahoma Governor’s fight over tribal sovereignty?

By Allison Herrera

An obscure case of illegal hunting in south-central Oklahoma could point to new ways the state is trying to assert jurisdiction inside newly affirmed tribal reservation boundaries.

In January 2022, Osage Nation citizen Jimmy Ward spotted what he thought was a white-tailed deer along a rural road in Carter County. Ward pulled out his AR-15 rifle to shoot what was actually a decoy.

Ward was charged with several misdemeanors in a standard sting operation to catch out-of-season hunters. What ensued was a series of unusual jurisdictional twists and turns as state, county and tribal officials tried to figure out who has the ability to prosecute Ward and in what court.

Ward was initially charged in Carter County District Court, but because he is a citizen of the

Osage Nation and the crimes occurred inside the Chickasaw Nation Reservation, his attorneys filed to have them dismissed.

The state charges were dismissed, and the case was refiled in Chickasaw Nation Court. But what happened next in this case has tribal officials watching carefully. In the weeks after Ward’s charges were dismissed in Carter County, Gov. Kevin Stitt’s office became involved.

Stitt’s General Counsel Trevor Pemberton filed a civil case against Ward on Jan. 21 seeking to seize his weapon and other instruments used to try and snare the deer. Pemberton was using a technique called civil asset forfeiture. Civil forfeiture is kind of an ancient tool of the police — it’s designed to essentially go after an instrument of crime. In this case, Ward’s rifle.

Ward and his legal team objected to the seizure of his property and the civil forfeiture charge —

again claiming that the Carter County court lacks criminal jurisdiction because of his citizenship status in the Osage Nation and the fact that the crimes occurred within the Chickasaw Nation boundaries.

Officials with the Chickasaw Nation say this case is worrisome. They feel that the state is trying to get a ruling in their favor, so they can have an impact elsewhere.

It’s a theme for the Stitt administration. Last year, the governor’s office decided not to renew hunting and fishing license compacts between the Cherokee and Choctaw Nation and Oklahoma, shut down welcome centers run by the Cherokee Nation and more recently, reviving the legal battles to validate gaming compacts Stitt signed between four tribal nations outside the model gaming compact.

The Governor’s Office and the Oklahoma Wildlife

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Registration opens for 2023 Women’s Conference in OKC

The 2023 Women’s Conference registration is now open. Deadline to register is Feb. 20, 2023. To register visit <https://cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/project/2023-womens-conference/>

The conference will be held March 20-22, 2023 at the Oklahoma City Convention Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

There will be four main speakers, keynote speaker Jeannie Hovland, Oglala Lakota, National Indian Gaming Commission Vice-Chair, Kim Teehee, Cherokee Congressional Delegate, Jhane Myers, Comanche/Blackfeet artist and film producer of the movie “Prey” and President of the National Congress of American Indians and Vice-President of the Quinault Indian Nation Fawn Sharp.

The three main session conference tracks and panel discussions encompass cultural, leadership and wellness.

A luncheon banquet will be held to honor the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Chief of Staff Teresa Dorsett.

Betting and adoption cases take aim at tribal sovereignty, experts say

By Karina Brown, Underscore News

A lawsuit in Washington state and another case before the U.S. Supreme Court are part of a coordinated campaign that experts say is pushing once-fringe legal theories to the nation’s highest court and represents the most serious challenge to tribal sovereignty in over 50 years.

Maverick Gaming, which operates 19 card rooms in Washington and casinos in Nevada and Colorado, is challenging a 2020 law that allows sports betting only on tribal lands. The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Washington state, claims the law created a “discriminatory tribal gaming monopoly.”

But it goes further, arguing gaming compacts between Washington state and tribes are based on race and therefore discriminate unconstitutionally against people who run non-tribal casinos. The argument takes aim at the inherent right of tribal nations to govern themselves and at centuries of U.S. law that recognizes tribal governments’ political parity alongside their state and federal counterparts.

Advocates and legal experts say the Maverick case and others like it threaten a return to the Termination Era policies of the 1950s, when the U.S. government sought to end the political status of Indigenous tribes forever.

The most prominent of the cases, argued before the U.S. Supreme Court in November, focuses on the right of Native families to have preference over non-Native families in the adoption placements of Native kids.

As in the Maverick case, the plaintiffs in Brackeen v. Haaland claim the preference is based on race, rather than the political sovereignty of tribal nations. A ruling in their favor could fundamentally rewrite the way the U.S. government regards tribal nations, casting policies created by treaty or agreements between sovereign nations in doubt.

“It could have really big impacts on basically every law Congress has passed that has to do with tribes and tribal citizens,” said Rebecca Nagle, a journalist, citizen of the Cherokee Nation and host of the “This Land” podcast, which explored the Brackeen case in detail. “It’s really the legal foundation for the rights of Indigenous nations in this country.”

The two cases share a set of underlying arguments based on the idea that federal

laws that outline the U.S. government’s obligations to Indigenous nations, including the Indian Child Welfare Act and the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, violate the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. Those bringing the cases argue that such laws are racially discriminatory, against non-Indigenous people.

The political status of tribal nations is laid out in the Constitution and affirmed by hundreds of years of legal precedent. The U.S. government had to negotiate and, in nearly 400 cases, sign treaties with tribes because of their political, cultural and military strength. Just as the federal government honors the treaties it has signed with France or Germany, it’s bound by those it has agreed to with sovereign Indigenous nations.

“You don’t make treaties with a race or an ethnic group,” said Daniel Lewerenz, an assistant law professor at the University of North Dakota and attorney with the Native American Rights Fund. “You make treaties with a political entity, with a sovereign.”

That relationship, one between political entities, has been the way U.S. and European leaders have negotiated with tribal nations since before the country’s founding, according to Lewerenz, a citizen of the Iowa tribe of Kansas and Nebraska.

Old arguments gain ground

The arguments in both the Maverick and Brackeen lawsuits echo claims made for decades by groups seeking to end tribal sovereignty.

One such group is the Citizens Equal Rights Alliance, which attacks tribal sovereignty on the basis that the federal laws enshrining it discriminate against everyone who isn’t a member of one of the 574 federally recognized Native American tribes in the United States.

“How does the federal government promote tribal sovereignty and not discriminate against the rest of us?” asked Lana Marcusen, CERA’s attorney for 25 years.

A 2018 report by the Montana Human Rights Network listed CERA as an anti-Indigenous hate group. (CERA rejects the label.) Travis McAdam, the researcher who authored that report and has been monitoring anti-Indigenous groups for decades, said

CERA is the major national advocacy group for a dispersed anti-Indigenous movement mostly made up of small, local groups who focus on specific tribal sovereignty issues like water rights, casinos or hunting and fishing rights.

“Anywhere there is a local organization or community members that are opposing tribes on tribal sovereignty or basically anything, eventually CERA is going to show up,” McAdam said. “At its core, the anti-Indigenous movement is about destroying tribal sovereignty, getting rid of tribes and erasing tribal culture.”

In effect, CERA has for decades nurtured ideas long rejected by Congress, the courts and a succession of U.S. presidents. But within the current climate of rising extremism and white nationalism, McAdam worries a major ruling would bring them back into the mainstream.

“Anti-Indigenous groups have used those taking points for decades, but the idea that tribal sovereignty and treaty rights somehow penalize nonmembers, that argument fits into mainstream circles now much better than it did a decade ago,” McAdam said.

In the Termination Era beginning in the 1950s, the federal government enacted policies based on a viewpoint similar to the one espoused by CERA and Marcusen: that Indigenous people should assimilate into American society and give up their Indigenous identities, and that the rights negotiated in treaties and codified in federal laws were preventing them from doing so.

Congress quickly passed 46 laws terminating 109 tribes around the United States, including 62 in Oregon, more than any other state.

The result was disastrous for Native Americans.

Termination unilaterally dissolved tribal membership and ended the U.S. government’s obligations toward terminated tribes, including the services guaranteed in treaties in exchange for land. Termination policies also allowed the government to seize millions of acres of tribal lands rich with minerals and timber.

“The justification for termination was that the federal trust responsibility between the

federal government and tribes was holding Native Americans back,” Nagle said. “It’s just kind of a rinse and repeat argument, that equality for Native people is treating Native people the same as everybody else. That’s a very coded way to talk about erasing the special trust relationship that the U.S. federal government has with tribes.”

Citizens of suddenly landless tribes scattered, with many moving from their former reservations to cities under federal relocation policies aimed at forcing assimilation. Termination caused dire social disarray and further impoverishment. For the leaders of terminated tribes, it also squashed the ability to prevent such harm.

All three branches of the U.S. government firmly repudiated termination policy in the 1960s and ‘70s, pushing proponents to the political sidelines. Two presidents from opposing parties refused to enforce termination, the courts reaffirmed treaty rights, and in 1975 Congress replaced it with the current federal tribal policy known as self-determination.

Indigenous leaders and activists pushed for more protections of their rights, and Congress soon passed more laws, including the Indian Child Welfare Act, the Indian Healthcare Improvement Act, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act.

