

Cheyenne & Arapaho TRIBAL TRIBUNE

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April 1, 2022 -Vol. 18, Issue 7

Third Special Session of the Ninth Legislature convenes March 14

Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

On March 14, 2022 a public hearing for the third special session of the Ninth Legislature was called by Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana in Concho, Okla.

The public hearing was called to order at 10:11 a.m., with an invocation given by C1 Legislator Bruce Whiteman. Present at roll call was speaker A3 Travis Ruiz, C1 Bruce Whiteman and C3 Darrell Flyingman, with A1 Diane Willis, A2 Kendrick Sleeper, C2 George Woods present via zoom, and C4 Byron Byrd absent. A4 Rector Candy later joined the special session voting via zoom.

On the agenda, four items were discussed and voted on:

A resolution to approve a roadway easement with the city of El Reno.

A resolution to approve a utility easement with the city of El Reno.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Executive Attorney, Hershel Gorham explained the two resolutions are in regards to the 94 acres of land owned by the Tribes behind the Denny's in El Reno, Okla. Previously, the Tribes wanted to move the existing easement along the northwest roadway, where the fence line is currently, because the city has an easement that cuts across the northwest corner of

the property.

"We've met with the city on two or three occasions and they agreed that if we constructed roadway along the northwest fence line that they would be willing to vacate the current easement and accept a new easement, it took way longer than what we wanted to but we finally completed the construction on that new roadway," Gorham said.

With the city's approval, the legal description was drafted into documents that will require the governor's signature and will later be filed with the county clerk's office for the new easement to be recorded with the county.

See SPECIAL SESSION / pg. 9

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Long Awaited El Reno Indian Health Center Welcomes in Community

Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

The long wait is over.

On March 24, 2022 many celebrated the doors opening to the new 14,000 square foot Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' El Reno Indian Health Center in El Reno, Okla.

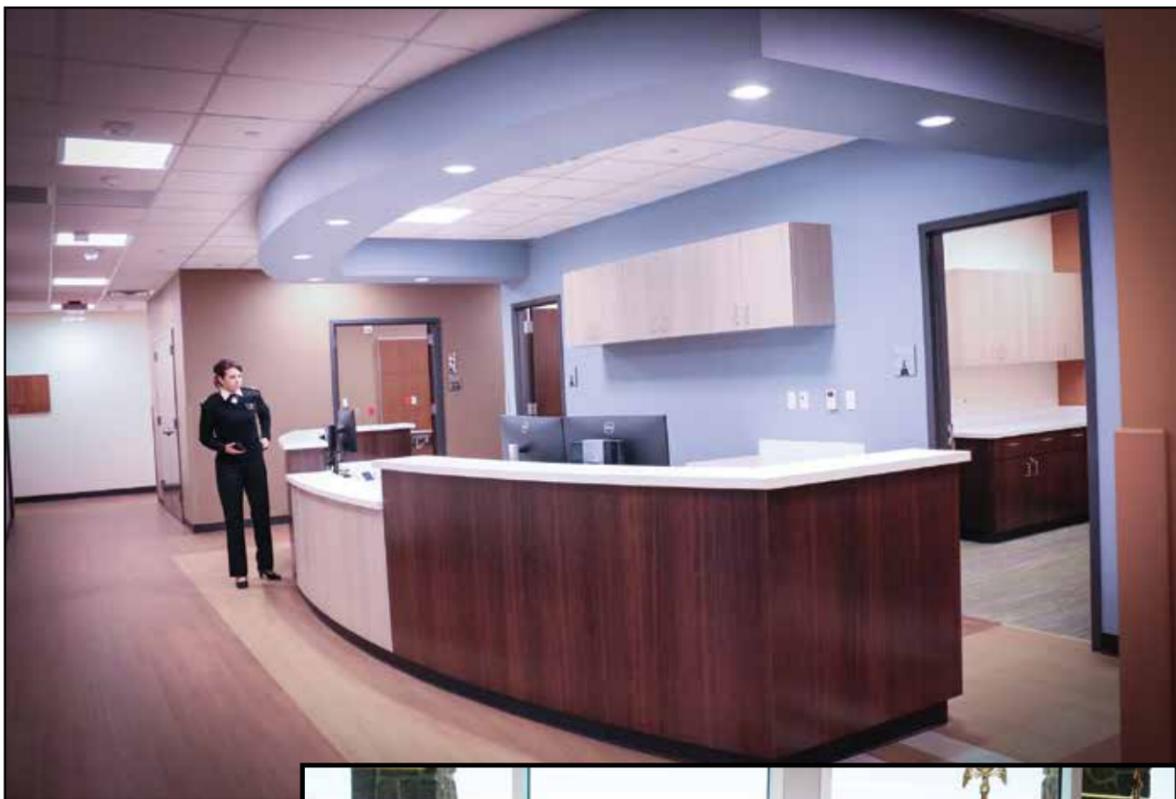
The day began with a private blessing ceremony. Opening remarks were delivered from the El Reno Indian Health Center Facility Unit Director Kateri Fletcher-Sahmaunt.

Cheyenne Chief Gordon Yellowman provided the invocation, followed by singing of the flag song and building blessing by Fred Mosqueda, Max Bear and Chester Whiteman.

Speakers included Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana, Oklahoma City Area Chief Medical Officer Rear Adm. Greg Woitte, Clinton Service Unit CEO Capt. Joe Bryant, Tribal Health Board Chairman Quinton Roman Nose and Cheyenne District 2 Legislator George Woods.

Also providing comments were representatives from Anishinabe Design, Inc., and Flintco, LLC.

Later in the afternoon the doors opened to com-



munity members for a come-n-go sneak peek walk through of the new health center.

The facility will have services matching those of the Clinton Indian Health Center in Clinton, Okla., including, x-rays, dental, ultrasounds, PT, MRI capabilities, pharmacy and more.

Beginning April 4 patients will begin to be seen. April 15 optometry, x-rays, PT will be available.

Look for future announcements for a June grand opening ribbon cutting.



Pictured after the private blessing ceremony is l-r: Cheyenne District 2 Legislator Bruce Whiteman Jr., Clinton Service Unit CEO Capt. Joe Bryant, El Reno Indian Health Center Facility Unit Director Kateri Fletcher-Sahmaunt and Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana. (Photo / Chris Roman Nose)



Photo by Rosemary Stephens

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune
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Interior Department takes steps to increase voter registration in Indigenous communities

(WASHINGTON) The Dept. of the Interior announced it is working with states to formally designate the Department-operated post-secondary Tribal institutions, Haskell Indian Nations University in Kansas and the Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) in New Mexico, as voter registration agencies under the National Voter Registration Act. This designation will facilitate voter registration opportunities for enrolled students and members of the community.

The announcement follows the release of the White House's Native American Voting Rights Report, which chronicles the barriers Native voters face and recommends actions for policymakers at every level to help break these barriers down.

These efforts support President Biden's Executive Order on Promoting Access to Voting, which aims to expand access to, and education about, voter registration and election information in order to enable all eligible Americans to participate in our democracy.

"Tribal Nations have played a significant role in influencing the contours of American democracy, yet systemic barriers continue to disenfranchise Indigenous people and impede a free and fair electoral process," Secretary Deb Haaland said.

VOTER RIGHTS / pg. 9

Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium Announces Tribes' Impact on Oklahoma's Economy

OKLAHOMA CITY – Native American tribes in Oklahoma had a \$15.6 billion impact on the state in 2019, according to a new study released week of March 21, 2022.

The study found that the tribes directly employ more than 54,000 people and support a total of 113,442 jobs to tribal citizens and non-citizens, accounting for more than \$5.4 billion in wages and benefits to Oklahoma workers in 2019.

"This study shows just how important tribes are to Oklahoma's economy," said Neal McCaleb, Chickasaw Nation Ambassador to the United States. "We are helping create sustainable economies through our many valuable jobs as well as making other substantial and impactful investments into our broader communities," said McCaleb "This is our home and we look forward to continued growth – growth that benefits all Oklahomans."

This study, sponsored through the Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium, was released during a press conference at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City on Wednesday. In 2019, the Consortium sponsored a similar study. The new report shows a significant increase of more than \$2.6 billion in economic activity from FY 2017 to FY 2019.

"Tribes are an economic driver as well as a constant and reliable partner," said Victor Flores, President, Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium and Director of Tribal Services, REDW, LLC. "Unlike corporations that move based on economic conditions, our tribes are here to stay," said Flores. "Oklahoma is home, and we will continue to reinvest in our communities through job creation, critical service delivery and infrastructure development. Oklahoma is stronger when we all work together."

One of the most impactful contributions by the 38 federally recognized tribes has been in health care, particularly in rural and underserved Oklahoma communities. Tribal health care operates more than 45 facilities, providing care in most locations to both Native American and non-Native Oklahomans.

When health care is provided to Native Americans at tribal health facilities, the entire cost of care is paid by the federal government, resulting in savings to the state. In 2019, tribes paid \$232 million in Medicaid expenditures, saving the state \$86 million by requiring no state matching funds.

"Tribally owned and federal health centers

across the state provide life-saving treatment and improved quality of life to Native and non-Native citizens," said Nicolas Barton, Executive Director, Southern Plains Tribal Health Board. "In 2019 alone, there were 3.5 million patient visits at tribal health facilities in Oklahoma," said Barton. "By maintaining the health care safety net in rural areas, tribes are strengthening Oklahoma's entire health care infrastructure and ensuring many healthy generations to come."

Through gaming compacts between Oklahoma-based tribes and the state, tribal nations submit a percentage of their Class III gaming revenues for the exclusive right to operate casinos in the state. Oklahoma sends the first \$250,000 of these fees to the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services. Of the remaining funds, 88 percent is earmarked for public education supporting all Oklahomans.

The tribes have invested heavily to support local communities and efforts. Oklahoma tribes have paid more than \$1.8 billion in exclusivity fees since 2006. More than \$1.5 billion has been earmarked for public education. In 2019, an additional \$84 million was paid to support Oklahoma schools, municipalities and other community initiatives.

"It is impossible to overstate the positive impact Oklahoma's tribal nations have had, and continue to have, on our state," said Matthew L. Morgan, Chairman, Oklahoma Indian Gaming Association. "Through our gaming industry, we employ more than 75,000 people, mostly in rural communities. We build roads and hospitals, invest in our public schools and universities and create programs to serve those who need assistance," said Morgan. "We are proud of our past, excited about things happening right now, and determined to leave the next generation an industry, and an Oklahoma, that they can take pride in."

