

# Cheyenne & Arapaho

# TRIBAL TRIBUNE

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April 15, 2023 -Vol. 19, Issue 8

## Oklahoma Could Become First State to Enshrine into Law Right of Indigenous Students to Wear Tribal Regalia at Graduation Ceremonies

OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma is poised to become one of the first states in the nation to enshrine into law the right of Indigenous students to wear tribal regalia at school graduation ceremonies.

If Senate Bill 429 becomes law, Native students will be guaranteed the right to wear tribal regalia when participating in official graduation ceremonies held by public schools, charter schools, technology centers or colleges and universities.

State Rep. Trey Caldwell, R-Lawton, said legislators have been trying to pass a similar law for three

years because some Oklahoma schools still are trying to tell Native students that they can't wear tribal regalia, despite it being part of their culture and a federally protected religious belief. He said the measure would provide school districts the statutory language to help them make the right decisions.

"If you have a sincerely held belief, we'll be able to honor that belief (in) a ceremony that kind of represents coming of age, which is modern high school graduation," he said.

Caldwell said in the past

REGALIA / pg. 9



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## Energy secretary, second gentleman visit OU to discuss geothermal energy potential

Brian D. King, Transcript Staff Writer



Second gentleman Douglas Emhoff and U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm meet with OU President Joseph Harroz Jr., and Tribal leaders for a roundtable discussion on how the power and potential geothermal energy can be harnessed for the benefit of Indigenous communities.

Pictured l-r: OU President Joseph Harroz Jr., Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Gov. Reggie Wassana, Chickasaw Nation Gov. Bill Anoatubby, Douglas Emhoff, Citizen Potawatomi Chairman Rocky Barrett and Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm. (Courtesy photo)

U.S. Secretary of Energy Jennifer Granholm and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff announced April 7 on the University of Oklahoma campus they are interested in working with tribal leaders to convert hydraulic fracking wells to thermal wells to create geothermic energy.

Granholm and Emhoff met with tribal leaders and OU energy experts for a closed roundtable discussion that focused on "how the power and potential of geothermal energy can be harnessed for the benefit of Indigenous communities," the university reported in a news release.

The visit is part of the Biden-Harris Administration's "Investing in America" tour to highlight investments throughout the country.

"We are incredibly grateful to have hosted Secretary Granholm, Second Gentleman Emhoff and our Tribal leaders at the University of Oklahoma," said OU President Joseph Harroz Jr.

"Our discussion today honors our shared commitment to working together to develop sustainable energy solutions for people and communities across America. At OU, we are leveraging more than a century of energy expertise to unlock new energy pathways that will power future generations."

Tribal Nations met with Department of Energy representatives and OU energy faculty to discuss Oklahoma's potential for geothermal energy production as a component of energy sovereignty, accord-

ing to a news release from the university.

The discussion also addressed multiple renewable energy resources as vital components of energy sustainability and economic security.

The Department of Energy presented the guests with the White House's newly published "Guidebook to the Inflation Reduction Act's Clean Energy and Climate Investments of Indian Country, according to the release.

Granholm said the Biden-Harris administration is interested in protecting the livelihood of Native nations.

"This is a really exciting conversation for us because of the respect that this administration has (for Native nations), but

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY / pg. 4



## Cheyenne and Arapaho Vocational Rehabilitation Program Opens New Local Office

Rosemary Stephens  
Editor-in-Chief

On April 6 people were drawn by the sound of laughter and the smell of cooked hot dogs to the location of 220 S. Rock Island Avenue in El Reno, Okla. The new outreach office for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Vocational Rehabilitation Program (CAAIVR).

The CAAIVR program operates under the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Dept. of Labor, serving Native Americans residing in the tribes' 11 county service area, Beckham, Washita, Roger Mills, Custer, Dewey, Ellis, Woodward, Major, Blaine, Kingfisher and Canadian counties.

Part of their mission statements reads, "Enhancing opportunities for American Indians with disabilities through quality vocational rehabilitation services."

The type of services provided include counseling and guidance, support services, mental evaluations, physical evaluations, vocational evaluations, assistive devices, vocational training and job placement services.

"Our job is to help those with disabilities become employed, keep them employed and to us success is

VOC REHAB / pg. 4

# LANGUAGE

## Cheyenne and Arapaho Language Apprenticeship Series-Part VI

Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter



Taking the initiative to gain more experience and knowledge on their native languages, Part VI of the eight-part Cheyenne and Arapaho Language series highlights Cheyenne Language Apprentice, Iven Hawk, 19, and Arapaho Language Apprentice, Megan Guy, 30, who took their chance on an opportunity of a lifetime to learn the Cheyenne and Arapaho languages.