And after decades of work, many terminated tribes eventually won back federal recognition of their sovereignty, but not their land, in most cases.

So modern-day efforts to undermine tribal sovereignty ring familiar to people like Lewerenz, the Native American Rights Fund attorney.

“The people who have tried to get whatever it is that Indians have, whether that’s land or fish or children, have always done so by trying to claim the mantle of equality,” Lewerenz said.

Key cases share attorney

Maverick Gaming and Chad and Jennifer Brackeen are also backed by the same legal team.

The Brackeens are challenging ICWA, a 1978 law that requires caseworkers to give preference to Indigenous families in foster

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★

MUSTER IN PLACE

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A Quarterly Newsletter for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Veteran

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OVA Outreach

In the new year the Office of Veterans Affairs could be coming to an ERC near you! We’d love to see you, the tribal veteran, visit, and answer any questions you might have veterans related: Service related disability, VA Appts, Flag Cases for loved ones, etc.

The following locations and times are where the OVA Office will be at an ERC Near You

⇒ Tuesday Jan 17th Watonga ERC 10-230p

⇒ Wednesday Jan 18th Clinton ERC 10-230p

⇒ Thursday Jan 26th Canton ERC 930am-230p

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!

Veterans Board Meetings

Don’t forget to mark on your calendars every 2nd Tuesday of the Month at 5pm here at Concho Tribal Complex Conference Room for The Veterans Board Meeting. All Tribal Vets are encouraged to attend as we address issues related to our veterans.

VA Benefits News

The PACT Act is a new law that expands VA health care and benefits for Veterans exposed to burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxic substances.

The PACT Act adds to the list of health conditions that we assume (or “presume”) are caused by exposure to these substances. This law helps us provide generations of Veterans—and their survivors—with the care and benefits they’ve earned and deserve.

www.va.gov/resources/the-pact-act-and-your-va-benefits/

Expands and extends eligibility for VA health care for Veterans with toxic exposures and Veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras

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Office of Veterans Affairs

Located in the Concho ERC

200 Wolf Robe Circle Concho OK 73022*

405-422-7724

veteranservices@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov



Veterans Board News

The Veterans Board is actively seeking new Board Members to fill positions in the new year, with an emphasis on finding female veterans. To be considered here is the criteria:

⇒ Submit Letter of Interest

⇒ Name, Address, Cheyenne and Arapaho CDIB

⇒ Copy of Valid Driver’s License, DD214

⇒ Branch of Service, Service/career history

⇒ Honorably Discharged Veterans Only

Send submissions to

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Executive Office RE: Veterans Board Consideration

PO Box 167

Concho OK 73022

ARPA Fund News


OVA processed 200+ \$150 checks to eligible tribal veterans for the month of December. As a courtesy to keep the tribal veteran informed, and to limit office inquiries, check processing and new member intake for that month will have a first Friday deadline with checks going out no later than the second Friday of each month.

Did You Know?

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OVA

Arapaho Language Apprentice Studies Abroad in Language Revitalization Efforts

Latoya Lonelodge
Senior Reporter

In the ongoing efforts of language revitalization within the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, one tribal youth is going the distance in order to strengthen her knowledge in studying indigenous languages.

Born in Sioux City, Iowa and raised in Watonga, Okla., Ariayna Yellowbank, 20, is a student at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H., and is also an Arapaho Language Apprentice for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Master Apprentice Program.

Beginning her junior year of college, Yellowbank majors in Linguistics Modified with American and Indigenous Studies where she actively studies languages.

Wanting to get out of her comfort zone, Yellowbank applied to study abroad with her linguistics program in New Zealand beginning in January 2023.

"I'm just used to staying in my little comfort zone and this is just one of those things I need to get out of. I need to grow a little bit and I kept it at the back of my head for a little while because I'm in the linguistics community a lot ... I just never thought that studying abroad would be something that I would do and so I applied last minute and got in," Yellowbank said.

Yellowbank will be studying in Auckland, New Zealand along with other students from the linguistics and anthropology departments from her school. While there, Yellowbank will be actively studying as well as taking classes on the

Maori language and culture. Yellowbank's departure to study abroad will be her first time taking a lengthy journey away from home.

"I want to get out and travel while I'm young, show people from around here that it's possible to get to where you want to go, it's possible to make things happen and to bring back any knowledge that I can. I'm going for the linguistics program and they have really good language resources over there," Yellowbank said.

As the reigning Arapaho Tribal Princess, Yellowbank leads an active life of participating in cultural powwows while studying languages and keeps herself busy with school. When she's not in school, she's working as an Arapaho language apprentice for the Master Apprentice Program, which can sometimes be tough for Yellowbank when learning a language and while also using technology such as Zoom.

"That was kind of hard to manage because there's nobody to talk with when I'm at school and also zoom is very difficult to communicate with when it comes to language because you have to be critical of pronunciation. In a three month span I've learned a few words versus what I learn if I was at work like at the office, it's very slow being at school and then when I'm back in the office, I'm picking it back up," Yellowbank said.

Yellowbank said what compels her to want to be involved with language revitalization is the experience.

"My grandparents didn't get to be a part of it or have



Ariayna Yellowbank dressed in her traditional regalia outside of Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. (Submitted photo)

any of these memories or experiences that I've gotten from learning the language, or like getting any of the knowledge that I've been getting from our first language speakers and elders. I mean they probably got that but nothing of this essence and where it was safe to learn or safe to do so without getting shamed out," Yellowbank said.

Yellowbank will be spending 10 weeks in New Zealand with six weeks being spent in Auckland and four weeks in the Cook Islands.

"I look forward to the new experiences, the culture shock, just comparing it to what America is or even my tribal community just because it's majority indigenous or like a majority American minority over there. And also the food," Yellowbank said.

With gaining experience from studying abroad, Yellowbank said she hopes the experience will help her in the future with learning or teaching languages.

"I hope to gain independence and leadership qualities just stepping out and seeing what kind of language resources they have over there so I can hopefully one day bring that back just because language is everywhere, like over there tourists are expected to learn their language," Yellowbank said.

While prepping for her long-awaited trip across countries, Yellowbank said she feels anxious. However, she trusts the process.

"I'm trying to trust the

process because I know when I get there I'll enjoy it and be at ease but right now I'm just really anxious but I'm excited and ready for it, I'm trying to be ready," Yellowbank said.

She said after undergraduate college, she hopes to further her education and pursue her master's degree. The two schools she's interested in attending for graduate school are the University of Boulder in Colorado and Arizona State University.

"We have a linguist, his name is Dr. Cowell who works at CU Boulder and he works and teaches Arapaho, I think that would be one good route to go down just because of his knowledge of the language," Yellowbank said.

Yellowbank is also interested in studying Indigenous Education in the master program at Arizona State University.

"Because a lot of linguists aren't trained to teach when it comes to these things and then a lot of language speakers aren't taught to teach, I think it'd be really good to have the tools of education and linguistics come together to like help teach the language and make it make sense somehow," Yellowbank said.

In the future Yellowbank said she hopes to see the community come together and speak the languages again.

"I think language is a big part of our identity and our culture and just hoping that I can be one of the people that helps pass it on," Yellowbank said.

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El Reno Indian Basketball Teams Shine during annual Midfirst Classic Tournament

Article by Glenn Miller, El Reno Tribune / Photos by Adriel Clements/AC Media



Nazhoni Sleeper



Emmary Elizondo

(ANADARKO, OK) Senior James Reveles, the tournament’s Most Valuable Player, was one of three players in double digits as El Reno High School’s boys basketball team defeated Class 5A’s 13th-ranked Lawton MacArthur 67-33 to win the 2023 Anadarko Warriors Classic.

El Reno, ranked fourth in Class 5A, was making its second straight tournament championship appearance but claimed its first trophy. The Indians are winners of four in a row and are now 9-1 after beating Capitol Hill (92-35) and Cache (64-37).

Reveles went 5-of-9 from the floor against the Highlanders to close with 13 points, seven rebounds and a steal. Carter Roman Nose was close behind with 12 points and four rebounds, while Matthew Tofpi added a line of 10 points and four rebounds.

For the three games, El Reno was 90-of-182 shooting for 50 percent including a 20-of-60 (33 percent) effort from the 3-point arc. The Indians were 70-of-122 from 2-point range for 57 percent.

El Reno scored 223 total points for a 74 points per game average, while allowing 115 or 38.3 per outing.

Tofpi led the team in scoring for the set with 41 points, 13.7 per game, while adding 13 rebounds, two steals and a pair of assists. Reveles followed with 36 points, 14 rebounds, four assists

and two steals.

Roman Nose, who had five treys along with Tofpi, finished with 32 points, 17 rebounds, eight deflections, six assists and three steals. Diante Palmer was one of 16 players to score in the tourney and closed with 28 points, 12 boards and six steals.

Evan Roman Nose led the team in steals with eight, while adding 27 points and 20 rebounds.