Kyle Dean, associate professor of economics and the director for the Center for Native American and Urban Studies at Oklahoma City University, analyzed data from 16 tribal nations based in Oklahoma and prepared the study.

The Oklahoma Tribal Finance Consortium's mission is to advance tribal economics and strengthen tribal finance within the state of Oklahoma.

More information can be found at oknativeimpact.com.



Oklahoma becomes latest state seeking to pass book banning legislation

When Kyle Reynolds, superintendent of Woodward Public Schools saw that the book Fahrenheit 451 was on a list of books under review by the Oklahoma Attorney General, he thought "There's irony in that."

Fahrenheit 451, a novel by Ray Bradbury about books being outlawed and burned in a futuristic American society, was one of 51 books on a list being reviewed by Oklahoma Attorney General John O'Connor and his office. Although O'Connor eventually retraced his evaluation of the books, the announcement still sent ripples throughout the school system of Oklahoma.

Reynolds, who has been superintendent for eight years, and employed by the district for 27, said that certain pieces of literature, including works by his personal hero Maya Angelou "can either reflect the society that it's in or give us perspective and hindsight for past societies and how things were."

While the idea of restrict-

ing literature seems to be a partisan issue, Reynolds says some of the books on the list were reviewed and approved by his media specialists, whose choices he described as pretty conservative.

"My media specialists are all very active in their churches, Southern Baptists, First United Methodist. And so I'm pretty confident that their selections and choices for libraries are probably going to be pretty conservative ... I trust mine (media specialists) to make sure that we've got appropriate content on our shelves."

In Bixby, a suburb of Tulsa, the public school district received a request last November to remove a book from its libraries. This was the first request the district had received in over 10 years in more than 10 years. A parent sought to remove two John Green books: "13 Reasons Why" and "Earl and The Dying Girl" from the high school's shelves. These

books, which feature some profanity, contain themes regarding sexuality, death, suicide.

Bixby Public Schools Superintendent Rob Miller said once the request was received, district policy called for a committee review.

"That committee consists of three administrators, two teachers, two parents, and a media specialist who are assigned to read those books, and then meet and discuss that complaint, and make a decision as to whether or not those books remain on the shelf or should be removed. But it is a committee process."

The committee voted unanimously to keep the two books on the shelves, and the parent appealed to the board of education. The special board meeting took place on Feb. 16 and ended with a vote that kept both books on Bixby's shelves.

"The parent and the district both had an opportuni-

See **BANNING BOOKS** / pg. 5

Oklahoma City

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For more information, contact the Executive Office at
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CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

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Clear Creek County officials clear way for Mount Evans name change to Mount Blue Sky

By Clarissa Guy

(CLEAR CREEK COUNTY, Colo.) In Denver, visitors and residents alike can orient themselves by looking towards the Rocky Mountains sprawling to the west.

But when Fred Mosqueda of the Southern Arapaho visits Denver and looks west, he sees Mount Evans and, to him, “that mountain, that name brings sorrow and grief to the Cheyenne and Arapaho.”

Mosqueda is the Arapaho Coordinator for the language and culture program within the Education Department of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma. Mosqueda and his counterpart for the Cheyenne, Chester Whiteman, who is Southern Cheyenne, put forth a proposal to change the Mount Evans name.

The rugged 14,130-foot-high mountain has been a landmark for centuries. Mosqueda recalled how both the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and other tribes also once used to look west to orient themselves from the plains.

“Our biggest band of Arapahos lived there on Cherry Creek,” he said.

But European colonization and settlement beginning in the 17th century would eventually claim landscapes and impose names on majestic landmarks. Even before Colorado became a state and its borders were sketched onto a map, the mountain was given the name Mount Rosa or Mount Rosalie by Albert Bierstadt, a famous painter of the West, after his wife-to-be. It was also a reference to Switzerland’s highest peak, Monte Rosa.

In 1895, the mountain was officially named Mount Evans after the second territorial governor of Colorado, John Evans.

But for Mosqueda, the name makes him think of “the loved ones who were slaughtered and killed there on the plain” in the Sand Creek Massacre.

The massacre was a result of Evans’ authorization to “kill and destroy, as enemies of the country ... all hostile Indians” in a proclamation issued Aug. 11, 1864. More than 200 Cheyenne and Arapaho people, mostly women, children, and elderly, were murdered under this authorization.

Evans was eventually forced to resign the governorship in 1865, despite an attempt to cover up his involvement.

However, his legacy of violence has persisted for over a century. Thirty years after his fall from office, Evans was honored with the naming of Mount Evans. His proclamation, meanwhile, was only officially rescinded in 2021 through an

executive order by Governor Polis.

Mosqueda and Whiteman began talking about the mountain’s name a few years ago and started to brainstorm.

“I said, ‘If it was just me, then it would be easy,’” recalled Mosqueda. “I told him, ‘But there’s two tribes here, so we have to have a name that can cover both tribes.’” He said that while the Cheyenne and Arapaho are two different federally recognized tribes, they always work together.

And they found the perfect overlap in the name Blue Sky. According to Mosqueda, Whiteman said, “the Cheyennes have a ceremony that’s a renewal life that they do every year ... called Blue Sky ... and your people (the Arapaho) are called Blue Sky.”

Whiteman and Mosqueda first brought the name to their Chiefs to approve. They then found support in Paul Spittler, the director of wilderness policy for the Wilderness Society. Spittler co-authored a petition and the name suggestion became widely supported by other conservation organizations, government officials and various tribal leaders.

Mosqueda said that tribes are very supportive of each other; they write letters of support whenever one is pushing a name change. “There are 48 tribes that have ties with Colorado ... we’re all trying to work together,” he said.

This is the second time in just a few months that a Clear Creek County mountain will have its named change. In December of last year, what was once Squ*w Mountain officially became Mestaa’êhehe Mountain. Squ*w, sometimes called the “S-word,” is a derogatory term for Native women.

Four other names were proposed through the Colorado



Pictured is Chester Whiteman (l), Cheyenne Culture Coordinator and Fred Mosqueda (r), Arapaho Culture Coordinator for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma.

Geographic Naming Advisory Board to replace Mount Evans: Mount Cheyenne-Arapaho, Mount Evans (to honor Evans’ daughter instead), Mount Rosalie, and Mount Soule. But the Clear Creek County Board of County Commissioners voted on March 15, 2022, to recommend Mount Blue Sky to the state and federal naming boards and Governor Polis.

The board’s next meeting is April 10, but it is expected to dedicate most of the meeting time to discussing the nearly 30 Colorado landmarks that have Indigenous slurs in their names. It is unclear at this time when a final vote will be taken to officially rename Mount Evans.

Mosqueda thinks Mount Blue Sky is a name for everyone. “It’s such a happy name. It’s for a beautiful ceremony. It’s for beautiful people. This was our homeland here ... so, when we come to Colorado, when we look west and we see Mount Blue Sky, we will feel happy. We will feel like we are at home.”



How did this many deaths become normal?

The U.S. is nearing 1 million recorded COVID-19 deaths without the social reckoning that such a tragedy should provoke. Why?

By Ed Yong

The United States has reported more deaths from COVID-19 than deaths from Hurricane Katrina, than deaths during the 9/11 terrorist attacks, more deaths than the flu in a bad season, and more in two years than deaths from HIV during the four decades of the AIDS epidemic. More than 976,000 Americans have died from COVID, and the true toll is likely even higher because many deaths went uncounted. COVID is now the third leading cause of death in the U.S., after only heart disease and cancer, which are both catchall terms for many distinct diseases. The sheer scale of the tragedy strains the moral imagination. On May 24, 2020, as the United States passed 100,000 recorded deaths, The New York Times filled its front page with the names of the dead, describing their loss as “incalculable.” Now the nation hurtles toward a milestone of 1 million. What is 10 times incalculable?

Many countries have been pummeled by the coronavirus, but few have fared as poorly as the U.S. Its death rate surpassed that of any other large, wealthy nation, especially during the recent Omicron surge. The Biden administration placed all its bets on a vaccine-focused strategy, rather than the multilayered protections that many experts called for, even as America lagged other wealthy countries in vaccinating (and boosting) its citizens—especially elderly people,

who are most vulnerable to the virus. In a study of 29 high-income countries, the U.S. experienced the largest decline in life expectancy in 2020 and, unlike much of Europe, did not bounce back in 2021. It was also the only country whose lowered life span was driven mainly by deaths among people under 60. Dying from COVID robbed each American of about a decade of life on average. As a whole, U.S. life expectancy fell by two years, the largest such decline in almost a century. Neither World War II nor any of the flu pandemics that followed it dented American longevity so badly.

Every American who died of COVID left an average of nine close relatives bereaved. Roughly nine million people, 3% of the population, now have a permanent hole in their world that was once filled by a parent, child, sibling, spouse, or grandparent. An estimated 149,000 children have lost a parent or caregiver. Many people were denied the familiar rituals of mourning, bedside goodbyes, in-person funerals. Others are grieving raw and recent losses, their grief trampled amid the stampede toward normal. “I’ve known multiple people who didn’t get to bury their parents or be with their families, and now are expected to go back to the grind of work,” says Steven Thrasher, a journalist and the author of The Viral Underclass, which looks at the interplay between

inequalities and infectious diseases. “We’re not giving people the space individually or societally to mourn this huge thing that’s happened.”

After many of the biggest disasters in American memory, including 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina, “it felt like the world stopped,” Lori Peek, a sociologist at the University of Colorado at Boulder who studies disasters, told me. “On some level, we owned our failures, and there were real changes.” Crossing 1 million deaths could offer a similar opportunity to take stock, but “900,000 deaths felt like a big threshold to me, and we didn’t pause,” Peek said. Why is that? Why were so many publications and politicians focused on reopening’s in January and February—the fourth- and fifth-deadliest months of the pandemic? Why did the CDC issue new guidelines that allowed most Americans to dispense with indoor masking when at least 1,000 people had been dying of COVID every day for almost six straight months? If the U.S. faced half a year of daily hurricanes that each took 1,000 lives, it is hard to imagine that the nation would decide to, quite literally, throw caution to the wind. Why, then, is COVID different?