Hawk, who is from El Reno, Okla., began his apprenticeship in August 2021 because he wanted to learn more about his culture.

“The reason why I want to revitalize this language is because I had to learn while working here how dire it is since so many of our speakers are passing away, there’s so few left, I want to help create new speakers for the next generation,” Hawk said.

Guy, from the Canton and Norman, Okla., area, started working for the language program in June 2021

still alive and where I can get those resources, so I just put myself in this position as an apprentice to show that its important enough that I left my job previously,” Guy said.

Guy used to work at the Metropolitan Library and it was during her lunch break that she saw an opening and applied for the apprenticeship. Guy said it was only two days later that she was putting in her two-week notice.

“I changed my whole life after seeing a post on Facebook that they were looking for apprentices who would eventually be certified to be teachers and then during lunch I changed my whole mindset of what my goals were, what I wanted to do for the next five years, I changed it to do this and I take it pretty seriously, I don’t know what the future is going to look like but I know that I want to be here,” Guy said.

Learning the languages, Hawk said he’s always comparing himself to when he first began as an apprentice and the knowledge he’s gained since.

“I compare myself to learning a lot more about it and starting to understand the thinking, to understand the language more and also the thinking on it,” Hawk said.

Hawk said the challenges he faces in learning the Cheyenne language comes with having the mindset of an American and the English language.

“Not thinking in the language outside of work but a success that I believe I have is so far within these two years is I’m able to have a basic conversation with our speakers and I think that’s progress,” Hawk said.



and had always been interested in the language. But did not have the time to join in on any classes as she worked most of the time.

“When I saw the opportunity I went for it, I applied and luckily I got the job and I enjoy learning,” Guy said.

Guy said becoming an apprentice for the Arapaho language is important to her because in order for her to support a cause she has to be willing to help and put herself in situations where she’ll be able to help with the language revitalization.

“I’ve always wanted to learn and I didn’t really hear it that often, maybe bits and pieces from my grandma or my aunts but I never actually heard it spoken fluently and I always wanted more experience and more information about how many speakers are

LANGUAGE SERIES / pg. 9



U.S. Department of the Treasury

Homeowner Assistance Fund Program

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority is pleased to announce The Homeowner Assistance Fund Program is now available Nation-Wide!



- Mortgage Assistance
- Property Tax Assistance
- Homeowners Insurance Assistance
- Home Repairs

Eligibility

- Must Own your Home
- Must be a Cheyenne and Arapaho Enrolled Tribal Member
- Must meet Income Guidelines (150% of the Area Median Income)
- Mutual Help and Rent to own Homes are **not** Eligible

If you would like more information about the HAF, or would like to request an application, Please contact our office 580.331.2389 or stop by!

2100 Dog Patch Road Clinton, OK 73601 Fax: 405.422.8271 Email: housing@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

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IS RECRUITING CURRENT HIGH SCHOOL NATIVE AMERICAN JUNIORS WHO RESIDE IN CHEYENNE ARAPAHO SERVICE AREA

FOR OKLAHOMA BOYS STATE-Oklahoma Boys State will take place at ROGERS STATE COLLEGE MAY 27 TO JUNE 3, 2023

AND OKLAHOMA GIRLS STATE-ALA Oklahoma Girls State will take place at Oklahoma Christian University from May 28 to June 2, 2023

DEADLINE IS APRIL 28<sup>TH</sup>, 2023 FOR BOTH



<https://okboysstate.com/>



<https://okgirlsstate.com/>

TO APPLY CONTACT CHARLES FLETCHER

405-203-1823



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enrollment\_dist@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

PER CAPITA OFFICE (405) 422-7725

percapita@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov

# Higher Education Program Hosts College Prep Outreach

Rosemary Stephens  
Editor-in-Chief

Navigating the maze into higher education can be intimidating ... especially for graduating high school seniors.