Alex Elizondo finished with 21 points and nine rebounds, while Jacob Robertson had 12 boards and 10 points.

El Reno was slated to play Tuesday at Del City and home Friday with Guthrie, both of which are conference games.

Girls Game

Reagan Bugaj’s one-handed 3-pointer at half-court sailed wide left as El Reno High School’s girls basketball team suffered a 51-50 loss to Class 5A’s 12th-ranked Lawton MacArthur in the finals of the 2023 Anadarko Warriors Classic.

El Reno, ranked fifth in Class 5A, was making its second tournament championship game this season but settled for runner-up again with the one-point loss. The Indians are now 7-3 on the year after beating Capitol Hill (64-15) and Chickasha (52-42) to make the finals.

El Reno tied the game at 48-all on a basket and free throw by Pauline Black-Harmon with 1:09 left and again at 50-all with 45 seconds left on two free throws by Nazhoni Sleeper.

The Highlanders ran the clock down to 1.5 seconds before drawing a foul making the back end of the two-shot trip to the line.

El Reno closed the three-game set in Anadarko with 166 points on offense, 55.3 per game, while the 51 allowed to the Highlanders was the highest of the tourney.

The Indians gave up 108 total points or 36 per outing.

Going into the MacArthur game, Bugaj was the top scorer for El Reno with 34 points to go along with seven steals and six rebounds.

Emmary Elizondo, who suffered an ankle injury against Chickasha, had 26 points, seven boards and five steals over eight quarters before exiting.

Black-Harmon followed with 11 points, eight rebounds and two steals over the first two games, while fellow post player Lilly Thomas had 17 caroms, three steals, a block and 10 points.

Elizondo did not return for the MacArthur game to score a team-leading 18 points to go along with five rebounds and a steal.

Black-Harmon finished with 11 points and six rebounds, followed by Nazhoni Sleeper’s nine points and four rebounds.

Bugaj had eight points and two rebounds in the loss to the Highlanders, along with three assists.



“King” James Reveles



Evan RomanNose

SOVEREIGNTY

continued from pg. 2

and adoption placements of children who are members of a federally recognized tribe.

The law was aimed at correcting centuries of injustice.

Between 1819 and 1969, the federal government took many thousands of Indigenous kids from their homes and forced them to attend brutal schools that employed “systematic militarized and identity-alteration methodologies,” according to a report released by the U.S. Department of the Interior in May.

After the federal government ended mandatory attendance at American Indian boarding schools, officials continued to remove overwhelming numbers of Indigenous kids from their families and place them in foster or adoptive care outside their communities.

When Congress passed ICWA in 1978, studies showed that state child welfare agencies and private adoption companies were taking between 25 percent and 35 percent of Native kids from their families. And 85 percent of those children were placed with non-Indigenous families.

Native families are still four times as likely as white families to have kids removed from their homes, according to the National Indian Child Welfare Association.

But some private adoption companies and evangelical groups argue that the law gives preference to Indigenous people as a racial group and therefore violates the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution.

The Brackeens, a White couple, sought to adopt a 4-year-old girl in foster care, the baby sister of a boy they had already adopted. Devout evangelical Christians, the Brackeens told The New York Times they saw adoption of foster kids as a way to “rectify their blessings.” The Navajo Nation wanted to place the girl, who is Cherokee and Navajo, with a Navajo family, as laid out by the Indian Child Welfare Act. But when that placement fell through, both Indigenous nations supported the Brackeens’ adoption.

Despite their happy ending, the Brackeens are the lead plaintiffs in a federal lawsuit claiming the act is based on a racial preference that unfairly prioritizes Indigenous families as adoptive parents.

For a child welfare dispute that started out in a small Texas family court, the Brackeen case draws unusual firepower. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton

intervened in the case on the couple’s behalf.

And Matthew McGill, an attorney with the high-powered firm Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher who argued the Citizens United case before the Supreme Court in 2010, took the Brackeens’ case pro bono. He argued on their behalf before the U.S. Supreme Court in November.

His law firm is also known for representing Chevron in the longstanding lawsuit filed by Indigenous communities in Ecuador, as well as Energy Transfer Partners, architect of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The latter proposal has drawn fierce opposition from the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, along with the Yankton Sioux, the Oglala Sioux and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes, who say the pipeline’s route under nearby Lake Oahe threatens their main source of drinking water and could pollute the waters they hold sacred.

McGill also successfully argued the Supreme Court case that led to the court’s 2018 ruling allowing states to legalize sports betting. The firm counts among its clients several major international casino operators.

Two years after McGill’s win in the sports betting case, Washington Gov. Jay Inslee signed a bill allowing sports betting only under Washington’s tribal-state gaming compacts, setting the stage for the Maverick lawsuit.

In January 2022, McGill filed the Maverick lawsuit, as well. He did not respond to requests for an interview.

On its surface, the case is connected to his litigation around betting and gaming. But the legal arguments parallel those of the Brackeen adoption case.

Lewerenz said both cases could result in rulings that cast tribes as “merely private associations of people with a common racial ancestry.”

“If that happens,” Lewerenz said, “then it’s hard to understand why they would have any governing power, any political power.”

Nagle said that power flows from tribes’ unique position as sovereign nations that predate the United States.

“What racial group in the United States has its own land?” she asked. “Its own water rights and environmental regulations? Its own police force, its own elections, its own government?”

Tribes fear they stand to lose almost everything: their right to self-governance, the resources to preserve their culture and traditions, and the main economic engine that provides for basic

tribal services.

But for those with interests in the private casino industry, such a change could be a boon. The same goes for corporations looking to develop oil and gas leases without interference from Indigenous nations, whose right to co-manage the lands they stewarded for millennia is increasingly recognized by the federal government.

Gaming change could devastate tribes

The Washington State Legislature authorized gambling only for the state lottery, for tribes, for charitable and nonprofit gaming and, in a much more limited capacity, as a financial boost for bars.

But dozens of non-tribal, for-profit card rooms have expanded the category.

“Those food and beverage establishments have somehow become these massive mini casinos,” said Rebecca George, executive director of the Washington Indian Gaming Association.

That’s where Maverick stepped in. Its CEO, Eric Persson, declined repeated requests for an interview. But in press releases and news articles about the lawsuit his company filed, Persson says he supports tribal sovereignty.

In fact, Persson is a citizen of the Shoalwater Bay Indian Tribe, a tiny community located an hour southwest of Hoquiam, Washington, where he grew up. The tribe gave Persson a partial scholarship every semester, according to his spokesman, from undergrad through law school at Georgetown University. Persson is one of over 100 members the tribe estimates it has helped send to college.

Now, the tribe says, his lawsuit could devastate the tribe’s ability to provide government services to its citizens — including its scholarship fund.

The Shoalwater Tribe is fighting for survival on several fronts. Its reservation is a tiny piece of land. The single square acre set aside by the U.S. government in 1866 is big enough to house the tribal headquarters and not much else. Rising sea levels caused by climate change have eaten into that territory as the ocean has slurped up houses on what used to be forested land above high tide.

“Half the reservation is underwater,” said Larry Kerns, the tribe’s chief financial officer.

The tribe is using gaming revenue to painstakingly buy back small chunks of its homelands, including areas atop

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GED PRE TEST

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WASHITA

continued from pg. 1

Wassana said while park rangers do work with tribal leaders, the site can never fully portray the tribes’ viewpoint because its name obscures reality. Black Kettle, the Cheyenne peace chief who led the encampment, was seeking peace. He was killed along with his wife and an unknown number of Cheyenne men, women and children.

Without calling it a massacre, the hundreds of people who travel to the site every month leave with a muddled understanding of what happened, Wassana said. More than 15,100 people visited in 2021.

The Park Service often explains what happened as a tragic culture clash, a phrase that federal officials have used to describe the event since at least the 1960s.

“To us, it was an invasion,” said Max Bear, the tribal historic preservation officer for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. “The culture clash was, ‘We want this, and we want you out of the way.’”

The site is an example of history told from the mainstream, Anglo American viewpoint — that violence on the Plains was inevitable in the United States’ westward expansion, said Jeffrey Shepherd, a University of Texas at El Paso history professor who has researched the Washita Battlefield site extensively.

“So the question is, ‘Well, why is that the normative baseline history?’” Shepherd said. “Where are Cheyenne, Arapaho and Native perspectives? Why aren’t they valued?”

The debate over how history is taught in public schools adds extra urgency to ensuring accuracy at the Washita site, said Bear, who is

Cheyenne, Arapaho and Kiowa.

“I would like to see it changed in my time so I can better explain it to my children,” he said. “I have to explain to my son — before I even talk about the Washita massacre — explain first why it’s called a battle-field, not a massacre site.”

Two mass killings, four years apart

The United States already recognizes a similar site in Colorado for what it was: a massacre.

In November 1864, troops attacked Cheyenne and Arapaho families camping for the winter, killing more than 200 people. The grounds are now known as the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site.