Many aspects of the pandemic work against a social reckoning. The threat, a virus, is invisible, and the damage it inflicts

See COVID DEATHS / pg. 6

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2020-2021 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALIST/OK CHAPTER MEDIA AWARD WINNER

Tribal Citizen Keeps Native-Owned Construction Business Afloat Despite Global Pandemic

Latoya Lonelodge
Staff Reporter

According to the 2020 annual Business Survey and new data released by the U.S. Census Bureau, there were an estimated 26,064 American Indian and Alaska Native owned businesses with \$35.8 billion in receipts, 215,049 employees and approximately \$8.7 billion in annual payroll.

Previously, the U.S. Census Bureau stated that between 2007 and 2012, the number of American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses in the U.S. climbed by 36,228 or 15.3%, reaching 272,919. Oklahoma ranked second among states with 27,450 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned businesses in 2012, with the number of businesses increasing by 6,238 over the period, or 29.4%. In 2016, there was an estimate of 29,089 American Indian and Alaska Native-owned employer firms.

While these figures have climbed up and down through the years, it comes as no surprise that running a business can be challenging.

Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal citizen, Carlos Aranda, owns Aranda's Construction LLC, a construction company that installs underground utilities and trenching, such as gas, water, electric, and sewer.

Aranda's Construction LLC has been in business since its inception February 2018, in which Aranda said it took a lot of hard work and determination to keep his business afloat.

Aranda began his construction business after being in the oil field for 15 years.

"I got out of it and I started a truck driving job for a guy that owned a directional boring company and I liked the work so I decided to buy some rigs and start doing the work myself," Aranda said.

Starting the business from scratch, along with his father as his business partner, Aranda has had family members help him in the business along the way, including his son, Carlos Aranda Jr., and brother, Sammy Aranda, who also work for him.

Aranda said the business started with him, his dad and another friend he had worked with at his previous job on the rig.



Carlos Aranda, Jr., drills into the ground on the drilling machine to begin underground work for Aranda's Construction. (Submitted photo)

"He came over and helped me out until we started growing where we needed other guys to help us," Aranda said.

With family beside him, Aranda said what sets their business apart from others is the work they perform.

"We're big on safety and on making the customer happy," Aranda said.

Despite the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Aranda said they have managed to stay busy with their business and continue being called out to work sites.

"During the coronavirus we took a little hit and slowed down for a little bit, but we never completely stopped working, we stay working through it," Aranda said.

Servicing various communities and businesses in and outside of Oklahoma, Aranda's Construction operates Monday through Friday 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

And by sticking with the hard work and not giving up, Aranda said there's more ways than one to find the work.

"Sometimes you just have to go back to the hand and foot, get out there and get your name out there, you have to walk around, put your cards out, call people, you got to stay with it, that's what we did," Aranda said.

Looking towards the future of Aranda's Construction LLC, Aranda said he hopes to one day see his children take the business over.

"To make it prosper and grow," Aranda said.

To reach Aranda's Construction LLC, Directional Boring and Trenching, contact Carlos at 580-330-1767.

Oklahoma City Indian Clinic Suffers Cyber Attack

OKLAHOMA CITY (KFOR) – A ransomware group called Suncrypt is claiming responsibility for a cyber-attack against the Oklahoma City Indian Clinic, a metro nonprofit healthcare organization.

The attack potentially puts the health and financial data of patients at risk. The clinic sent KFOR a statement on the incident Monday, March 28.

"Earlier this month, Oklahoma City Indian Clinic (OKCIC) discovered that certain systems were inaccessible and immediately deployed all available resources to investigate, including third-party forensic specialists. As part of our investigation, we discovered that the OKCIC was the victim of a cyber attack.

While our investigation remains ongoing at this time, we currently do not have evidence of unauthorized access to patient informa-

tion. OKCIC is taking the necessary and appropriate steps to address this incident and comply with applicable regulations, and will continue to do so as our investigation proceeds."

"There's going to be a challenge setting appointments, a challenge making sure that everyone probably in the clinic has to reset their user names, and passwords, probably work on some hardware firewall stuff," said Patrick Allmond with Focus Marketing on the incident. "Just revisit everything in security from top to bottom."

The ransomware group claims to have stolen 350 gigabytes of data, including health records and financial documents.

The attack reportedly also affected some computer systems and even the clinic's auto-prescription refill system. This forced them to bring in third party

forensic specialists to investigate.

"Unfortunately, ransomware is getting more common and harder to actually trace the money," Allmond said.

As per the clinic's statement, they have no evidence of "unauthorized access to patient information" right now, but the investigation is ongoing.

Allmond added that ransomware is a dangerous situation.

"Before this happened, they probably didn't know that that backdoor was there, so hackers, unfortunately, have a lot of time and resources to find backdoors. Once they do, unfortunately, it's profitable," he said. "Unfortunately, ransomware often works, and so, to get access to that information, I wouldn't be surprised if this clinic actually has to pony up the money in whatever curren-

cy it is."

While that may not necessarily be the case at this time, according to the clinic, they say they are currently addressing the incident.

So, the current investigation will reveal details when it ends.

"Our medical information is very important to us, and I think that I think that the patients of that clinic would feel a lot more secure knowing that their information was protected," Allmond said.

Allmond says 350 gigabytes of data can be a lot or a little depending on if it's all text or all pictures or documents. Allmond said he thinks it's somewhere in between.

Again, the clinic said they have no evidence of unauthorized access to patient records at this time, but they are still investigating.

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PROGRAMS

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“

As a tribal member and citizen of Oklahoma, voting on any level is an important civic duty. I encourage all citizens to register to vote and remember to maximize your true authority - go vote!

GOVERNOR REGGIE WASSANA
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

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Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes encourages all Oklahoma Citizens to register and vote!

Learn more and support the #VoteYourValuesOK Initiative at www.voteyourvaluesok.com

Miss Seiling, OK Pageant Celebrates 40th anniversary

Pageant adds Junior Miss Seiling Category

Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

(SEILING, OK) Gracing the stage with their presence, Miss Seiling pageant contestants made sure to put on an unforgettable show in their 40th year anniversary.

Celebrating their 40th year of the Miss Seiling pageant in Seiling, Okla., the pageant is allowing more opportunities for Seiling youth to participate in the event as they've added on a Junior Miss Seiling category that would include seventh to ninth grade contestants, while Miss Seiling contestants are 10th to 12th grade.

The first Miss Seiling was crowned in 1983 and started with the community of education board. Wanda Adair had approached the idea of getting a pageant started, along with Elaine Sander. Over the years, several pageant directors have overlooked the Miss Seiling pageant, including Sander and Cheryl Davidson.

Miss Seiling Pageant Director, Brandy Jones, said Davidson ran the pageant for as long as she could remember before passing away in 2016. That was when Jones became one of the main directors of the pageant.

"I actually co-direct with Michelle McBride and Vicky Rockhold and they've been co-directing alongside Cheryl for all the years she did it," Jones said.

While both winners of the Miss Seiling and Junior Miss Seiling categories receive a crown and sash, a \$1,000 scholarship will be given to the winner of the Miss Seiling category to help with college. Cash prizes will also be given to Miss Seiling and Junior Miss Seiling winners, along with several donations that the pageant gets every year from the community.



Cayden Little Coyote performs Amazing Grace in her trumpet solo as part of her talent.

For the 2022 Miss Seiling and Junior Miss Seiling pageant, there were a total of 13 participants, five being in the Miss Seiling category and eight in the Junior Miss Seiling category.

Jones said that with each contestant, there are pageant princesses, which are girls in grades pre-k to third grade that get the opportunity to stand up and be with the contestants throughout the evening events.

"We actually added pageant princesses back in 2018 and we started that because it gives the girls an opportunity to get to know one of the younger students in school a little better," Jones said.

Each contestant is judged on four categories that include interviews, casual wear, talent and evening gown with an onstage question.

With the addition of the Junior Miss Seiling category, Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal youth, Cayden Little Coyote, 13, wanted to take a step out of her comfort zone and give the pageantry a try.

"I have always looked up to the girls that has done it before, I went to every Miss Seiling pageant for the past three years and I wanted to do it ever since," Little Coyote said.

Describing herself as funny, caring, loving, and approachable, Little Coyote said she was excited to finally be able to participate in the pageant.

"I have to work on talking, I don't like to talk to people, like when there's so much pressure and I have to work on my confidence. I'm working on my confidence to go up on stage, play my

trumpet and talk," Little Coyote said.

For her talent, Little Coyote played Amazing Grace in her trumpet solo, featuring Gena Christensen as her piano accompaniment.

"I've been constantly working on my trumpet to get the right notes and memorizing it almost every day," Little Coyote said.

By the end of the pageant, Little Coyote won awards in Fan Favorite and Junior Miss Congeniality.

The Junior Miss Seiling title went to contestant Lily Walker and the Miss Seiling title to Hannah Gregory.

In her first time to participate in the pageant, Gregory, 17, said she wanted to gain experience and become comfortable on stage.

"I feel pretty good and I feel like I learned a lot," Gregory said.

While Gregory admitted she's never smiled for so long in her life during the pageant, it was a great experience for her.

"It feels great, it was really hard standing there and waiting for it," Gregory said.

Gregory said she would use her Miss Seiling title to be a role model to younger girls in Seiling.

In ending the 40th year anniversary of the Miss Seiling pageant, Jones said while she's unsure of any other changes in the future, she hopes the pageant can continue with the Junior Miss category.

"We hope it'll encourage the younger girls to get involved and continue to stay involved up until they graduate high school," Jones said.

Junior Miss Seiling 2nd Runner-Up was Kaydence Griffin, Junior Miss Seiling 1st Runner-Up was Kyrsten Unwin, Miss Congeniality was awarded to Shaylin Petty, Miss Seiling 2nd Runner-Up was Mikayla Webb, and Miss Seiling 1st Runner-Up was Aryahna Whetstone.

Cayden Little Coyote is the daughter of Chase Sissom and Hannah Sissom, she has four siblings, Cameron, Rien, Bryant, and one baby sibling on the way. Her grandparents are Karen Little Coyote, Randal Redhat, and Betty and Floyd Sissom.



Cheyenne and Arapaho youth, Cayden Little Coyote, participates as contestant #10 in the Junior Miss Seiling category as part of the 40th anniversary of the Miss Seiling pageant held in Seiling, Okla. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)



Contestant Hannah Gregory wins the 2022 Miss Seiling title.