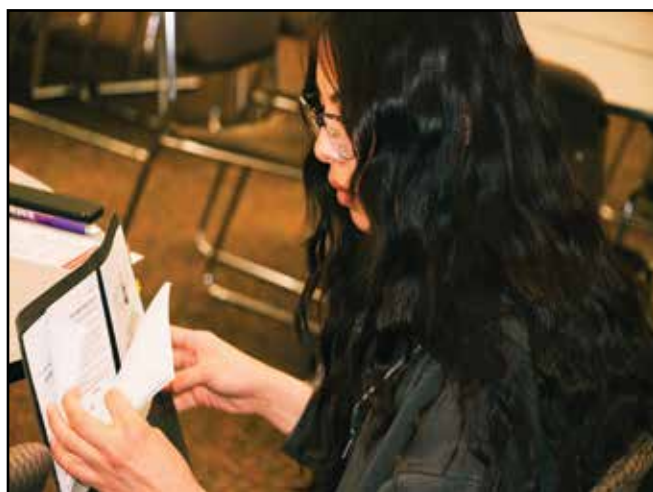
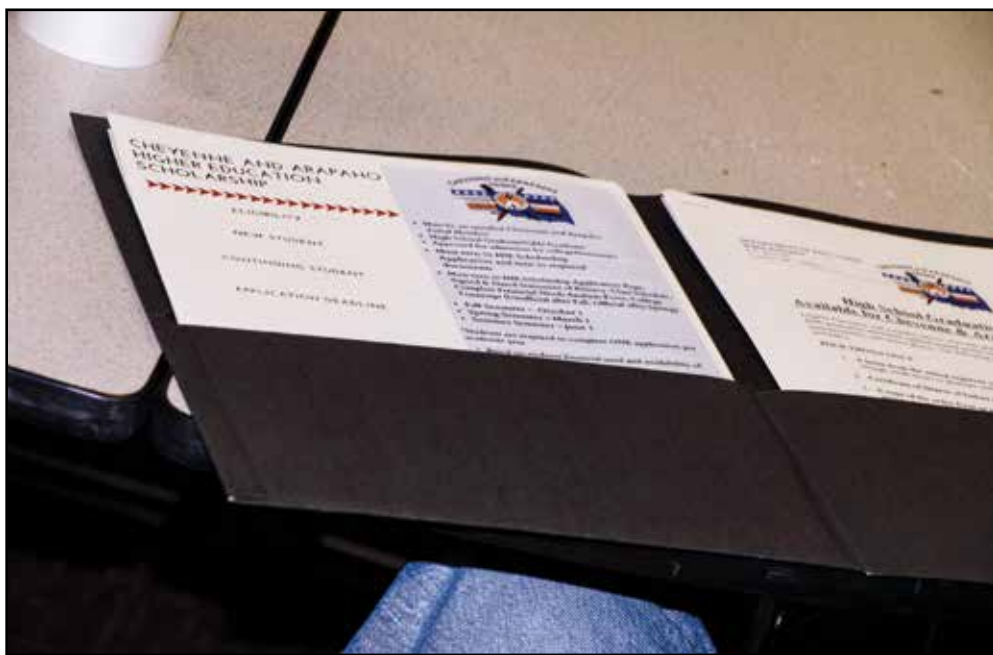
There are many scholarships available to enrolled citizens of Native American tribes, but one must know when to apply, which ones to apply for and how to apply to fully utilize the financial assistance available to ease the rising financial burden of attending a higher institution of learning.

For Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Higher Education Director Breanna Faris, who knows first-hand the challenges of navigating the college maze, educating and guiding high school juniors and seniors early on is one of her main goals.

"All of my educational background is in student affairs, and student affairs is generally the non-academic portion of the college experience, and that's what we are focusing on now and trying to move towards becoming a viable holistic student affairs office that supports students. Not just with a check, but with advising resources, connecting the campus resources, community resources or tribal resources and growing our program financially," Faris said.

Striving to reach out to as many Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal youth as possible, the Higher Education Program hosted a 'College Prep' event April 6 at Redlands Community College in El Reno, Okla. Those invited to attend were Cheyenne and Arapaho high school juniors, seniors, their parents, grandparent or guardian.

"We typically do an event in the Spring semester, college prep event but our high school advisor has been in a lot of the high schools already answering questions, connecting them to resources, even if they are not interested in higher education but interested in like tech school, she's able to help connect them to our DREAMS Program. We are trying to make sure our students have a map, so to speak, so they know what their pathway to college is going to be."



Photos / Rosemary Stephens

The Higher Education Program of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Dept. of Education offers scholarships ranging from \$1500 up to \$4000. First time applicants must turn in the scholarship application along with required documents including high school transcripts, a financial needs analysis and school of choice. To remain on the scholarship, clients must maintain a 2.0 GPA and continue to apply.