U.S. officials eyed the land where Cheyenne people had lived and hunted for thousands of years for expansion, particularly after the discovery of gold in the Rocky Mountains in 1858, said Henrietta Mann, a Cheyenne historian and elder and prominent scholar of Native American studies.

Black Kettle, one of 44 Cheyenne peace chiefs, survived Sand Creek. He signed treaties that progressively cut his nation’s land base because he wanted to reach peace with the new foreign government, Mann said.

“All he ever wanted to do was have his children sleep throughout the night,” she said.

In late 1868, Black Kettle and his band set up camp for the winter along the Lodge Pole River. The river, which cuts across what is now southwest Oklahoma, is known today as the Washita.

It provided an abundant source of water and the surrounding cliffs

offered shelter, making it a favorite winter campsite, said Mann, whose two great-grandmothers traveled with Black Kettle’s band. Other bands of Cheyenne, Arapaho and Kiowa set up camp nearby.

Meanwhile, Gen. Philip Sheridan tapped Custer to lead the Army’s post-Civil War campaign against the Cheyenne. Some factions of Cheyenne society advocated for warfare as a way to defend their nation and protect citizens. But the military’s new strategy of all-out war did not make any distinctions.

“The ultimate fact at Washita is you’ve got a peace chief who is working towards reconciling the internal dynamics of what to do,” said Mann’s son, Alden Whiteman, who is Arapaho and Cheyenne.

Custer charged with the 7th Cavalry into Black Kettle’s encampment at dawn on Nov. 27, 1868, almost four years to the day after the Sand Creek massacre.

The exact number of Cheyenne people killed remains unknown. Custer believed it to be more than 100, while survivors thought the number was lower. An estimated 21 soldiers also were killed in later fighting as men in nearby campsites learned of the attack and responded. Troops took survivors captive, destroyed food and supplies and killed hundreds of horses.

U.S. officials immediately hailed the attack as a victory for Custer.

But such indiscriminate killings raise fundamental questions about the United States’ commitment to law and order and whether it viewed Native people as humans deserving of just treatment, Shepherd said. “They just essentially

gave Sheridan, and then Custer, the powers of judge, jury and executioner,” he said.

Soldiers left a carved stone at the site to mark the violence, according to newspaper stories from the late 1800s.

Cheyenne, Arapaho perspectives left out

For Cheyenne people, Custer’s attack ultimately touched off the reservation era and more than a century of economic struggle.

The opposite was true for the growing United States. As the population moved west, Congress divided up tribal reservations into individual sections of land assigned to tribal citizens, called allotments. The land left over was opened to white settlers, which happened in 1892 to the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation in present-day western Oklahoma.

News stories touted the region’s fertile land and boasted about Custer’s great victory.

The area’s growing non-Native population wanted to build a state park at the site to attract hunters and tourists. In 1934, residents of nearby Cheyenne launched the Washita Battlefield Memorial Association to advance their cause. The editor of the local Cheyenne Star newspaper was named the group’s president. The paper was known for its storefront window display of objects looted from the site, including human remains, which it claimed belonged to Black Kettle, according to a 1959 article in The Daily Oklahoman.

The push for national recognition of the site gained prominence around the century mark of the attack. Federal officials deemed

it a national landmark in 1965. A fictionalized account of what happened served as the backdrop of the 1970 Hollywood hit “Little Big Man,” starring Dustin Hoffman.

While the movie portrayed the attack as a surprise to the Cheyenne encampment, the prevailing narrative about what happened remained a battle. “This view of westward expansion and frontier expansion, this conflict between civilization and savagery as people viewed it, and the inevitability of westward expansion really framed their sense of history,” Shepherd said. “Plus, you’re in Oklahoma. The land runs and taking Native land are just embedded in Oklahoma history.”

In 1968, local boosters arranged a reenactment of the conflict for the site’s 100th anniversary. Organizers paid \$300 to six men to act as cavalry soldiers. But the men set off earlier than planned by firing blanks, scaring the Cheyenne and Arapaho people who had agreed to camp at the site for the event, Shepherd said.

“You can say ‘We were just joking’ or ‘It was just a reenactment,’” he said. “To do that just disrespects the legacy of the violence, and it really just marginalizes the Cheyenne and Arapaho perspective.”

It wasn’t until the late 1980s — after casino gaming started to give tribes an economic foothold — that Native people began to have a collective voice in decisions made at the local, state and federal levels, Wassana said.

Tribal leaders push for accuracy U.S. Rep. Frank Lucas, who grew up in Cheyenne, emphasized the importance of including the

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OKLAHOMA GOVERNOR

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Department did not respond to requests for comment about Ward’s case.

Cherokee and Choctaw Nation have also been apprised of what's going on and could join the case if it continues.

"I've never seen the governor using their own counsel to step into a civil forfeiture proceeding like that," said William Norman, an attorney with the law firm Hobbs and Strauss, a law firm with offices in Oklahoma and Washington, D.C. The firm focuses on gaming compact issues, Indian Child Welfare Act cases and jurisdictional disputes.

"Yet, at the same time, I would say it's probably predictable for this governor in terms of the subject matter and his sort of continuing battle against the tribes on every front," Norman said.

But the other issue in this case involves Oklahoma's wildlife laws. Those wildlife regulation violations are criminal in nature. And in order for forfeiture provisions to be in place, there has to be a criminal violation before property can be seized. So, it appears the actions here are unprecedented.

On top of that, these matters are local in nature and normally only involve the Oklahoma

Department of Wildlife and local district attorneys. It’s unusual for the Attorney General — and the Governor’s Office for that matter — to get involved.

Oklahoma is arguing that in Indian Country, states are not precluded from exercising civil jurisdiction.

"The State of Oklahoma retains its statewide jurisdiction and right to enforce its wildlife conservation statutes — regardless of tribal membership status or race, heritage, or background — pursuant to the federal recognition of the States' interest in wildlife conservation," wrote Craig Ladd, Carter County District Attorney.

The Governor’s Office via Pemberton is also trying to prevent Chickasaw Nation from getting involved in the civil case.

The Chickasaw Nation attempted to file an amicus, or friend of the court, brief in Carter County when Ward's lawyer asked for the civil charges to be dismissed too. Ward is again arguing that because of the tribal nation’s jurisdiction, those charges should be dismissed too.

Ward ultimately entered a guilty plea in Chickasaw Nation court and was given a one-year suspended sentence and paid a \$500 fine.

WASHITA

continued from pg. 5

tribes when he co-sponsored a bill in 1994 for the federal government to take over the Washita site.

The proposal passed in 1996 and required the Park Service to involve Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders in their plans for the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site.

While tribal leaders supported formal recognition and protections for the site, their requests to Congress not to call it a battlefield went unheeded. Its name was written into law.

In a statement, Lucas said he and everyone else involved in crafting the law “were extremely dutiful in ensuring the history of the tragedy of the Battle of the Washita was properly honored and remembered.”

“It was my intention then and it remains the intention of the local National Park Service, myself, and all other parties to preserve and interpret the historical significance of the hallowed land that we call the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site,” he said.

In 1998, the Park Service organized a symposium that brought together Mann and other historians to debate whether the event was a massacre or a battle. Mann still remembers some of the arguments she tried to deflect. Black Kettle advocated for peace, not war. The military positioned sharp shooters around the camp to kill, while Cheyenne people jolted awake by the gunfire had to scramble for bows and arrows or discarded military equipment, she said. Many men had left on a hunting trip.

“One has to be fair in terms of analysis, and I know history has never been very fair to us,” Mann said. “Even contemporary views tend to carry the kinds of justifications” that people apply to events such as Washita.

According to a transcript from the event, military historian Paul Hutton explained Cheyenne people had known the government was searching for them. “Thus I suppose, in a military sense, [they] had been given fair warning,” he said.

What made the naming of the Sand Creek Massacre National Historic Site different is that “massacre” had a champion in Sen. Benighthorse Campbell. And public perception of U.S. history was changing, since that site was approved by Congress about a decade after Washita.

But other efforts to incorporate Indigenous perspectives into federal landmarks have faced pushback. Several tribes

have pressed since 2005 to change the name of a national monument in Wyoming.Changing the name of a national monument requires congressional or presidential action.

Congress has never acted on the request. In 2021, the state’s two U.S. senators introduced a bill to block the tribes. Although it did not pass, the proposal could be reintroduced this year.

Wassana said he and other Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders won’t stop until the Washita site is renamed, even if their path to make it happen remains uncharted.

“We want the change for accuracy and history,” he said, “for future generations.”

Timeline: How the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site was founded The United States’ attack on Cheyenne people camped along the Washita River happened in the post-Civil War era, as the U.S. rapidly expanded west and federal officials forced tribal nations on to reservations.

1868: Cheyenne families led by Black Kettle, a peace chief, set up camp for the winter next to the Washita River near present-day Cheyenne, Oklahoma. The river provided abundant water and nearby cliffs offered shelter from frigid wind. Four years earlier, Black Kettle had survived a massacre in what is now Colorado, where U.S. troops killed more than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people.