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COVID DEATHS

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is hidden from public view. With no lapping floodwaters or smoking buildings, the tragedy becomes contestable to a degree that a natural disaster or terrorist attack cannot be. Meanwhile, many of those who witnessed COVID's ruin are in no position to discuss it. Healthcare workers are still reeling from "death on a scale I had never seen before," as an intensive-care nurse told me last year. The bereaved face guilt on top of sadness: "I think about the way it would run through families and tight-knit groups and the huge psychological toll as people think, Am I the one who brought it in?" Whitney Robinson, a social epidemiologist at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, told me. And though 3 percent of Americans have lost a close family member to COVID, that means 97 percent have not. The two years that were shaved off of the average life span undid two decades of progress in health, but in 2000, "it didn't feel like we were living under a horrible mortality regime," Andrew Noymer, a demographer at UC Irvine, told me. "It felt normal."

To grapple with the aftermath of a disaster, there must first be an aftermath. But the coronavirus pandemic is still ongoing, and "feels so big that we can't put our arms around it anymore," Peek told me. Thinking about it is like staring into the sun, and after two years, it is no wonder people are looking away. As tragedy becomes routine, excess deaths feel less excessive. Levels of suffering that once felt like thunderclaps now resemble a metronome's clicks—the background noise against which everyday life plays. The same inexorable inuring happened a century ago: In 1920, the U.S. was hit by a fourth wave of the great flu pandemic that had begun two years earlier, but even as people died in huge numbers, "virtually no city responded," wrote John M. Barry, a historian of the 1918 flu.

"People were weary of influenza, and so were public officials. Newspapers were filled with frightening news about the virus, but no one cared."

Fatalism has also been stoked by failure. Two successive administrations floundered at controlling



the virus, and both ultimately shunted the responsibility for doing so onto individuals. Vaccines brought hope, which was dashed as uptake stagnated, other protections were prematurely rolled back, and the Delta variant arrived. During that wave, parts of the South and Midwest experienced "a shocking level of death and transmission that was on par with the worst of that previous winter wave," Robinson said, and even so the policy response was anemic at best. As Martha Lincoln, a medical anthropologist at San Francisco State University, told me in *September 2020*, if salvation never comes, "people are going to harden into a fatalistic sense that we have to accept whatever the risks are to continue with our everyday lives."

America is accepting not only a *threshold* of death but also a *gradient* of death. Elderly people over the age of 75 are 140 times more likely to die than people in their 20s. Among vaccinated people, those who are immunocompromised account for a disproportionate share of severe illness and death. Unvaccinated people are 53 times more likely to die of COVID than vaccinated and boosted people; they're also more likely to be uninsured, have lower incomes and less education, and face eviction risk and food insecurity. Working-class people were five times more likely to die from COVID than college graduates in 2020, and in

California, essential workers continued dying at disproportionately high rates even after vaccines became widely available. Within every social class and educational tier, Black, Hispanic, and Indigenous people died at higher rates than white people. If all adults had died at the same rates as college-educated white people, 71 percent fewer people of color would have perished. People of color also died at younger ages: In its first year, COVID erased 14 years of progress in narrowing the life-expectancy gap between Black and white Americans. Because death fell inequitably, so did grief: Black children were twice as likely to have lost a parent to COVID than white ones, and Indigenous children, five times as likely. Older, sicker, poorer, Black or brown, the people killed by COVID were treated as marginally in death as they were in life. Accepting their losses comes easily to "a society that places a hierarchy on the value of human life, which is absolutely what America is built on," Debra Furr-Holden, an epidemiologist at the Michigan State University, told me.

These recent trends oozed from older ones. Well before COVID, nursing homes were understaffed, disabled people were neglected, and low-income people were disconnected from health care. The U.S. also had a chronically underfunded public-health system that struggled to slow the virus's spread; packed

and poorly managed "epidemic engines" such as prisons that allowed it to run rampant; an inefficient health-care system that tens of millions of Americans could not easily access and that was inundated by waves of sick patients; and a shredded social safety net that left millions of essential workers with little choice but to risk infection for income. Generations of racist policies widened the mortality gap between Black and white Americans to canyon size: Elizabeth Wrigley-Field, a sociologist at the University of Minnesota, calculated that white mortality during COVID was *still* substantially lower than Black mortality in the *pre-pandemic years*. In that light, the normalizing of COVID deaths is unsurprising. "When deaths happen to people who are already not valued in a million other ways, it's easier to not value their lives in this additional way," Wrigley-Field told me.

While epidemics flow downward into society's cracks, medical interventions rise upward into its peaks. New cures, vaccines, and diagnostics first go to people with power, wealth, education, and connections, who then move on; this explains why health inequities so stubbornly persist across the decades even as health problems change. AIDS activism, for example, lost steam and resources once richer, white Americans had access to effective antiretroviral drugs, Steven Thrasher told me,

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5K's, 1/2 Marathons, Full ones, running from your kids or running from the cops. All jokes aside, do you have a good foundation for your running? While you might there is always room to grow. In this article I am going to share some knowledge of mine to help you build a better running foundation.

Let's start with lung capacity. Why is lung capacity important to our running foundation? The better your lung capacity is, the longer we are able to run at speed, or the further we are able to run at distance. So how do we build our lung capacity? A good first step is breathing exercises. I know, I know who would have thought, exercises for your breathing? Weird right, but they are very much a thing.

Diaphragmatic breathing or belly breathing engages our diaphragm, which usually does most of our heavy lifting as far as breathing

is concerned. So how do we do belly breathing? We start by relaxing our shoulders and sit back or lie down. Place our hand on your belly and one on our chest. Inhale through our nose for two seconds, feeling the air move into our abdomen and feeling our stomach move out.

Pursed lip breathing reduces the work of breathing by keeping our airways open longer. Makes the exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide easier. To do this we inhale slowly through our nostrils, purse our lips like soup coolers, and breathe out as slowly as possible. To help keep our lungs healthy, we should stop smoking commercial tobacco, eat foods rich in antioxidants, exercise regularly and improve indoor air quality.

Another way to build lung capacity is HIIT or high intensity interval training. What the heck is that? Well, it is a type of training that is done with high intensity during the work interval and low intensity during the "rest" portion. To break it down, we do 3-5 different or same exercise rounds of

intense work that range anywhere from 10-60 seconds followed by an active rest the same length or longer. There are different methods of HIIT. As many rounds as possible in a given set time, Tabata is 1 or multiple exercises and perform them at our high intensity for 20 seconds for 8 rounds, every minute on the minute is an exercise done exactly every minute on the minute for specific set time, and lastly circuit is a series of exercises done one right after another with minimal rest between and for few rounds of these circuits. The Diabetes Wellness instructs a boot camp in the circuit method.

Now we know the start to a good running foundation is building our lung capacity, and now we have some tools to start just that! Stay tuned for the next step in our running foundation.

For any questions regarding physical activity contact Marcos Baros at 405-422-7683 or via email, mbaros@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov.

Running Wild - Part I

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COVID DEATHS

continued from pg. 6

leaving poorer Black communities with high rates of infection. “It’s always a real danger that things get worse once the people with the most political clout are okay,” Thrasher said. Similarly, pundits who got vaccinated against COVID quickly started arguing against overcaution and (inaccurately) predicting the pandemic’s imminent end. The government did too, framing the crisis as solely a matter of personal choice, even as it failed to make rapid tests, high-quality masks, antibody cocktails, and vaccines accessible to the poorest groups. The CDC’s latest guidelines continue that trend, as my colleague Katherine J. Wu has argued. Globally, the richer north is moving on while the poorer south is still vulnerable and significantly unvaccinated. All of this “shifts the burden to the very groups experiencing mass deaths to protect themselves, while absolving leaders from creating the conditions that would make those groups safe,” Courtney Boen, a sociologist at the University of Pennsylvania, told me. “It’s a lot easier to say that we have to learn to live with COVID if you’re not personally experiencing the ongoing loss of your family members.”

Richard Keller, a medical historian at the University of Wisconsin at Madison, says that much of the current pandemic rhetoric—the premature talk of endemicity; the focus on comorbidities; the *from-COVID-or-with-COVID* debate—treats COVID deaths as dismissible and “so inevitable as to not merit precaution,” he has written. “Like gun violence, overdose, extreme heat death, heart disease, and smoking, [COVID] becomes increasingly associated with behavioral choice and individual responsibility, and therefore increasingly invisible.” We don’t honor deaths that we ascribe to individual failings, which could explain, Keller argues, why national moments of mourning have been scarce. There have been few pandemic memorials, save some moving but temporary art projects. Resolutions to turn the first Monday of March into a COVID-19 Victims and Survivors Memorial Day have stalled in the House

and Senate. Instead, the U.S. is engaged in what Keller calls “an active process of forgetting.” If safety is now a matter of personal responsibility, then so is remembrance.

No one knows how many people will die from COVID in the coming years. The number will depend on our collective behavior, how many more people can be vaccinated or boosted, the length and strength of immunity, what new variants arise, and more. Andrew Noymer, the demographer, thinks that COVID will kill fewer people per year than it has in the past two, but will probably still be more lethal than the flu, which sets a plausible and very wide range of somewhere between 50,000 and 500,000 annual deaths. (COVID will also continue to cause long-term disability.)

How much of this extra mortality will the U.S. accept? The CDC’s new guidelines provide a clue. They recommend that protective measures such as indoor masking kick in once communities pass certain thresholds of cases and hospitalizations. But the health-policy experts Joshua Salomon and Alysia Bilinski calculated that by the time communities hit the CDC’s thresholds, they’d be on the path to at least three daily deaths per million, which equates to 1,000 deaths per day nationally. And crucially, the warning lights would go off too late to prevent those deaths. “As a level of mortality the White House and CDC are willing to accept before calling for more public health protection, this is heartbreaking,” Salomon said on Twitter.