HIGHER EDUCATION / pg. 8

## Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Johnson O'Malley Program Honor Club 2022-2023 First Semester

**National Honor Society**  
Paris Littlebird, Geary

### A Honor Roll

- DrewAnn Whitecrow, Weatherford
- Jaxon Meyer, Ringwood
- Autumn Barber, Merritt
- Aniyah Maul, Sulphur
- Myleigh Webster, El Reno
- Tristian Welch, Weatherford
- Emma Krapcha, Hammon
- Grace Krapcha, Hammon
- Sariah Vargas, Canton
- Kinlee Roberson, Thomas
- Braxlee Roberson, Thomas
- Areil Green, Canton
- Aizleigh Nguyen, Darlington
- Laniyah Strauter, California
- Paris Littlebird, Geary
- Caroline Sharp, Geary
- Lane Paris, Seiling

- Cayden Little Coyote-Watan, Seiling
- Jassidy Cope, Seiling
- Isabela Becerra, Coweta
- Trinity Black, El Reno
- Peyton Bullcoming, Seiling

### A/B Honor Roll

- Madilyn Reiner, Yukon
- Jayna Graham, El Reno
- Miklyn Lumpmouth, El Reno
- Emme Guerrero, Weatherford
- Rain Black, Putnum City
- Darian Wandrie, Hinton
- Madilynn Webster, El Reno

- Maverick Whitecrow, Weatherford
- Oakley Whitecrow, Weatherford
- Faith Wassana, New Mexico
- Deion Hayes, Darlington
- Dax Roberts, Woodward
- Cheyenne Littlecalf, Weatherford
- Eva Littlecalf, Weatherford
- Tucker Thunderbull, Watonga
- Makenzie, Thunderbull, Watonga
- Saydie Thunderbull, Watonga
- Adrian Krapcha, Hammon
- Regina Curtis, Kingston
- Franciss Domebo, Kingston
- Jerry Domebo III, Kingston
- Kristina Harjo, Kingston
- Lena Warden, Kingston
- Addison Whiteman, Thomas
- Aiden Green, Canton
- Aleilah Hill, Seiling
- Rayner Cope, Seiling
- Kassidii Hartfield, Seiling
- Cameron Little Coyote-Watan, Seiling
- Kayliana Correa, Broken Arrow
- Ryun Hulbutta, El Reno

### Perfect Attendance

- DrewAnn Whitecrow, Weatherford
- Jaxon Meyer, Ringwood
- Tucker Thunderbull, Watonga
- Makenzie Thunderbull, Watonga
- Saydie Thunderbull, Watonga
- Addison Whiteman, Seiling
- Caroline Sharp, Geary
- Lane Paris, Seiling
- Emily Hooten, Canton

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Follow us for the Cheyenne and Arapaho word of the day and anything Language and Culture.

**CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO HOUSING AUTHORITY**

We will be having a Housing fair  
At the Clinton ERC Building  
On Thursday May 25, 2023  
From 11:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

We will have demonstrations and booths with Housing Information. Join us for a scavenger hunt and raffles! Breakfast and lunch will be provided.

If you have, any questions please call (580)331-2400.  
Our office will be open on May 25th, with limited staff.

**FOOD PANTRY OUTREACH**

APRIL 27th-LAWTON  
Lawton IHS Parking Lot | 1515 Lawrie Tatum Rd.  
1 PM-3 PM

Food boxes, toiletries, and children diapers will be available to all Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal members. One per household. Must present a Cheyenne and Arapaho CDIB. For more information, call the Concho Food Pantry (405) 422-7908.

**Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority**

**2023 Elder Lawn Program**

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority Elder Lawn program will be accepting applications through April 29, 2023

**Guidelines for 2023 Elder Lawn Services:**

1. Tribal Elder preference
2. Must be 55 years 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 Eleven (11) county tribal service area.
6. Not applicable if received lawn mower in 2018 per signing the lawn mower agreement
7. The executive Director makes the final decision on any exceptions

The 2023 Elder Lawn Services are for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal members in the service area.

For More information, please contact the Cheyenne and Arapaho Housing Authority at (580)331-2400

# Clarkston football lineman, top 40 in-state 2024 prospect Sage LoneBear hopes to go on college-offer tear this summer

**After making jump from 8-man football in Idaho to the WIAA Class 2A ranks last fall, LoneBear has put himself on NCAA Division I recruiting radar**

By Hailey Palmer

After spending his first two seasons playing eight-man football in Idaho, Sage LoneBear felt like he had an important decision to make.

And he did, leaving Lapwai High School on the Nez Perce Indian Reservation to cross the border and play at Clarkston High School 17 miles away in Washington.

Joining the Bantams two weeks before the start of the season last fall, LoneBear went on to become a big piece of their defense, earning all-2A Greater Spokane League first-team honors in his first season in 11-man football.

"He started every game and is just a very big, naturally strong kid," Clarkston coach Brycen Bye said. "We're really intrigued to see what Sage brings to the table next year after a full year in our program."