Black Kettle advocated for peace in talks with U.S. officials, said Cheyenne historian and elder Henrietta Mann. “All he ever wanted to do was have his children sleep throughout the night,” she said.

Nov. 27, 1868: U.S. Army Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer leads the Army’s 7th Cavalry in a surprise attack of Black Kettle’s camp at dawn. Soldiers kill Black Kettle and his wife, along with dozens of others. The exact number of Cheyenne men, women and children killed remains unknown. U.S. troops take captive surviving women and children and kill hundreds of horses. An estimated 20 soldiers also die in fights with Indigenous people who traveled to the campsite after learning about the attack.

1892: Land promised to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes as their reservation — now part of western Oklahoma — opens to white settlers after tribal members receive allotments. News stories

seeking to attract settlers tout the history of the land and publish exaggerated accounts of Custer’s attack.

1916: Leaders of the new towns and state discuss a formal monument at the site to commemorate the Army’s “complete defeat of the Indians,” according to newspaper accounts.

1934: Area residents form the Washita Battlefield Memorial Association aimed at building a state park on the site. The local Cheyenne Star newspaper reported the group would work to commemorate the place where Custer attacked the Cheyenne, “completely routing the Indians” and delivering “the blow that broke the warlike spirit of the Plains Indians.”

State leaders also believe a park ground could attract thousands of tourists to western Oklahoma. Some newspaper editorials published about this time question whether the site should be called a battlefield or a massacre. “In simple truth, the so-called battle was nothing much but a pitiful massacre of helpless people,” said a 1935 editorial in The Daily Oklahoman.

1959: Oklahoma officials and local boosters open the Black Kettle Museum in Cheyenne, where initial exhibits include human remains and other artifacts collected from the campsite. By this time, an engraved stone interpretative marker has also been placed near the site.

1965: Federal officials declare the site to be a national landmark after conducting multiple studies of the site throughout the 1950s and ‘60s.

1994: Two U.S. representatives from Oklahoma, Frank Lucas and Mike Synnar, introduce the Oklahoma Battlefield Act in Congress to designate the site and one other as national parks. Lawrence Hart, a Cheyenne peace chief, testifies during a subsequent Congressional hearing that lawmakers should not use the word “battle” in the site’s name and allow Cheyenne people to name the park instead.

1996: Congress establishes the Washita Battlefield National Historic Site, writing its creation into a large parks bill. The new law requires federal officials to work with Cheyenne and Arapaho leaders as they build out the park.

Molly Young covers Indigenous affairs for the USA Today Network’s Sunbelt Region. This article originally appeared on USA TODAY.

Pemberton has argued against that, saying Oklahoma has a fundamental interest in implementing its wildlife code and that there's no federal interest implicated, and the Chickasaw Nation has no ability to assert a sovereign interest there.

Officials from the Chickasaw Nation say they find it offensive that the Governor's general counsel objected to their ability to get involved.

"The Governor's motions should be denied because those motions exceed his authority under Oklahoma law, which commit the prosecution of this action to the District Attorney," wrote Chickasaw Nation's legal counsel Stephen Greetham as a response to the state's motion to preclude the tribal nation.

Chickasaw Nation says the state doesn't meet the necessary requirements for forfeiture of Ward's property. They argue that civil forfeiture is a criminal penalty and is a result of the defendant — Ward — being convicted of a crime, which he was not. Those charges were dismissed due to the state's lack of jurisdiction.

In October, a Carter County judge denied Ward's motion to dismiss the civil forfeiture case but did not address Chickasaw Nation's request to file an amicus brief in support of dismissing Ward’s civil charges — which was argued against by Pemberton.

Ultimately, what will happen in the end is unclear. The fate of Ward’s gun could ultimately be in the hands of incoming Attorney General Gentner Drummond, who appears to have less interest in continuing Oklahoma’s fight with tribal nations than Stitt.

Indian legal experts and tribal officials are also watching another case involving a speeding ticket in Tulsa, in which an Oklahoma Federal Court said the City of Tulsa has the right to prosecute Native people when they commit crimes within Indian country because of the Curtis Act.

That case is now before the 10th Circuit Court of Appeals. The outcome could lead to additional ways that the State of Oklahoma could challenge Indian legal jurisdiction in a way they couldn't in the Castro-Huerta decision.

OBITUARIES

Nichole Nichelle Maul

Nicole Nichelle Maul (Plenty Horses), 45, of Oklahoma City was called home to be with the Lord on Dec. 19, 2022. She was born June 10, 1978 to her proud late parents Thomas E. Maul Sr. and Mary Ellen (Rednose) Maul in Kingfisher, Okla.

In her early years she attended school in Kingfisher, Stillwater and El Reno, Okla. Nicole loved her family and loved going to family events. Nicole was a loving mother of five children (four sons and one daughter) and one grandson. Nicole had a beautiful soul and always had a bright smile that would light up any room.

Nicole is survived by her two brothers Thomas E. Maul II and wife Charleta of El Reno and Jason Maul and wife Joanna of Yukon, Okla. Nicole is survived by first cousins who were all raised as sisters and brothers Terrill Rednose, Terrence Rednose, Calvin Rednose, Issac Rednose, Sherita (Rednose) Flores, Brittany (Rednose) De Leon and Chelse (Rednose) Satepauhoodle. Her aunts Norma Petsimore Yarbrough and husband Larry, and Reba Petsimore Tisdale and husband Carl, all of Kingfisher, Okla.

She is also survived by a host of beautiful nieces and nephews. Nicole lived her life to the fullest and will never be forgotten from her loved ones.

Nicole is preceded in death by her parents Thomas E. Maul Sr. and Mary Ellen (Rednose) Maul, her maternal grandparents Margaret (Burgess) Rednose and Allen B. Rednose, and paternal grandparents Pearl and Bill Maul, and her loving aunts Martha Louise Rednose and



Reba Joyce Rednose.

A traditional all night wake service was held Dec. 28 at the Kingfisher Emergency Response Center in Kingfisher, Okla. Funeral services were held Dec. 29, at the same venue, officiated by Rev. Tommy Meely and Gerald Panana, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Raymond Harry Tasso

Raymond Harry Tasso of El Reno died Dec. 26, 2022, at SSM St. Anthony Healthplex in El Reno, Okla. He was born Dec. 4, 1947 in Clinton, Okla.

Raymond was a stone mason and member of the Native American Church. He was an Army veteran serving in the Vietnam war and a recipient of the Purple Heart.

He is survived his a son Kyle Tasso of Boley, Okla., daughters, Sonya Derenzo and husband Christopher, of El Reno and Michelle Gouge of Sioux City, Iowa. Brother Elliott Henry Tasso Jr. of El Reno, eight grandchildren, Demetra Gouge, Darren Gouge, Mariecia Parker, Brian Gouge, Jennifer Parker, Katherine Parker, Laura Parker and Alex Parker, and seven great-grandchildren, Christiana Derenzo, Able Mallory, Selene Gouge, Ava Mallory, Elijah Derenzo, T. J. Wolf Tongue and Alexandria Wolf Tongue.

His parents, Elliott Henry Sr. and Minnie Flynn Tasso, wife Donna Jean Island, brother Jimmy Tasso and great-grandson Isaiah Russell preceded him in death.

A viewing was held Dec. 29 at the Huber Benson



Funeral Home in El Reno, Okla. A graveside service was held Dec. 30 at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Traci Lynn Zoeller

Traci Lynn Zoeller, 49, of Bismarck, N.D., passed away Dec. 27, 2022.

Traci was born to Alois Zoeller and Hattie Whiteman on June 8, 1973.

Traci enjoyed reading and watching movies. Her great joy was visiting her family, especially her sister’s family and attending family reunions. She was also a talented artist.

Traci is survived by her sister, Larine Zoeller; nephew, Bradley; and nieces Cara and Audrey.

She was loved dearly and will be deeply missed.

A Memorial Service will be held in June of 2023.



Shelby Lynn Hawk

Shelby Lynn Hawk was born April 16, 1972. She passed from this earth on Dec. 11, 2022.

A viewing service was held Dec. 28 at the John M. Ireland & Son Funeral Chapel in Moore, Okla. Funeral services were held Dec. 29, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery.

Rest In Peace



LEGAL NOTICES

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 09 2023
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
JUVENILE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
In the Interest of:)
AW DOB: 04/28/2017) Case No. JFJ-2021-0032
AW DOB: 05/13/2018)
MW DOB: 05/14/2020)

Alleged Neglected or Dependent Children.)
And Concerning:)
Marque Watson, Respondent Father.)

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF HEARING

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: Marque Watson

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Motion for Termination of Parental Rights of Father has been filed in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Trial Court, Juvenile Division, alleging that the above named minor children are neglected or dependent children as to their father, Marque Watson, and requesting the Court to terminate the parent-child legal relationship between said children and their natural father, Marque Watson, all as more fully set out in the attached motion filed in said cause.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the Tribal District Court, Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 2nd day of February, 2023, at the hour of 10 o'clock a.m., and to remain and answer the allegations contained in the Motion for Termination of Parental Rights of Father and state whether you admit or deny the allegations of the motion.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Court will hear evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of said Motion at the time and place above shown. You have the right to be present, to be represented by counsel, and an opportunity to be heard at said time and place, including the right to deny the allegations contained in the Motion and the right to object to the granting of the Motion and to show why your parental rights to said minor children should not be terminated. Your failure to appear at said hearing shall constitute a denial of your interest in the children, which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceedings, in an order of the Court terminating your parental rights to said children in accordance with law.