Read: The millions of people stuck in pandemic limbo

If 1,000 deaths a day is not acceptable, what threshold would be? The extreme answer—*none!*—is impractical, because COVID has long passed the point where eradication is possible, and because all interventions carry at least some cost. Some have suggested that we should look to other causes of death—say, 39,000 car fatalities a year, or between 12,000 and 52,000 flu deaths—as a baseline of what soci-

ety is prepared to tolerate. But this argument rests on the false assumption that our acceptance of those deaths is informed. Most of us simply don’t know how many people die of various causes—or that *it’s possible for fewer to do so*. The measures that protected people from COVID slashed adult deaths from flu and all but eliminated them among children. Our acceptance of those deaths never accounted for alternatives. “When was I offered the choice between having a society where you’re expected to go into work when you’re ill or having fewer people die of the flu every year?” Wrigley-Field, the sociologist, said to me.

Even when the potential benefits are clear, there’s no universal algorithm that balances the societal disruption of a policy against the number of lives saved. Instead, our attitudes about preventing death revolve around how possible it seems and how much we care. About 40,000 Americans are killed by guns every year, but instead of preventing these deaths, “we have organized ourselves around the inevitability of gun violence,” Sonali Rajan of Columbia University’s Teachers College said on Twitter.

Doing the same for COVID, as Rajan says is now happening, means prematurely capitulating to the pathogens that come next. The inequities that were overlooked in this pandemic will ignite the next one—but they don’t have to. Improving ventilation in workplaces, schools, and other public buildings would prevent deaths from COVID and other airborne viruses, including flu. Paid sick leave would allow workers to protect their colleagues without risking their livelihood. Equitable access to antivirals and other treatments could help immunocompromised people who can’t be protected through vaccination. Universal health care would help the poorest people, who still bear the greatest risk of infection. A universe of options lies between the caricatured extremes of lockdowns and inaction, and

See COVID DEATHS / pg. 8

LOCAL SUICIDE LIFELINE



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BANNING BOOKS

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Part of the Children Book Collection at the University of Oklahoma Bizzell Library. (Photo provided by University of Oklahoma)

ty to argue on behalf of their points of view, and then the board voted 5-0 for “13 Reasons Why” and 3-2 on “Me and Earl,” to keep both books in circulation,” Miller said.

Senate Bill 1142, authored by State Sen. Rob Standridge, seeks to remove or restrict certain books from public schools and public charter schools. When the bill was introduced on Dec. 16, Standridge clarified what type of books he wanted to restrict.

“Senate Bill 1142 prohibits public school districts, public charter schools, and public school libraries from having or promoting books that address the study of sex, sexual preferences, sexual activity, sexual perversion, sex-based classifications, sexual identity, gender identity, or books that contain content of a sexual nature that a reasonable parent or legal guardian would want to know about or approve of before their child was exposed to it,” the bill reads.

While some opponents have called it an attempt to ban books, Standridge said the bill

is not about banning.

“It is not banning like what is being done to “To Kill a Mockingbird,” “Dr. Suess,” and other books where protesters actually destroy their ability to publish is banning. S.B. 1142 is about empowering parents to guard their children in one single location, the public-school library, while all parents are free to get any sort of book for their child at a public library, bookstore or the internet”, said Standridge.

The bill was co-authored by state senators Joe Newhouse and Mark Allen. It was advanced by the Senate Education Committee on March 1 and co-authored the next day by principal house author, Rep. Justin Humphrey. Since then, the bill has been co-authored by seven state senators, with the most recent being Sen. Roland Pederson on March 21.

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

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Published June 1, 2022

OBITUARIES

OBITUARIES

Colleen Margaret Hogan

Colleen Margaret Hogan was born Jan. 25, 1948 in Albuquerque, N.M. She passed away on March 17, 2022 at the Integris Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Colleen lived in California from 1965 until 2006 when she moved to Oklahoma. She was an ordained minister serving several churches in California. She enjoyed spending time with her family, cooking, watching movies, eating out and shopping.

Colleen is survived by a daughter Laura Bates of

North Las Vegas, Nev., sisters, Mary Conn of Yukon, Okla., and Lorene Conn of Oklahoma City, six grandchildren, Jeramey Richardson, Yasmine Bates, Darryl Bates Jr., Cheyenne Bates, Paul Hogan III and Lonnie Hogan, and a host of nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Tom and Ella (Turtle) Conn, her husband Paul Emanuel Hogan Sr., and son Paul Emanuel Hogan Jr.

Wake service was held March 25 at the Concho Emergency Response Cen-



ter in Concho, Okla. Funeral service was held March 26, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery in Concho, Okla.

Melanie Morlan

Melanie Morlan was born Feb. 9, 1982 in Clinton, Okla. She passed away March 20, at the age of 40, at the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

She was raised in Watonga, Okla., where she attended the Assembly of God Church and was a dietary cook. Melanie was an enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. Caring for others, especially her daughter Jocelyn and her parents, Dean and Libby gave her great joy. Melanie was a great cook, she enjoyed cooking and feeding everyone. She loved to laugh and tease with family and friends. Melanie never met a stranger and had a heart of gold. She had a special relationship with everyone she

knew. She is survived by her daughter Jocelyn Aguiña of the home in El Reno, parents, Harry (Dean) and Elizabeth (Harrison) Morlan also of the home, brothers, Donnie Beard Jr. and Joseph Morlan, both of Watonga, sisters, Wynona Wilkerson (William) of Fort Worth, Texas, and Dena Bowman (Lance) of Ada, Okla., and Jocelyn's father, Samuel Aguiña of Oklahoma City. Nephews, Donnie Beard III, Sebastian Thompson, Rudee Beard, Christopher Morlan, and Tyler Bowman, nieces, Giana and Mya Wilkerson and Emily Bowman. Melanie had many close cousins and friends whom she considered siblings including Candice White, Deede



Thompson, Seana Mondoux, Maria Reyes, Suni Rose Garcia, Terri Medicinebear, Rachel Jones, Elaina Duncan, and Lucas Garcia. Her brother Eldon (Qweets) Beard and nephew Chauncey Beard preceded her in death. Funeral service was held March 25 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla.

Deven Renee Johnson

Deven Renee Johnson was born on June 22, 1978, in Clinton, Okla. She passed away March 4 at the OU Medical Center in Oklahoma City.

Deven attended the Baptist church and worked in assembly for a trailer manufacturer. She was an avid OSU fan and loved the sport of basketball and playing the game.

She is survived by her husband Bobby "Goon" Johnson of Oklahoma City, mother Betty Blackwolf of El Reno, Okla., sons, Edward Black of Arapaho, Okla., Dezmon Perkins of

El Reno and Deveon Johnson of Arapaho, daughters, Newakis Black of San Bernardino, Calif., and Lanay Black of El Reno, brothers, Daniel Blackwolf and Marvin Twins both of El Reno, sisters, Jamye Blackwolf of Oklahoma City, Michelle Twins and Jonita Twins both of El Reno, and granddaughter Gissel, Lily Rose Black.

Her father Rickey C. Brown, grandfather Billy Joe White, nephew Jose Twins Baxcajay, and cousin Shannon Blackwolf preceded her in death.

An all-night traditional wake service was held March



9 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral service was held March 10, at the same venue, with Rev. Gerald Pannana officiating, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery in Concho, Okla.

Kimberly Lynn Rivers

Kimberly Lynn Rivers was born Feb. 2, 1971 in Clinton, Okla., where she was raised. She passed away March 15, 2022.

Kimberly graduated from Clinton High School in 1990 and attended the Clinton Indian Baptist Church. Kimberly was unable to work but enjoyed walking, music, dancing and watching television.

Kimberly is survived by her brother Ricky Big-

horse, cousin and caregiver whom she called mom, Carol Shawnee and other relatives and friends.

She is preceded in death by her father Albert Rivers, mother Ruby Bighorse and grandparents, Fred and Laura Bighorse.

A visitation was held March 20 at the Huber Benson Funeral Chapel in El Reno, Okla. Funeral service was held March 21 at the Concho Emergency Re-



sponse Center, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery in Concho, Okla.

Hannah Mae Big Eagle Smart

Hannah Mae Big Eagle Smart was born April 17, 1945 in Clinton, Okla. She passed away March 14th at St. Anthony Hospital in Midwest City at 76 years of age.

Hannah was raised in El Reno and helped her mother at the Children's Home in Robbins Addition. She lived most of her life in Del City where she attended the First Assembly of God Church. Hannah was a wonderful mother and enjoyed cooking, reading and gardening. She was a kind and friendly woman with many friends.

She married Joseph Carl 'J.C.' Smart Jr. on Sept. 25,

1960. J.C. survives her. Other survivors include two sons, Benjamin David Smart and Reuben Smart, both of Del City, three daughters, Wanetha Dodge, Heather Monroe and Anita Steed, all of Oklahoma City, siblings, Roy Smart, Darrel Smart, Boyd Dale Smart, Luke Lewis and Darlene Elisabeth Smart Carter, 13 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. Her father Alfred Armstrong, mother Julia Big Eagle, son Joseph Shannon Smith and siblings, Leroy Armstrong Smart, Robert Kenneth Smart, Eva Smart, Troy Smart, Tony Smart,



Mark Lewis, and Victor Lewis preceded her in death. Funeral service was held March 19 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla., followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery.

Billy Joe Weber

Billy Joe Weber, age 51 passed away on Feb. 25, 2022. Billy was born Aug. 7, 1970. A memorial service for Billy was held March 12 at the Primrose Funeral Service in Norman, Okla.



TRIBAL HUD VASH

Helping Tribal Homeless Veterans



This is a program that was developed in partnership with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes. "VASH" stands for "VA Supported Housing." It was designed to assist homeless Veteran families. The VA will provide case management and community support services to keep Veterans in permanent quality housing in the community.

If you are a homeless tribal veteran and you're interested in receiving housing through the HUD VASH Program, please contact Katie Poole with the VA clinic at 405.249.1534. For further questions please contact the CAHA Housing Authority at 580.331.2400 and ask for Eileen Salcido.



COVID DEATHS

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will save lives when new variants or viruses inevitably arise.

Such changes are popular. Stephan Lewandowsky, from the University of Bristol, presented a representative sample of Americans with two possible post-COVID futures—a "back to normal" option that emphasized economic recovery, and a "build back better" option that sought to reduce inequalities. He found that most people preferred the more progressive future—but wrongly assumed that most other people preferred a return to normal. As such, they also deemed *that* future more likely. This phenomenon, where people think widespread views are minority ones and vice versa, is called pluralistic ignorance. It often occurs because of active distortion by politicians and the press, Lewandowsky told me. (For example, a poll that found that mask mandates are favored by 50 percent of Americans and opposed by just 28 percent was nonetheless framed in terms of waning support.) "This is problematic because over time, people tend to adjust their opinions in the direction of what they perceive as the majority," Lewandowsky told me. By wrongly assuming that everyone else wants to return to the previous status quo, we foreclose the possibility of creating something better.