And after an activity-filled offseason with Ford Sports Performance, Lone Bear jumped up in 247Sports.com's recruiting rankings in Washington for the class of 2024. As a 6-foot-4, 290-pound



defensive tackle, he is ranked No. 39.

Brandon Huffman, the national recruiting editor for 247Sports.com, views the three-star LoneBear as an NCAA Division I prospect, and noted one quality that stands out ... his non-stop motor.

On top of all that, LoneBear plays

long snapper for the Bantams and trains with national guru Chris Rubio (Rubio Long Snapping), who lives in nearby Lewiston, Idaho.

Jumping into the rankings came as a surprise to LoneBear after just one season at Clarkston, but he said it meant a lot to him and his family.

"I remember when I first got my (rankings) stars, I was just sitting here at home and my dad came in my room all excited and showed me my stars and rankings," LoneBear said. "Rankings are something you have to really work hard for."

A lot of that hard work happened with the acclaimed FSP crew in Bellevue where LoneBear trains about every other week, he said. Going to camps and showcases with FSP and being put in front of college coaches has opened up doors.

Getting that kind of exposure and opportunities is why he decided to leave Lapwai High School and play for Clarkston.

"I really just wanted to benefit my-

self with my recruiting process," LoneBear said. "I was growing out of (eight-man football) so I wanted to test myself and see what I could do in 11-man."

Once LoneBear got past the adjustment period of switching, he fit right in with the Clarkston program.

"It was mostly just spacing on the field and learning more technique," he said. "Eight-man is more one-on-one, but 11-man is a lot more technique and learning the game."

He currently has one offer from Morgan State University in Baltimore, but he's hoping he can bring in more this summer.

"Really, I'm just trying to impress a lot of coaches," LoneBear said. "I'm trying to be the greatest player I can and play my own game and try to get more offers. I'm really trying to better myself."

Lone Bear said he's been in touch with a handful of schools including Oregon, Oregon State, Idaho, Washington and Nebraska, but an official offer is yet to come his way.

**UPDATE:** As of April 12, 2023 – LoneBear is now #37 overall ranked for Washington State and #2 Defensive Lineman by position overall for Washington State for all classifications for the class of 2024. LoneBear has been invited to attend the Under Armour National Combine 300 for a second year, to be held June 10, 2023 in Salt Lake City, Utah.

## GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

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also the potential within the territory of tribal nations for clean energy," she said.

Granholt said the Biden administration was impressed by the state of Oklahoma as a leader in energy, not just from oil and gas, but from wind energy.

"Oklahoma, in particular, is such an energy state – fossil energy and renewable energy – the fact that 42% of the energy here is generated by wind alone, and that your students won this collegiate competition is very exciting," she said.

Both Granholt and Emhoff said Oklahoma and its tribal nations would be great partners with whom they want to develop relations in the field.

Emhoff said it is important for tribal nations to invest in renewable energy as they are often on the front line as it pertains to climate change, caused by the creation of energy.

"Native communities across the United States are on the frontlines of the climate crisis and often struggle to access affordable and reliable energy," he said.

Granholt referred to the Enhanced Geothermal Shot, a part of the U.S. Department of Energy and an initiative to create geothermal systems to Americans nationwide.

"It's super exciting because the notion of being able to take oil infrastructure or oil wells, and use them to extract energy from the subsurface, it is not fossil energy but clean, reliable energy," she said. "Geothermal is the heat beneath our feet."

"It is 24-seven base load

power in this country, we've got to put gigawatts of clean energy on the electric grid in order to get to the Biden Harris goal of 100% clean electricity by 2035 and net zero by 2050."

Emhoff said this work is important as it will create partners with businesses, as well as new opportunities for employment.

"(OU) is training young students, grad students to do energy assessments and then go out into the world as engineers," he said. "This new, clean economy, is building jobs, jobs and more jobs."

"We are working together at the Biden Harris administration with universities and the private sector and tribal nations."

Granholt said Oklahoma may not be well known for shallow geothermal activity, such as that found in the intermountain west, but hydraulic fracking wells allows for technicians to tap into geothermal activity deep in the earth.

"You don't have to get just the stuff that's closer to the surface," she said. "You can go a lot deeper because again, of the techniques that the oil and gas industry have perfected, like hydraulic fracturing, that allows them to go deeper."

"So this is why Oklahoma is a perfect place to be able to demonstrate this next generation of geothermal production."

In attendance were tribal leaders from Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Muscogee-Creek Nation, Chickasaw Nation, and Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes.