Dated this 9th day of January, 2023.

[Signature]
Court Clerk/Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

[Signature]
Harmoney Kitchin, Deputy Attorney General
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
P.O. Box 32
Concho, Oklahoma 73022
(405) 422-7855 or 256-8554

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 05 2023
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
JUVENILE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
In the Interest of:)
D.J.L. DOB: 03/19/2013) Case No. JFJ-2019-0016
E.S.B., DOB: 09/16/2014)
C.D.B., DOB: 09/04/2019)

Alleged Neglected or Dependent Children.)

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF HEARING

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: Unknown Fathers

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Motion for Termination of Parental Rights of Father has been filed in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Trial Court, Juvenile Division, alleging that the above named minor children are neglected or dependent children as to their fathers who are unknown to Petitioner, and requesting the Court to terminate the parent-child legal relationship between said children and their natural fathers all as more fully set out in the attached motion filed in said cause.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the Tribal District Court, Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 7th day of February 2023, at the hour of 10 o'clock a.m., and to remain and answer the allegations contained in the Motion for Termination of Parental Rights of Father and state whether you admit or deny the allegations of the motion.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Court will hear evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of said Motion at the time and place above shown. You have the right to be present, to be represented by counsel, and an opportunity to be heard at said time and place, including the right to deny the allegations contained in the Motion and the right to object to the granting of the Motion and to show why your parental rights to said minor children should not be terminated. Your failure to appear at said hearing shall constitute a denial of your interest in the children, which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceedings, in an order of the Court terminating your parental rights to said children in accordance with law.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2023.

[Signature]
Court Clerk/Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

[Signature]
Harmoney Kitchin, OBA# 32979
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
P.O. Box 32
Concho, Oklahoma 73022
(405) 422-7855 or 256-8554

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 05 2023
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
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IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
JUVENILE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
In the Interest of:)
B.J.L. DOB: 10/23/2007) Case No. JFJ-2019-0016
D.J.L. DOB: 03/XX/2009)
M.J.L. DOB: 06/XX/2016)

Alleged Deprived Children.)

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF HEARING

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: Mr. Dennis Hanson

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Petition to Terminate Parental Rights has been filed in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Trial Court, Juvenile Division, in the above-reference case, requesting the Court to terminate the parent-child legal relationship between the minor children and their natural father, Dennis Bryan Hanson.

YOU ARE THEREFORE NOTIFIED that you have thirty-one (31) days from the date of service or publication hereof to file a written Response or Answer to the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights with the Court.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the Tribal District Court, Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 7th day of February 2023, at the hour of 10:00 a.m., and to remain and answer the allegations contained in the Petition and state whether you admit or deny its allegations.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Court will hear evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights at the time and place above shown. You have the right to be present, to be represented by counsel, and an opportunity to be heard at said time and place, including the right to deny the allegations contained in the Petition to Terminate Parental Rights and the right to object to the granting of the Juvenile petition and to show why your rights should not be terminated. Your failure to timely file with the Court a written Response or Answer or your failure to appear at said hearing shall constitute a denial of your interest in the children, which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceedings, in an order of the Court adjudicating your said children as a dependent or neglected child in accordance with law and terminating the parent-child legal relationship between the children and their father.

Dated this 3rd day of January, 2023.

[Signature]
Harmoney S. Kitchin, OBA# 32979
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
P.O. Box 32
Concho, Oklahoma 73022
(405) 422-7855 or 425-9242

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 03 2023
IN THE TRIAL COURT
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FILM IMAGE
IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
JUVENILE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of:)
SARAH REDBIRD)
Petitioner,)
Vs.) Case No. CIV-2022-0132
TRENTON REDBIRD)
Respondent,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: TRENTON REDBIRD
UNKNOWN ADDRESS

You are hereby notified that SARAH REDBIRD has filed in this Court a Petition for a Protective Order on the 29th day of November, 2022, and that said Petition is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard in the Courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 1st day of FEBRUARY, 2023 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said Petition should not be granted.

Dated this 3rd day of JANUARY, 2022.

[Signature]
Tamy Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED DEC 05 2022
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2022-0053
EX. REL.)
JORDAN MEDICINEBEAR,) DERRICK BENNETT:
PETITIONER,) OBLIGOR
vs.) JORDAN MEDICINEBEAR:
JORDAN MEDICINEBEAR:) CUSTODIAN
CUSTODIAN)
DERRICK BENNETT,)
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: DERRICK BENNETT

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Petition for Establishment of Child Support with the Court listed above by Tribal Child Support Services. You must appear in the District Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of December, 2022.

[Seal]
COURT CLERK
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
By: *[Signature]*
(Deputy)

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-260-1125

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 05 2023
IN THE TRIAL COURT
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IN THE TRIAL COURT FOR THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
JUVENILE DIVISION
P.O. BOX 102
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
In the Interest of:)
B. H., DOB: 10/13/2007) Case No. JFJ-2019-0016
D. L. H., DOB: 03/13/2009)
J. L. H., DOB: 03/18/2013)
E. S. B., DOB: 09/16/2014)
M. K. H., DOB: 06/28/2016)
C. D. H., DOB: 09/04/2019)

Alleged Neglected or Dependent Children.)

SUMMONS AND NOTICE OF HEARING

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: April Blackbear
1299 S.W. 32nd Street
Oklahoma City, OK 73109

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED that a Motion for Termination of Parental Rights of Mother has been filed in the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Trial Court, Juvenile Division, alleging that the above named minor children are neglected or dependent children as to their mother, April Blackbear, and requesting the Court to terminate the parent-child legal relationship between said children and their natural mother, April Blackbear, all as more fully set out in the attached motion filed in said cause.

YOU ARE FURTHER ORDERED TO APPEAR at the Courtroom of the Tribal District Court, Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 7th day of February 2023, at the hour of 10 o'clock a.m., and to remain and answer the allegations contained in the Motion for Termination of Parental Rights of Mother and state whether you admit or deny the allegations of the motion.

YOU ARE FURTHER NOTIFIED that the Court will hear evidence in support of and in opposition to the granting of said Motion at the time and place above shown. You have the right to be present, to be represented by counsel, and an opportunity to be heard at said time and place, including the right to deny the allegations contained in the Motion and the right to object to the granting of the Motion and to show why your parental rights to said minor children should not be terminated. Your failure to appear at said hearing shall constitute a denial of your interest in the children, which denial may result, without further notice of this proceeding or any subsequent proceedings, in an order of the Court terminating your parental rights to said children in accordance with law.

Dated this 5th day of January, 2023.

[Signature]
Court Clerk/Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

[Signature]
Harmoney Kitchin, OBA# 32979
Assistant Deputy Attorney General
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
P.O. Box 32
Concho, Oklahoma 73022
(405) 422-7855 or 256-8554

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED DEC 13 2022
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2020-08
EX. REL.)
SOFIA SANDOVAL,) ALEXANDREA DEAN:
PETITIONER,) OBLIGOR
vs.) SOFIA SANDOVAL:
ALEXANDREA DEAN,) CUSTODIAN
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ALEXANDREA DEAN

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Application for Indirect Contempt Citation with the Court listed above by Tribal Child Support Services. You must appear in the District Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Given under my hand and seal this 13th day of December, 2022.

[Seal]
COURT CLERK
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
By: *[Signature]*
(Deputy)

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-260-1125

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED DEC 05 2022
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CNA-CIV-04-33
EX. REL.)
AMY DRESSER,) DAVID JACKSON:
PETITIONER,) OBLIGOR
vs.) AMY DRESSER:
DAVID JACKSON,) CUSTODIAN
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

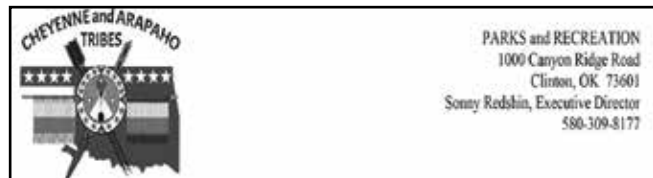
TO: DAVID JACKSON

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Application for Indirect Contempt with the Court listed above by Tribal Child Support Services. You must appear in the District Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Given under my hand and seal this 5th day of December, 2022.

[Seal]
COURT CLERK
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
By: *[Signature]*
(Deputy)

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-260-1125



All Programs and individual use are required to schedule events at the Emergency Response Centers with the Parks and Recreation Department. An application is required for all events. You may request an application via email, in-person, or JoForm. All fees are due upon booking. Funerals and wakes take precedence.