There is still time. Steven Thrasher, the journalist, noted that a new wave of AIDS memorials is only now starting to

show up, long after the start of that pandemic. COVID will similarly persist, as will the chance to reckon with its cost, and the opportunity to steel our society against similar threats. Right now, the U.S. is barreling toward the next pandemic, having failed to learn the lessons of the past two years, let alone the past century. But Wrigley-Field, the sociologist, told me that she draws inspiration from the big social movements of the past, where gains in equality that seemed impossible at first were eventually achieved. "We're really bad judges of what is possible based on what we're experiencing in a particular moment," she said. "Nothing major that has mattered for health came quickly or easily."

This article originally reported a higher-end estimate of 17 years of life, on average, lost to COVID. The correct estimate is closer to a decade.



SPECIAL SESSION

continued from pg. 1

Gorham said after the road construction was completed, the city discovered that the existing water line utility easement was two feet off from the actual water line. The city asked the Tribes if they could move over those two feet so with the easement, if they were ever to go in and make repairs, they would have the authority to go in where the actual line is at.

"The easement that cut between the property, the city abandoned it last month I believe, now we're giving an easement along the fence line so they can get to their water tower so that'll cure that issue, we're starting to get there on clearing up all the issues with the properties, so that's good," Gov. Wassana said.

Resolutions one and two passed with a vote of 6 yes.

A resolution to approve membership into the National Indian Gaming Association (NIGA).

With the Tribes meeting all requirements for tribal membership with the NIGA, there are still annual membership renewal dues for the year 2022.

"Every year there are membership renewal dues, where voting members and the tribes, who are in good standing with any kind of benefits or resources identified with NIGC, they have to pay dues and the percentage is I believe how big our casinos are," Gov. Wassana said.

With the national meeting being held April 2022, Wassana explained the only way the Tribes can pay their dues is if it's through a resolution from the Tribe to pay the dues.

"We can't just pay the dues, their

by-laws or structure states that it has to come from the tribal resolution so that's why we're bringing it forward. We could pay dues like normally, but they require a resolution," Wassana said.

The primary purpose of NIGA include: to promote, protect, and preserve the general welfare and interest of Indian gaming tribes through the development of sound policies and practices with respect to the conduct of gaming activities in Indian Country; to assist in the dissemination of information to the Indian gaming community, federal government, and the general public on issues related to the conduct of gaming in Indian Country; to preserve and protect the integrity of gaming in Indian Country; to maintain, protect, and advocate Indian tribal sovereignty.

With A4 Rector Candy joining the special session voting, resolution three passed with a vote of 7 yes.

A resolution to confirm Nicolette Casula to the position of Health Board Member.

Nicolette Casula, a newly enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, was initially recommended to be on the Judicial Commission. At the time, the constitution required the Judicial Commission to consist of only enrolled citizens, however, Casula was not enrolled and she withdrew her nomination.

With the lowering of the blood quantum, and after enrolling, Casula reached out to the governor's office expressing an interest in once again being nominated.

After reviewing her resume and her

experience, Gorham said that her degree from the University of Oklahoma included a health related field and would be a better fit with the Health Board where they have a vacancy and are very active.

Casula has worked in senior living for the past seven years, specifically with dementia, and has a passion to help others. Before she was working with the senior living community, she worked in financial aid, where she worked with students to help them understand the financial aid process.

"I have a passion for caring, more importantly I have a passion for caring for my elders, that's what's guided me exactly where I'm at today, and I would be honored to serve on this board," Casula said.

With her experience, Casula has also built a network on resources, and part of her job is to be that resource to connect people to other resources that the state, or different entities, may not be aware of.

"My passion derives from my great-grandmother, I saw the care that she received as an elder and as an older woman with dementia," Casula said.

"We know that times are changing, I have an ability to serve, I'm an advocate right now in my community, I'm a liaison, I fight for those rights for people and I don't sleep until that's done, so I think that's where my great asset will be."

Resolution four passed with a vote of 7 yes.

Following the public hearing, the special session adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

PROTECT VOTER RIGHTS

VOTER RIGHTS

continued from pg. 1

"The Interior Department is committed to defending the right to vote, which includes increasing access to voter registration and engaging young people in our democratic system."

"Today's announcement helps further the Administration's goals of increasing voter outreach, education, registration and turnout in Indigenous communities. Haskell and SIPI serve as important touchpoints in their respective communities," said Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Bryan Newland. "Designating these schools as voter registration agencies is an important move that will allow more Native people the opportunity to register to vote."

In March 2021, President Biden directed the creation

of an Interagency Steering Group on Native American Voting Rights to study the barriers Native voters face in casting their ballot and to recommend steps to mitigate or eliminate these barriers. The Steering Group held six consultations with Tribal leaders and Native American voting rights advocates across the country, and engaged in listening sessions with Native Hawaiians, organizations advocating for improved Tribal voting rights, and state and local election officials in jurisdictions with sizable Native populations. These sessions sought ways to mitigate barriers to voting for Native communities and revealed recurring and unnecessary impediments to the franchise.

Message From Your District Legislator

Cheyenne District 3 Legislator Darrell Flyingman

Cheyenne and Arapaho Vote Let's VOTE and Make a Difference!



According to a report after the National election of 2020, Oklahoma had the highest percentage of voting by Native Americans in the entire country. About 12% of the country's eligible Native American voters are registered here in Oklahoma. In addition, the voting report stated the Oklahoma Tribal Nations employed more than 50,000 people and paid nearly \$2.5 billion in wages and benefits. It is evident that Tribes have also made a major economic impact in gaming and business in the state of Oklahoma.

The upcoming National elections this fall are very critical to all Tribes across the United States since those who are elected affect federal and Tribal issues and resources, such as land, energy/oil and gas, etc. The elected officials from each state are the legislators who make law, i.e. Congress is made up of the House of Representatives and the Senate.

The fall elections are critical to all Tribes since Congress has been supportive of Tribal issues for the past two years. At present, the GOP or Republicans are determined to take back the House of Representatives and Senate by electing Republicans this year that may be a detriment to Tribes. Therefore, as tribal citizens and citizens of this country, we need to do our part to retain Congress by 1) talking to our families,

friends and neighbors about the importance of voting in the fall; 2) by attending meetings to gather and share voting information about our Oklahoma Congressional candidates; and 3) by encouraging our people to register and vote.

My plan to support this upcoming fall election in our C3 District is as follows:

1. Appoint a person from my district to be in-charge of registering voters who will provide information.
2. Setup a VOTE campaign and registration meetings to communicate with C-3.
3. In order to correspond with tribal C-3 members with up-to-date information, the VOTE campaign will be asking for volunteers from each town to work with the person from my office.

In August, the National Election plan will be implemented.

The fall elections are critical to our Tribe and all other Tribes in this country. We need to plan for this National VOTE Campaign and prepare to register tribal citizens to participate as if "our life depends on it," as they say. We can make a difference, speak our truth and Vote!

Darrell Flyingman
Proud Cheyenne Warrior

Letter To The Editor:

Recently, Darrell Flyingman, Cheyenne District 3 legislator asked me how did I think the proposed \$200,000 for Indian churches in tribal jurisdiction should be spent. When I asked what happens to any remaining funds should the total \$200,000 NOT be spent, I believe he thought I was questioning the legitimacy of proposed resolution by George Woods, Cheyenne District 2 legislator. It was not a challenge at all, rather just information gathering. I told him to give me sometime to come up with an answer as I was put on the spot. So here is the answer to that question Mr. Flyingman.

ARPA guidelines are comprehensive and meant to reach every American in need. Although Mr. Woods has the right idea to help the Indian churches in the community, it is a narrow segment of individuals who would benefit from the assistance. Discussion of the specifics included financial assistance to provide building improvements to promote anti-COVID measures, including but not limited to new bathrooms with working sinks. There was also discussion on the number of churches in our tribal jurisdiction of around a dozen and how each one would get around \$20,000. These are rough estimate numbers.

My argument is that assuming many tribal mem-

bers attend the church, or the church reaches out to them, members are indirectly included in the ARPA funds. What about the Native American church members or those who don't attend church, how do you include them? What other avenues have been considered to reach the tribal members in the application of the American Rescue Plan Act monies?

Last year the majority of CARES funds received was spent erecting emergency response centers, an indirect method of assisting tribal members and surrounding communities. ARPA lists supportive housing, affordable housing, house vouchers and counseling. One possibility might be to repair the building in Oklahoma City using ARPA funds. The building could provide for and address many of the disparities (including housing) experienced by the largest number of out of district tribal members. What about an internet business center whereby tribal members can utilize the internet for job searches, resume workshops and resume building. Part of the building could be utilized for a daycare/preschool for early learning and educational services for at-risk students. Simultaneously, jobs would be provided for the teachers needed for the daycare/preschool.

Expansion of broadband

internet is a step in building tribal infrastructure. Teaching tribal members to utilize a computer and internet is like being well versed as reading and writing, it's a basic need. Tribal households need assistance in obtaining access to broadband internet, how about a liaison professional to assist tribal members in establishing this service in their homes. The liaison position could be multi-faceted. With remote learning being a norm anymore, tribal children would benefit in having broadband internet in the home versus having to go to McDonalds for internet service to complete homework assignments. The possibilities of application of ARPA funds are endless.

Many possibilities exist on how to spend the ARPA funds meant for tribal members. The question is whether the application of the funds will have a more direct approach. Can the average tribal member walk away and say my tribe helped me in a manner whereby I can stand on my own two feet? Ask yourselves as elected officials, "how can I affect the largest number of tribal members in a more direct way?" There is a three-year window to spend the funds, which allows for an accurate assessment of tribal disparities. Our tribe has a health department and a health board which is more

than willing to give input on tribal needs. Has there been a collaborative effort by all legislators and tribal leadership to address and meet the needs?

I do give kudos to you as you once asked me as a health board member what do we think the old Clinton Hospital could be used for, my response to you at the time was a possible detox center as we are in the midst of a drug and alcohol abuse crisis.