## VOC REHAB

continued from pg. 1

measured individually," Yolanda Woods, CAAIVR Concho counselor said.

The CAAIVR is a federally funded program with eligibility requirements that include, being an enrolled citizen of a federally recognized tribe, living within the 11-county Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' service area, have a documented physical or mental disability or impairment that creates an impediment to employment, able to benefit from vocational rehabilitation services to obtain an employment outcome and require vocational rehabilitation services to prepare for, enter into and retain employment.

"One person's success would be employed for 20 hours a week, whereas another person's success would be 30 hours a week, but the overall goal is to obtain employment and maintain employment," Woods said. The CAAIVR pro-



Yolanda Woods, Vocational Rehabilitation Concho Counselor.

gram offers services to those 16 years and older, and currently have 70-80 individuals on their client list. They have offices in Clinton, Concho, and now their new location in El Reno, Okla.

The CAAIVR staff includes Director Timothy Yeahquo Jr., Concho Counselor Yolanda Woods, Clinton Counselor Lori Seitter-Lee, Outreach Counselor Kimberly Davis and Administrative Assistant Susie Galindo.

To learn more about CAVR or for an application call 405-422-7617, 580-331-2320 or email CAAIVR@cheyenne-arapaho-nsn.gov.

**ELECTION COMMISSION ANNOUNCES THE 2023 PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS**

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Election Commission will begin election proceedings for the 2023 Primary and General Election on May 1, 2023. The Primary Election will be October 3, 2023. The General Election will be November 7, 2023.

**The Following Public Offices are up for Election**

District Legislative Office	District Election Commission
Arapaho District 3	Arapaho District 1
Arapaho District 4	Arapaho District 2
Cheyenne District 1	Cheyenne District 2
Cheyenne District 3	Cheyenne District 4

**Beginning May 1, 2023, nominations for public office will open to qualified tribal members.** Registration packets will be available at the Election Commission office located in the Education Building, Concho, OK. Filing Fees will need to be paid before receiving a packet. **Nominations will close on June 1, 2023.** All Interested tribal members must submit their completed registration packet along with their verification of candidate eligibility by 5:00pm on June 1, 2023.

**District Legislative Office \$200.00 Candidate Filing Fees District Election Commission \$100.00**

The non-refundable filing fee must be a cashier's check or money order payable to the Election Commission. Waivers of the filing fee are available upon request if the person meets or falls below the current federal poverty guidelines and can document this with their prior year federal income tax. This determination must be made before a packet can be picked up.

**The Minimum Qualifications for District Legislative Candidates are as follows:**

1. A candidate for District Legislator shall be an enrolled member of the tribes, at least 25 years of age and shall possess a high school diploma or its equivalent
2. No person convicted of a felony within the last ten years shall be eligible to serve as District Legislator unless pardoned
3. At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for District Legislator shall physically reside and be a registered voter in the district for which he or she seeks elective office and if elected, the candidate SHALL reside in that district for the duration of their term
4. The candidate cannot owe any money or owe any debts to the tribes.

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

1. A candidate for District Election Commissioner shall be an enrolled member of the tribe and shall possess a High School Diploma or its equivalent
2. No person convicted of a felony shall be eligible to serve as an Election Commissioner
3. At the time of filing a nomination petition, a candidate for District Election Commissioner shall physically reside in the district for which he or she seeks elective office and if elected, reside in that district for the duration of their term
4. The candidate cannot owe any money or owe any debts to the tribes.

**For more information contact the EC at 1-800-247-4612 or any of the following Commissioners:**

A1 Ray Mosqueda 405 306-9281	C1 Sandra Hinshaw 405 593-7944
A2 Dale Hamilton 405 593-1850	C2 Norma Yarbrough 405 538-6664
A3 Pat Smothers 405 535-7863	C3 Ramona Welch 405 464-2716
A4 Elizabeth Birdsheed 405 464-6043	C4 Sarah Orange 405 637-6036

**Oklahoma's Missing Person Day Event**

10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday April 22, 2023 at the University of Central Oklahoma Forensic Science Institute, 701 E. 2 Street in Edmond, Okla.

Currently there are 29,023 missing persons in Oklahoma. Families, friends and loved ones are invited to attend to report a missing person to law enforcement, enter their missing person into the NamUs System and donate their family reference DNA sample for CODIS entry.

Families will receive information/education for resources and the opportunity to network with other missing person family members.