Via email: esgular@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov shoulingwolf@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

In Person:

CLINTON	1000 Canyon Ridge Road
CONCHO	200 Wolf Robe Circle
GEARY	132 E Main
SEILING	411 N Main
KINGFISHER	400 W Erwin
WATONGA	257210 E 820 Rd
WOODWARD	43554 County Rd
CANTON	205 N Jefferson
HAMMON	20415 Hwy 33

Online: <https://hicas.joinforms.com/730025826105042>

Contact information:

CLINTON	CARETAKERS
Cell #	
MAIN 580-309-8177	CLINTON Chris Overager 580-275-9555
Sonny Reddin 580-309-8182 405-388-7022	HAMMON Wesley Sage 580-335-2522
Elmer Aguilar 580-309-8181 405-760-8967	SEILING Sonny Whitcomb 580-940-0531
Dana Haveling 580-309-8178	WATONGA Fred Blackbear 580-751-2318
Ronald G. Reddin 580-309-2132	WOODWARD Brenna Parada 405-353-5150
Lightfoot Haveling 580-309-8179 918-902-4432	WOODWARD 580-334-2154
CONFERENCE ROOM 8180	CANTON Chuck Campbell 580-613-9958
	CONCHO Ernest Reddin 405-679-9776
CONCHO	KINGFISHER 405-422-7704
MAIN 405-422-7704 Cell #	FONDA 580-309-8181
Elise Sage 405-885-7606	
Jeremiah Camarash 405-425-0992	
Robert Haveling 580-613-0073	
Chris Sanchez 405-630-7330	

BlackwolfBeadz
by krista blackwolf

Facebook: BlackwolfBeadz
Instagram: @blackwolfbeadz
Email: kblackwolf23@gmail.com

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED DEC 13 2022
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2020-0045 / CIV-2020-0046
EX. REL.)
REBECCA THUNDERBULL,) THEODORE THUNDERBULL:
PETITIONER,) OBLIGOR
vs.) REBECCA THUNDERBULL:
THEODORE THUNDERBULL,) CUSTODIAN
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: THEODORE THUNDERBULL

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Application for Indirect Contempt Citation with the Court listed above by Tribal Child Support Services. You must appear in the District Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Given under my hand and seal this 13th day of December, 2022.

[Seal]
COURT CLERK
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
By: *[Signature]*
(Deputy)

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-260-1125

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES
OF OKLAHOMA
FILED DEC 13 2022
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF THE
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA

TRIBAL CHILD SUPPORT SERVICES,) Case No: CIV-2022-0052
EX. REL.)
ADRIENNE HARJO,) DAKOTA RHOADS:
PETITIONER,) OBLIGOR
vs.) ADRIENNE HARJO:
DAKOTA RHOADS,) CUSTODIAN
RESPONDENT,)

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: DAKOTA RHOADS

TAKE NOTICE that you are a named party in the Petition for Establishment of Child Support with the Court listed above by Tribal Child Support Services. You must appear in the District Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 6th DAY OF FEBRUARY 2023 AT 9:00 A.M. Your failure to appear may result in a bench warrant for your arrest and/or may result in a default judgment against you.

Given under my hand and seal this 13th day of December, 2022.

[Seal]
COURT CLERK
District Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
By: *[Signature]*
(Deputy)

Prepared by:
Krista Blackwolf, Office Manager/Legal Assistant
Tribal Child Support Services
P.O. Box 37
El Reno, OK 73036
Telephone: 405-262-1119 Ext. 304
Facsimile: 405-260-1125

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 1st Bday
Kai Angel Hamilton
Jan. 3
We Love you so
much baby boy!
Love GG Leah
auntie Cayli and
uncles GP King Jr
and Alejandro



Happy 12th Birthday
Greg Pedro
Jan. 24, 2011
We all love you so much and here's too many more son,
Love always mom, brothers King Lawrence and Alejandro,
sisters Cayli and Carlina and ur fave nephew Kai.



Happy 3rd Birthday Wyatt Joseph!
We love you so much!
From Mom, Beau, Drayden, and the rest of your famband!

Happy Birthday mom!
Lydia Hamilton
Jan. 10
Love always Leah and
grandkids

Happy Heavenly Birthday
Carrie Sue Hamilton
Jan. 3
Always missed never
forgotten, love u always All
the Fam



Happy 3rd Birthday my
babygirl LaRayne “Lil
Munchkin” Sara-Gene
Warledo! You are named
after your great-gpa Fred
LeRayne “Cotton-tail”
Whitetail.. my bestie and
after one of my sisters! I
hope your day is blessed
and awesome like you! And
big sis Val and momma
loves you so much! And of
course all your family loves
you too and wish you the
best!

“Happy Belated
Birthday” to Malachi
Yellow Eyes, Dec.
31 and many more!
From family & friends!
Nemehotse!

ANITA
greenwalt

NICK'S
barber shop

1515 Sunset Dr.
El Reno, OK

262-1132

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Calendar of Events

Seventh Birthday Dance for Genevieve Dorothy Goodblanket

Saturday Jan. 21, 2023 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Gourd dance at 3 p.m., supper at 5 p.m.

Head Staff: MC Wilbur Bullcoming, HS Jesse Hamilton, HMD George Levi, HLD Jolene Beartrack, HBD Cade Stomps, HGD Kynlee Hart, Co-Host Redmoon Powwow Committee and Redmoon Gourd Clan, AD Kevin Oldman and Mileena Horse, with special guest Changing Winds Cultural Society.

Genevieve “Genni” Goodblanket is the daughter of Darlene Goodblanket. She is the reigning Little Miss Redmoon Powwow Princess. Gennie is a first grader at Nance Elementary School in Clinton, Okla. Her grandparents are Billy and Danielle Cling. Her Cheyenne name is Feather Woman after her grandma Punkin Oldman.

Descendants of Eugene White Thunder Benefit Dance

Jan. 21, 2023 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Gourd dance 3 p.m., supper 5 p.m., with dance to follow.

Head Staff: MC Alan Fletcher, HS TBA, HMD David Reyes, HLD Tonette Arkeketa Ponkilla, HBD Steele Pratt, HGD Audriana Barcinderbar, AD Moses Toma Hawk, Honored Veteran Fred Blackbear, Co-Host Malcom and Wilma Whitebird Family.

For more information call 405-368-3450 or 405-538-5229.

Food Pantry Outreach

11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Jan. 26, 2023 in Anadarko, Okla., behind McDonald's located at 714 W. Petree Road. Food boxes available to all Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens - one per household. Must present CDIB. For more information call 405-422-7908.

Ruby Sleeper Memorial Dance

Jan. 28, 2023 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Painting ceremony between 2-5 p.m. Gourd dance 2 p.m., supper 5 p.m.

Head Staff: MC Burl Buffalomeat, HS Emmett Redbird, HMD Robert Littlebird, HLD Winnie Whitetail, HLG Carolina Blackwolf, HLB Touchcloud Watan, Honored Chief Roy Dean Bullcoming, Honored Veteran John Redbird, Honored Elder Joan Swallow.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Labor Day Powwow Princess Pageant

6 p.m. Saturday Jan. 28, 2023 at the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Gym, 220 E. Black Kettle Blvd., in Concho, Okla. Coronation dance and powwow will be held Sunday Jan. 29 at the Concho Emergency Response Center. Gourd dance 3 p.m., dinner 5 p.m.

Memorial Dance for Diana Sue Cassio-Bull

Sunday Jan. 29, 2023 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Supper at 5 p.m., cake walk and Tiny Tot contest, and prizes. Head lady dancer's teen fancy shawl contest for ages 13-17, with \$200 for first place, \$100 second place and \$50 third place.

Head Staff: MC Austin Wayne Bull, HS Jason Goodblanket, HM TBD, HL Katelyn Ginger Whiteman, HLB Nathaniel Koshiway, HLG Sevana Harper, Honored Family James & Jamie Yellowfish and AD TBD.

82nd Birthday Honor Dance for Ervin Bull

Saturday, Feb. 4, 2023 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Supper 5 p.m. with dance to follow.

Head Staff: MC Burl Buffalomeat, HS Jason Goodblanket, HM Gary Lime, HL Janelle Sharp, HLB Touchcloud Watan, HLG Kehlani Mack, Honored Elder Margie Pewo, ADs grandsons and great-grandsons.

For more information call 580-445-4383.

El Reno Indian Health Center welcomes new pediatrician to its team of providers

(CLINTON, OK) Brooke Mueller, MD joins pediatric provider James Mejias, MD at the clinic, located at 1801 Parkview Drive in El Reno. She is currently accepting new patients. Appointments can be made by calling the clinic at 405-295-1500, option 2.

Dr. Mueller received her training from the University Of Oklahoma College Of Medicine, just completing a pediatric residency at the University of Colorado (Denver, CO). She is a proud recipient of the IHS Health Professions Scholarship. Her clinical interests include primary care, preventive medicine and global health.