I challenge each of our elected officials to reach out to the tribal members and make a true and accurate needs assessment. Then ask how the COVID pandemic has affected the lives of tribal members. More importantly, are you reaching the greatest number of tribal members when proposing a resolution involving ARPA money.

I will conclude by saying that the greatest investment for the Cheyenne-Arapaho people is a reinvestment of the people. The tribe can invest in outside business ventures anytime. If the infrastructure (tribal citizens and tribal programs) are not solid, any outside venture may collapse.

Invest and build up your constituents, the tribal citizens of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribe.

A Concerned
Arapaho Elder
Phyllis Harjo Nabils

Health Board Program
700 Black Kettle
P.O. Box 38
Concho, OK 73022

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES

(405) 422-7695
(405) 422-8263 FAX
(405) 262-4345 Ext. 27695
1-800-247-4612

According to section: 10 CAC 10.008 - Health Board Act: Regular meetings of the Health Board shall be held on the first Thursday of each month unless a different time and place is set by the Chairperson with five days of public notice. Notice of meeting location, agenda, and materials shall be forwarded by the Chairperson with the assistance of the Secretary. Meetings shall be run in accordance with Robert's rule of Order and shall be public meetings. Executive session of the officers may be called when deemed necessary by the Chairperson.

Below are the details for the Health Board April monthly meeting.

- Date: April 7, 2022
- Time: Meeting at 1:30 PM - Central Time
- Location: Watonga Hotel and Casino
1407 S. Clarence Nash Blvd.
Watonga, Oklahoma 73772

Please feel free to contact Summer Klinekole, Administrative Assistant, at (405) 422-7695 if you have any questions. Thank you.

NATIONAL WALKING DAY

APRIL 6, 2022

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 32nd Birthday Adonshia April 18 Love your family!



Happy Birthday Dad Donovan Osage Jr. Hope you have a great birthday and many more!



Happy Happy Birthday Erma You are a bright shining light in so many lives. We all love you and pray for many more birthdays to come! Love your family and friends

Happy Belated Birthday Gail March 21, 2022

Proud of your accomplishments sis. Best wishes and many more to follow Love always, Anna Jean, Kenny Ray, Seger Sr., Koreen, Karen, Kathy and Richard

Gail Williams was selected as the 13th Annual AARP Oklahoma Indian Elder Honor 2021.

Gail is a half-Cheyenne and half-Arapaho tribal member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. Williams was born and raised in Canton and is one of 13 children

Williams graduated from Canton High School in 1975. She later received her secretarial science and clerk typist certificate from Okmulgee State Technical Institute.

She has been employed

with the U.S. government for 31 years. She began working as a temporary receptionist and was permanently hired as a finance clerk. She was later promoted to accounting technician. Williams also worked at the Oklahoma City Indian Health Service area office, Lawton Indian Health Service and the Nashville Area Indian Health Service.

Williams currently serves as an accounting technician for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs in Oklahoma City. She proudly serves

and assists all branches of military veterans.

She comes from a large family and understands the struggles of poverty. She has always worked hard to overcome challenging life situations.

Williams is always willing to go above and beyond for family and friends and helps anyone in need. She is committed to love, honor and respect the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribe's traditional, ceremonial and cultural ways.

Happy 14th Birthday to my baby girl Jurnee Botone May God richly bless you and grant The wishes of your heart! Love your daddy, Hochenie Botone



Happy 14th Birthday Jurnee Botone April 12 Love you bunches! Gma JBO

"14" Years of Being Awesome to Jurnee Botone Keep it up Cuzzin Love your Nebis, Kionna, Kiyah, & Livia Four Horns



Happy 14th Birthday to our dear Jurnee Botone Wishing you a birthday filled with lots of joy, lots of love, lots of gifts And lots of hugs! We love you, the Botone's, Four Horn's, Morton's, Brown's, Davis's, Revels', Longknife's and Whitlow families

Cheyenne & Arapaho Housing Authority Tribal Elder Lawn Service Application 2022

All Tribal Elders who received a lawn mower in the summer of 2018, Are now eligible for lawn service

NO LAWN MOWERS WILL BE GIVEN FOR THE 2022 ELDER LAWN PROGRAM

The Cheyenne & Arapaho Housing Authority Elder lawn program will be accepting applications through April 30, 2022

Guidelines for 2022 Elder lawn services:

1. Tribal Elder preference
2. Must be 55yrs or older
3. Home and property must be owned and occupied by Tribal Elder
4. Homeowner is responsible for yard to be cleared of all and any debris
5. Tribal Elder lawn service is limited to the nine (9) county tribal service area
6. The Executive Director makes the final decision on any exceptions

The 2022 Elder lawn services are for the Cheyenne & Arapaho Elder Tribal members in the service area.

For more information, please contact the Department of Housing at (580) 331-2400

"CALLING ALL LAWN CARE CONTRACTORS TO APPLY FOR CUTTING ELDERS' LAWNS" Contact Frederic All Runner, Inspection Service Coordinator at Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority 580-331-2400

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Happy 20th Birthday Kristopher Botone We love you! The Botone's, Four Horns', Morton's, Brown's, Davis', Revels', Longknife's and Whitlow Families

Happy 20th Birthday Kristopher Botone March 28 My dearest grandson & son - do not lose your hope when Your life becomes challenging for you. Always give your best and hope for the best. Your mother, Mary Bo, would be so proud of you! Love you grandson Gma JBO

Happy 20th Birthday to our Brother Kristopher Botone May God follow you in every step you take. Love your siblings, Keenan, Kionna, Kiyah, Lastarza, Livia and baby Will



We Would Like To Wish Our Mother Marlene Standingwater A Happy Heavenly Birthday!! We Miss You!!

From Your Children & All Your Beautiful Grandchildren!



Hello PARENTS

Your invited to attend the Developing Responsible Employee Aptitudes and Marketing Success **SUMMER YOUTH Parent Orientation 6:30-8pm**

Tuesday, April 12th, Concho ERC
Wednesday, April 20th, Clinton ERC
Thursday, April 21st, Watonga ERC

All Parents and Guardians, who have submitted a Summer Youth Application, including those that are currently on the waiting list, Must attend one of these sessions. Doors open at 6PM.

For More information or questions, please contact the DREAMS Program at (405)422-7544.

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

FILED MAR 18 2022
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In The Matter of: LATISHA GIBSON Plaintiff, DANELL LERAYNE RIVERS Respondent, Case No. CIV-2017-0096

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: DANELL LERAYNE RIVERS

TAKE NOTICE that Latisha Gibson has filed in this Court a Petition for Protective Order and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribal Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courtroom located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 20th day of April, 2022 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

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

Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - o Link to Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RlZlZlV0FMc0MlN0R3R3eGtjR0Q0>
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Court this 18th day of MARCH, 2022.

Kendall Charley
Kendall Charley, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Court

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

FILED MAR 22 2022
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK DEPUTY

In The Matter of: GEORGE WHITESHIELD Petitioner, SHELBY WHITETHUNDER Respondent, Case No. CIV-2022-0021

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: SHELBY WHITETHUNDER

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 22nd day of APRIL, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. in the courtroom, 100 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

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

Parties must use the following in order to log in or join the meeting.

- Video conferencing for smart device users:
 - o Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RlZlZlV0FMc0MlN0R3R3eGtjR0Q0>
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
 - o Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
 - o Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
 - o Passcode: 854454251

Dated at the Trial Court this 22nd day of March, 2022.

Lafreda Whitetow, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Court

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

FILED MAR 21 2022
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In The Matter of: GINA R. ARANDA Petitioner, JONDUN J. POOR Respondent, Case No. JED-2021-0031

NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: JONDUN J. POOR ADDRESS UNKNOWN

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 21st day of APRIL, 2022, at 10:00 A.M. O'clock, in the Courtroom, 700 Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR, on the above date and time indicated for presentation of your case before the above-entitled Trial Court.

Dated at the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes this 21st day of March 2022.

Lafreda Whitetow, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Court

ATHLETES' SPOTLIGHT

Azha'Rae Richard: Watonga High School

Latoya Lonelodge, Staff Reporter

Hoping to step up in her senior year of high school, Azha'Rae Richard, 18, wants to be remembered as a leader and a hard worker on the basketball court.

Born in Kingfisher, Okla., and raised in Watonga, Okla., Richard plays point guard for the Watonga Lady Eagles basketball team.

Richard began playing basketball in the second grade when she attended Clinton Public Schools.

"I tried it and I liked it, from then on I started playing it in sixth grade when I got here," Richard said.

With basketball, Richard said while she likes winning, she enjoys playing better when her and her teammates are getting along.

"It makes us better together on the court," Richard said.

With the Lady Eagles ending the season 21-7 and making it as far as area semi-finals at state, Richard said she's proud because they have a good coach and talent on the team.

"It makes me happy, it makes me hopeful, we took it game by game, even though we lost to Merritt, it was a close game," Richard said.

Throughout the season, Richard said she's been working on improving herself. Earlier in her high school years, Richard admitted she didn't get to play a lot, so when her senior year came she knew she had to step up.

"It made me want to go harder and improve myself," Richard said.

Richard said she started going to the gym more and even got the opportunity to play with the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Basketball team last summer.

"That just got me better too, so it just motivated me," Richard said.

In training for basketball, Richard said she would do lunges, squats, calf raises and dumbbell step-ups to strengthen her knee. Richard had undergone surgery her sophomore year due to an injury.

"It still gets stiff sometimes so I have to remember to keep strengthening it,"

Richard said.

Through training, Richard said she also wanted to work on her defense, as well as communication on the court.

"Definitely wanted to work on my defense, because I wasn't really getting mobile like side to side well and so I just worked on my knees with bands, try and strengthen them and I got better," Richard said.

In working towards communicating on the court, Richard said sometimes her team get frustrated, and need to communicate better and have better rotations.

"Sometimes teams get frustrated under pressure but we usually just shake it off and try to be positive," Richard said.

The Lady Eagles Head Basketball Coach, Lauren Campo said Richard is a vocal leader on the basketball court and is a very capable scorer, who has developed a deadly three-point shot. Richard has been shooting over 35% from the 3 point line this past year.

"She spends many hours in the gym developing. Her leadership led us to a 21-7 season with a 2nd round area finish, I have really enjoyed watching her grow and develop into not only a good basketball player, but a good human," Campo said.

Campo said when she first met Azha, she was rough around the edges, so to speak, but they worked together to try and change her mindset.