[#nomorestolenrelatives](https://www.nomorestolenrelatives.com)

# ATHLETES' SPOTLIGHT

By Latoya Lonelodge

## Malaki Perez, Weatherford High

(WEATHERFORD, OK)When it comes down to being competitive on the wrestling mat or football field, Malaki Perez, 17, is as tough as they come. Standing 6'1 tall and weighing 215 lbs., Perez strives to make an unforgettable impact on the wrestling mat next year as he recently finished up the season in his junior year of wrestling.

Wrestling in the heavy weight division for 4A division Weatherford High School Boys Wrestling, based out of Weatherford, Okla., Perez has had his eye set on making it to state since his freshman year of wrestling and he's only getting better.

Perez began wrestling in the eighth grade and said what he loves the most about wrestling is how competitive and physical the sport is.

"I've always wrestled heavy weight from eighth grade until now, I like how individual it is, it's all about you and how well you perform on the mat and push yourself," Perez said.

Playing multi-sports, Perez said playing football and wrestling help out one another as they both are physical sports.

"It helps when you face opponents that may be stronger than you or may have better technique, wrestling wise, for football it helps you stay low and be able to use your hands more," Perez said.

Perez's motivation in wrestling was making it to the state championship, which he will continue to pursue going forward into the next wrestling season his senior year.

"My whole goal was placing at regionals and trying to take first for state, which that kind of carries on to this next year coming up," Perez said.

And his inspiration for playing the sport, Perez said, comes from his father.

"My dad because he's a hardworking man and he just makes me feel like I have to push myself even harder to live up to him," Perez said.

With the season over, Perez said he thinks he did good overall for his junior year as he's improved a lot from the beginning of the season.

Perez ended the season with 36 wins, 7 losses and placed fifth at the All-American Mid-America Nationals, he was the 4A West Regional Runner-Up and 4A State Tournament Placer for third.

Competing at Mid-America was where Perez had hoped to place at in the beginning of the season.

"Towards the beginning of the season I was looking forward to Mid-America and placing there becoming an all-American, it's a one-day tournament held in Enid," Perez said.

Outside of sports, Perez said he enjoys other hobbies as well that include being outside.

"I just like being outside, fishing, going shooting or hunting," Perez said.

Academically, Perez has maintained a 3.0 GPA in school and said keeping up with grades while in sports is tough. But Perez manages to keep his grades up during the little free time he has outside of school and sports.

"It's stressful but the way that I manage it is I just stay calm and then any free time I get like right after practice, do homework and when I get off work, if I stay up a bit later then I do it, it doesn't give you free time, no free time," Perez said.

Looking forward to his senior year on the mat, Perez said what he looks forward to the most is being of motivation to his teammates.

"Just being a leader to my teammates pushing them and improving on my abilities to wrestle," Perez said.

Perez said what he wants to work on the most for next season is his snatch singles and attacking the legs more in his techniques going forward.

Looking back on his time on the mat, Perez said he's grown more physically since beginning his wrestling journey.

"I wasn't really physical, I never wrestled smart and the biggest thing was I never cared if I lost, so where I improved was changing my mentality and being more aggressive really helped," Perez said.

Perez said wrestling has taught him to keeping going, no matter how tough the situation gets.

"It taught me no matter how hard things get as long as you keep fighting, you'll get better, there's light at the end of the tunnel if you just don't stop," Perez said.

And as a wrestler, Perez said it's important to always have a good mentality.

"A good mentality and just loving the sport, if you don't love the sport then you can't give it you're all," Perez said.

With his hopes high in continuing his wrestling career, Perez said wrestling makes him feel amazing overall.

"After a match I dread it a bit because I'm so tired but like when you're in the moment just wrestling you forget about



everything, you forget about everyone cheering you on, it's just you and the opponent just going at it, seeing whose stronger and better, just the all-around the physicality with it," Perez said.

Corey Duncan, Head Wrestling Coach for Weatherford High School describes Perez as a great teammate.

"He helps everyone out off the mat and sets a good example on what to do as well, as he gets along with everyone, he is a ferocious competitor on the mat, his teammates enjoy watching him wrestle on the mat because of the way he competes," Duncan said.

Duncan said Perez is a teammate that the team can rely on as he does his best every time he's out on the mat.

"He leads by example, because of his performances he helps the team tremendously in duals and tournaments, he is a huge contribution to our success as a team," Duncan said.

Contributing to his team the past season, Duncan said Perez's strength played a big role in his success, as well as his coachability.

"Malaki is a great listener and does what we tell him and ask of him to do, that really allows him to have success, along with his competitiveness, he does not like to lose at all," Duncan said.

Perez's parents are Jesse Perez and Donita Perez. His uncle is Jarod Lee Coleman.