Dr. Mueller is a member of the Cherokee Tribe of Oklahoma and grew up in Claremore, Okla. She has been married for eight years to husband Garrett and has two boys Graham, 3 and Clark, 6 months. In her spare



time the family loves to hike, camp, ski and travel whenever possible.

The Clinton Service Unit is committed to improving the health and well-being of our community, with a vision “to provide quality health care services focusing on prevention, restoration, and collaborative relationships that are valued.” Our dedicated team of providers along with our newest pediatric provider look forward to serving you.

SOVEREIGNTY

continued from pg. 5

nearby hills that would be a safer place to live. The tribe now owns nearly 5,000 acres.

“It’s our land and we want it back,” Kerns said. “Unfortunately, we have to buy it back. They stole it from us, and we have to buy it back.”

The Shoalwater tribal government made about \$7 million last year in gaming revenue, according to Kerns. It pays for most of the tribe’s governmental services, including education, tribal housing, elders’ pensions, child welfare services, tribal policing and administration.

“Gaming income funds basically everything,” Kerns said. “Without it, we’d have to cut our programs by about 70 percent.”

The Maverick case threatens it all.

In 2018, the company bought about half the card rooms in the state, adding to the casinos and card rooms it already owned in Nevada and Colorado. Persson immediately launched his campaign to allow sports betting in private clubs throughout the state. Maverick poured millions into a political action committee and lobbied lawmakers in support of a bill in the Washington State Legislature that would allow sports betting in his clubs.

After that bill failed, he tried again with a narrower model, which he said would “level the playing field” between tribal gaming operations and those that are privately owned by non-tribal entities. That bill also failed.

Lawmakers approved gambling in Washington in

part to fund essential government services. Just like the state lottery raises money for education, tribal gaming raises money that tribes use to provide their citizens with education, healthcare, natural resources and behavioral health, George said.

“(Persson) has a bottom line that he wants to grow,” George said. “But for us, we want to get up to basic standards for our communities, and we still have a long way to go.”

Thirty years after the first tribal casino opened in Washington state, poverty rates among reservation communities there are improving, because of the jobs they create and the government services they fund. But annual incomes among tribal members living on

reservations in Washington state average just \$18,600, according to a recent report by the gaming association.

“Indian gaming has helped a lot,” George said. “But we’re still a good 50 percent behind the state average for poverty. So there’s still a long way to go.”

This story was produced through a collaboration between The Oregonian/OregonLive and Underscore News. The Data-Driven Reporting Project supported Underscore's work on this story. Underscore is a nonprofit collaborative reporting team in Portland focused on investigative reporting and Indian Country coverage. We are supported by foundations, corporate sponsors and donor contributions.

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ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

By Latoya Lonelodge / Courtesy Photos

Phallyn McHenry Guzman Putnam City West High School



As a multisport athlete, Phallyn McHenry Guzman, 15, has a natural talent for competing in sports. Born and raised in El Reno, Okla., for most of her life, Guzman has also spent some time in Oklahoma City Public Schools when she transferred in the first grade. At the young age of seven years old, Guzman began playing basketball. “Just like my older cousins or my mom, I would



On Dec. 28, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes held a mural unveiling of the Executive Branch office conference room featuring artwork completed by Cheyenne and Arapaho artist Michael Elizondo Jr. Many of Elizondo’s friends and fellow tribal colleagues gathered to witness the unveiling of the mural, in which Elizondo had to completely redo the executive branch meeting room that is located in the Administration Building in Concho, Okla. Beginning the mural on Nov. 4, it took Elizondo approximately two months to complete and depicts art in-



always follow my mom around for basketball at that age,” Guzman said. Standing 5’4, Guzman plays point guard and shooting guard for Putnam City West High School in Oklahoma City as well as for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ R.E.Sp.E.C.T. basketball team. While pursuing her love for the game, Guzman also plays volleyball, soccer and track and field. Guzman said what she loves the most about basketball is getting to take all her emotions out on the court. “If I’m having a bad day then I can just take it out on basketball and just use that to cope or even if I’m having a good day, it kind of just keeps me on track,” Guzman said. Her biggest motivation for playing basketball is the dream that Guzman holds on to, which is one day getting the opportunity to go to school and make it further with basketball. With her family’s support, Guzman said her in-

spiration for playing comes from her mother and brother. “I just do it for my brother because recently my brother has passed away so I’m kind of just playing for him,” Guzman said. With the passing of a loved one, Guzman has learned the importance of taking the time to prioritize her mental health. “Currently this season I’m working by myself on basketball because I had to take a mental break. I had to step out of basketball at the moment so I’m kind of just working on my mental health right now, that’s my goal,” Guzman said. Despite Guzman beginning the season playing actively on the school team, Guzman is taking a mental break from basketball due to the passing of her brother, Daniel Maifield who passed away in November 2022. “I’m still in the gym every single day, whether it’s conditioning or building my body in the weight room,” Guzman said.

Guzman said she plans to return next year for school basketball as she hopes to obtain a scholarship to play at the next level. “Just to be able to go to school and I want to be able to play at the next level whether it’s in college or going overseas or just playing for a women’s team,” Guzman said. With her dreams of playing at the next level for basketball, Guzman has the grades to prove she can make it academically. Guzman has maintained a 3.7 GPA in school while also pursuing various other

sports. “I try not to procrastinate a lot, I have a couple mental health issues like with ADHD so whenever I’m in school I’m kind of distracted, but I always try to stay on top of my work during class and not get as much homework as possible, I also make sure my grades are good so I can be eligible to play,” Guzman said. Throughout her years of playing basketball, Guzman said she’s grown as an athlete by learning how to take care of her body and mental health first. “My mental health is more than just being in the gym everyday, you have to take care of you, you have to build your body, you have to build your mindset, it’s more about your mindset to want to play and keep that confidence up, I’ve just been building my confidence as I go because it takes one coach or one person just to knock it down,” Guzman said. And with taking care of herself, Guzman tries to stay consistent in staying fit no matter what sport she’s in season with. “It’s important to stay in shape and I feel like it’s kind of hard trying multi-sports because you can’t bring attention to just one sport and you kind of just have to work, even if you’re in basketball you can do drills to stay in shape for soccer or volleyball and with track you’re always running in any sport,” Guzman said. Guzman said being a part of multiple sports has given her the opportunity to create friendships along the way.

“Going to a 6A school you get to know a lot more people and meet a lot of people at different meets or games and stuff



like that, it creates really good friendships but the thing I like most about being in different sports is not knowing that I’m good at a sport ... being athletic you’re kind of natural at some things and that’s what I really like,” Guzman said. When playing different sports, Guzman said it all ties together at some point. “Whenever you’re shooting it kind of reminds me of lunging a volleyball down or just different things tie into different sports and you never really know that until you play a whole bunch of them. So that’s what I like most about it,” Guzman said. “I’d play volleyball but whenever I hit my high school year, I ended up being good and I was a freshman on varsity and I got to start a couple games, you just get to learn a lot of new things and it teaches you to be a fast learner just playing multi-sports,” Guzman said.



In the future, Guzman said she hopes to be remembered as an athlete that’s very coachable. “Someone who’s always looked up to or someone who’s very humble or a good teammate,” Guzman said. With R.E.Sp.E.C.T. basketball expected to start back up in the spring, Guzman will continue playing and traveling with the team. Set to graduate in 2025, Guzman said after graduating high school she hopes to attend college and become a detective or a veterinarian. Phallyn’s parents are Frisco Guzman and Lindsey McHenry. Her paternal grandparents are Virginia Nightwalker and Richard Guzman and her maternal grandparents are James McHenry and Angie McHenry. Phallyn’s siblings are Christian, Daniel, Tyren, Brianna, Phenix, Ph’Aro and Hydee.

Adoptee receives her CDIB as a newly enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Being adopted can sometimes be enshrouded with secrecy, but not all. Victoria Fiorelli, recently enrolled into the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, always knew she was adopted. “While being adopted is generally synonymous with mystery, I always knew I was Native American, but it wasn’t until I found by birth family 13 years ago that I found out just how much,” Fiorelli said. Fiorelli is the great-granddaughter of Arapaho Chief Arthur Sutton. Her birth mother is Roni S. Allen-Villeda. “I now stand on my own as a proud citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes,” she said.

Fiorelli currently resides in New York City, having graduated in September 2022 with a bachelor’s degree majoring in psychology. Her dream is to someday give back to her people and hopes to do that in the capacity of medicine. “I have decided to pursue a career in medicine and am going back to school to hopefully apply to medical school in a few years. I cannot wait to give back to my people, I owe my grit and resilience to the blood that runs through my veins and the ancestors that look down upon me,” Fiorelli said. She said becoming enrolled into her tribes did more than just “scratch a genealogical itch.”



“It has created an opportunity for me to represent my ancestors and join the ranks of warrior people. As they held steadfast to their beliefs, I hold steadfast to mine ... I am honored. Thank you to my birth parents for giving me life, to aunt Tonya Moore for guiding me, and the Creator for granting us such a profound relationship.”



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--	--

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