"She has since become very respectful, and a great student as well," Campo said.

On her way to graduation in May 2022, Richard said she plans to attend Southwestern Oklahoma State University



ty and begin on her nursing degree.

Richard's parents are Michael Richard and Tracie Whiteshirt. She has four brothers, Elijah, Sebastian, Phoenix, and Chiloh Whiteshirt. Her grandparents are Theda Whiteshirt and the late Arthur Yellowman.

NABI and PWNA organization team up for educational programming

(PHOENIX, AZ) The Native American Basketball Invitational (NABI) has selected Partnership With Native Americans (PWNA) to organize the educational components during NABI Week from July 17-23, 2022, in Phoenix, Ariz.

PWNA is a national, Native-led nonprofit that focuses on immediate relief and long-term solutions such as education, career readiness and professional development in underserved tribal communities. NABI bringing in a partner who can solely focus on the educational components will help NABI to reach the goals of continuing to provide quality educational programming to the youth NABI serves during NABI week.

"We are looking forward to collaborating with PWNA to enhance and prioritize our educational components

during NABI week and to rebuilding the basketball tournament after the pandemic stalled our efforts," GinaMarie Scarpa, NABI Co-founder, said.

Educational components will include the 2022 NABI Educational Youth Summit and the

NABI College & Career

Fair hosted by Phoenix College. "PWNA is honored to facilitate this year's College & Career Fair and the NABI Educational Youth Summit to

enhance educational programming during NABI Week," Josh Arce, president, and CEO of Partnership

With Native Americans said. "We look forward to providing engaging education sessions and introducing our 'Grow With Google' digital training to Indigenous students during the event."

In its 19th year, the annual Native American Basketball Invitational will feature 136 teams (boys and girls, ages

14-19) comprised of athletes representing tribal communities from all over North America. The NABI basketball invitational continues to be the largest national premier all Native basketball tournament and a successful

platform bringing educational messaging and programs to over 1,300 youth during NABI week.

NABI week officially tips-off on Sunday July 17, 2022, in Phoenix,

Ariz., with more than 400 basketball games

played in 11 Phoenix area gyms. NABI week will conclude with the championship games on Saturday July 23

at the newly renovated Footprint Center, home of the Phoenix Suns & Phoenix Mercury. Upon conclusion of

the championship games on Saturday, all teams will be hosted to the Arizona Diamondbacks game.

NABI Parade of Teams: Powered by the Heard Museum, Sunday July 17th @ Heard Museum

NABI Pool Play & Bracket Games: Monday -Friday July 18-22 @ varies Phoenix area gyms.

Phoenix Mercury Native American Night: Powered by NABI Nation, Friday July 22nd @ Footprint Center

NABI Championship Games: Powered by Nike N7, Saturday July 23rd @ Footprint Center

NABI Night with Arizona Diamondbacks: Powered by Dbacks Care, Saturday July 23rd @ Chase Field

40th Anniversary Commemoration Presents



NAC-State of New Mexico and families of NAC of Oklahoma - Cheyenne Chapter announce joint celebration, recognition, and honoring NAC Roadmen, Chiefs, Leaders, and sage advisors.



THE NATIVE AMERICAN CHURCH



- Rutherford Loneman, Arapaho
- Allen Bushyhead, Cheyenne
- Leroy Chouteau, Cheyenne
- Tennyson Goodblanket, Cheyenne
- Frank "Toby" Starr, Cheyenne

- Rollin Haag, Sr., Cheyenne
- Archie Hoffman, Cheyenne
- Frankie Dayish, Navajo
- Melvin George, Yuchi
- Eugene Blackbear, Sr., Cheyenne

Saturday, April 9, 2022 @ 10 AM
Community Hall Emergency Response Center
Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes - Concho, Oklahoma
Michael Burgess, Emcee

This collaborative celebration remembers and honors the above for their substantial contributions to the Native American Church. We will have presentations on each honoree and share NAC chapters' organizational history. Additional honorees may be announced.

In the spirit of fellowship, rapport, and encouragement, please join this honoring.

The late Frankie Dayish and his wife Hazel Dayish, NAC-State of New Mexico founders, formed cherished and enduring relationships with the families in the Cheyenne and Arapaho community. NAC-SNM extends a Thank you, An'hee', Aho, to All Our Relations.

Event will comply with COVID-19 CDC and tribal guidelines in effect at time of event.

April: Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Every April, Sexual Assault Awareness Month strives to be a voice of the victims of sexual abuse and violence. The mission is to increase awareness about sexual violence worldwide and educate communities on how to prevent it. The term "sexual assault" is an umbrella term that includes all of the following:



- Rape
- Molestation
- Unwanted sexual contact of any other form
- Sexual harassment
- Incest
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Sexual violence, even with an intimate partner
- Sexual exploitation
- Human trafficking
- Voyeurism

Sexual assault has been experienced by Native women for centuries. Used as a tool of war and colonization, rape was a way to conquer the people during attacks from the beginning of colonization. The lack of responsibility, justice and criminal jurisdiction continues today on reservations, similar to the early American days of war and the appropriation of land during and after treaties.

"The Justice Department reports that one in three Native women is raped over her lifetime, while other sources report that many Native women are too demoralized to report rape. Perhaps this is because federal prosecutors decline to prosecute 67 percent of sexual abuse cases, according to the Government Accountability Office. More than 80 percent of sex crimes on reservations are committed by non-Indian men, who are immune from prosecution by tribal courts" (Erdrich, 2013).

According to the National Institute of Justice:

-American Indians are 2.5 times more likely to experience sexual assault crimes compared to all other races, and one in three Indian women reports having been raped during her lifetime.

-34 percent of Native women are raped in their lifetimes.

-According to a 2010 GAO Study, U.S. Attorneys declined to prosecute 67 percent

of sexual abuse, firearms violations, homicide and other violent crimes occurring in the lives of Native American women.

Violence against Native women occurs across a continuum in the lives of Native women at one end is verbal abuse and at the other end is murder. Most Native women do not report such crimes because of the belief that nothing will be done.

In a report entitled "The Sexual Abuse to Prison Pipeline: The Girls' Story," violence against girls is a painfully American tale. It is a crisis of national proportions that cuts across every divide of race, class, and ethnicity. The facts are staggering: one in four American girls will experience some form of sexual violence by the age of 18. Fifteen percent of sexual assault and rape victims are under the age of 12; nearly half of all female rape survivors were victimized before the age of 18. And girls between the ages of 16 and 19 are four times more likely than the general population to be victims of rape, attempted rape, or sexual assault.

And in a perverse twist of justice, many girls who experience sexual abuse are routed into the juvenile justice system because of their victimization. Indeed, sexual abuse is one of the primary predictors of girls' entry into the juvenile justice system. A particularly glaring example is when girls who are victims of sex trafficking are arrested on prostitution charges — punished as perpetrators rather than served and supported as victims and survivors.

Once inside, girls encounter a system that is often ill-equipped to identify and treat the violence and trauma that lie at the root of victimized girls' arrests. More harmful still is the significant risk that the punitive environment will re-trigger girls' trauma and even subject them to new incidents of sexual

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Reggie Wassana Governor Gilbert Miles Lieutenant Governor

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES

**PROCLAMATION of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes
SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH
April 2022**

WHEREAS, sexual violence is a serious and pervasive crime and 43.6% of women (nearly 52.2 million) and nearly a quarter of men (24.8% or 27.6 million) in the United States experienced some form of contact sexual violence in their lifetime;

WHEREAS, four in five American Indian and Alaska Native women (84.3 percent) have experienced violence in their lifetime and one in two (56.1 percent) have experienced sexual violence;

WHEREAS, there are limited resources in Indian Country that serve victims of violence and their children, and provide safety and victim assistance, and sexual violence breaks the core of the human spirit and jeopardizes the future and wellbeing of Tribal nations, villages and communities;

WHEREAS, Native women are among the most vulnerable, suffering the highest rates of sexual violence, intimate partner violence and stalking; and can have life-long consequences emotionally, mentally, socially and physically;

WHEREAS, everyone has a right to be safe and ending sexual violence requires the leadership of survivors, support of tribal leaders and collaborative efforts of law enforcement, tribal justice systems, public health officials, tribal programs and our community members; it is important that everyone shares a strong message that sexual violence is unacceptable and not our tradition as Indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, sexual violence remains one of the most prevalent, yet underreported crimes in the U.S. and in Indian Country; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes proclaims the month of April to be Sexual Assault Awareness Month, recognizing survivors of sexual violence and advocates and others that serve them during April, that we stand united in our commitment to end all forms of sexual violence in Indian Country.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes do hereby proclaim April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month. We call upon our tribal members, law enforcement, tribal organizations, health officials and all community members to speak out against sexual violence and support efforts within our Nation to assist victims of violence and the healing they seek, and return our Nation to ways of respect, compassion and safety.

Reggie Wassana
Reggie Wassana, Governor

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victimization, which can exponentially compound the profound harms inflicted by the original abuse.

This is the girls' sexual abuse to prison pipeline.

This report exposes the ways in which we criminalize girls, especially girls of color, who have been sexually and physically abused, and it offers policy recommendations to dismantle the abuse to prison pipeline. It illustrates the pipeline with examples, including the detention of girls who are victims of

sex trafficking, girls who run away or become truant because of abuse they experience, and girls who cross into juvenile justice from the child welfare system. By illuminating both the problem and potential solutions, we hope to make the first step toward ending the cycle of victimization-to-imprisonment for marginalized girls.

To read the full report visit www.vavnet.org/material/sexual-abuse-prison-pipeline-girls-story.

THE BIGGEST JACKPOTS ARE CLOSER THAN YOU THINK!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
10 AM - 11 PM FOREVER YOUNG 55+ CLUB	10 AM - 11 PM MATCH PLAY MONDAY	10 AM - 11 PM TULIP TUESDAY	10 AM - 11 PM LADIES DAY	10 AM - 11 PM MEN'S DAY	FIVE TIMES FRIDAY GET 5X ENTRIES	\$250,000 NEST EGG

Lucky Star CASINO

\$250,000 NEST EGG

EVERY SATURDAY IN APRIL

\$200
FREE PLAY
DRAWINGS
EVERY 30 MINUTES
3 PM - 8:30 PM

\$1,000
CASH DRAWING
EVERY 30 MINUTES
9 PM - 11 PM