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# OKLAHOMA NATIVE AMERICAN April 3-4, 2023

Articles by Latoya Lonelodge, Senior Reporter

## 20<sup>th</sup> annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair Returns to In-Person



Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair founding member and Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen, Quinton Roman Nose, with the Tribal Education Departments National Assembly, gives a welcoming speech during the opening ceremony on day-two of the language fair. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

After a difficult two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair (ONAYLF) returns to in-person at the Sam Noble Museum in Norman, Okla., making a huge comeback in attendance numbers as they celebrate their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Dr. Raina Heaton, director of the ONAYLF, said the event has been held for 20 years.

"We're so excited, this is our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, we started in 2002 as a way to bring kids from the community together to celebrate language and it's got a little competition element so that they can be excited about doing their best every year and maybe one upping their friends and the museum is just really

proud to host this event," Heaton said.

This year the language fair consisted of all the standard categories for youth to participate in with their Indigenous language, including spoken prayer, spoken language, poetry, song, modern and traditional song.

"We have the submission categories like books and posters and essays, comics and things like that, we added puppet shows recently and also mobile video for the social media genre," Heaton said.

Heaton said the language fair attracted more than 500 performances that registered for the event with roughly over 1,000 students that participated.

"I'm really happy with the community coming out, we weren't sure how this was

going to go after the pandemic. We know that there's been a lot of tough times particularly with speakers passing and we weren't sure what the community response was going to be, from what I see today I see that there is still a need and that this event is still relevant and as long as people want it, we're going to keep offering it," Heaton said.

ONAYLF coordinator and Cherokee language instructor at the University of Oklahoma (OU) Christine Armer said she's glad to see the language fair back to in-person. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the language fair was put on hold for two years, with last year's event being held virtual.

"It makes me feel good to see all these students that come to speak their language, God has given them their own language to speak and it's really exciting because I'm hoping that this will make them feel important about their language, that they'll continue to learn their language and they'll be our future speakers of the tribes that are here in Oklahoma," Armer said.

By bringing the language fair back and continuing with the ongoing revitalization efforts of Indigenous languages, the fair continues with their long-standing traditions of celebrating languages with new generations of speakers.

Armer said in 2002 when the language fair first started there were parents that participated as children and now they are bringing their own children to the fair.

"They're the teachers now of the language and where they were representing, now they're doing the language and teaching the language to the children or the community," Armer said.

Armer said she encourages elders and parents to teach children their language because it's who they are and where they're from.

"I want them to know that they're just not standing back with this they will know who they are and who they represent, their tribe, their elders and their parents and themselves," Armer said.



Koinonia Indian Mennonite Youth Choir, comprised of youth from Clinton and Weatherford Public Schools perform a Cheyenne Hymn in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Medium Group Category for Traditional Song. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

## Tribal Youth Participate in Individual Spoken Languages at ONAYLF

Throughout the two-day event of the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair (ONAYLF), different categories were conducted for youth to engage in and share their languages.

Part of the categories included individual performances given by youth speaking in their native language.

Aashari Hollins, 11, with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Lan-

guage Program performed a short conversation in the Cheyenne language for the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual Spoken Language Group. Hollins placed third for her performance.

"I talked about what I did today and how my morning was in the Cheyenne language," Hollins said.

Hollins said she's participated in the language fair before and has always learned some of her language growing up.

"Whenever I was younger I did classes with one of my mom's bosses and I remember a little bit from that, also my mom taught me some of the words," Hollins said.

Learning her language, Hollins said wasn't too hard as she basically learned her performance for the language fair overnight.

"I was kind of nervous but other than that I was fine, I think I did pretty good ... I've been to a couple language fairs before, I did one performance in front of everybody and the other one was virtual and now this one. I got second place on the first one and the virtual one I got first place," Hollins said.

Hollins said she plans to continue learning her language as it has become important for her to do so.

"I think it's important because there's not very many people who can speak our language and I just want to keep our culture alive ... I think it's awesome that people want to learn their language and are doing the fair because we need to keep our culture and languages alive," Hollins said.

Jayleigh Harjo, 12, with the Muscogee Creek Nation Euchee Language Learning Center also participated in the same category with her performance of "Yafa" in the Euchee language. Harjo's performance placed first.

"I was speaking about a tree, the tree parts and a little bit about trees," Harjo said.

Harjo said when she was younger she learned that if you don't speak your language, then you can't pass it on to someone else.

"Because back in the day they were trying to make Native Americans not speak their language, they thought they were all crazy and were just trying to take our traditional ways and they cut off our hair," Harjo said.

Performing in front of others, Harjo said while it made her nervous, it felt nice to speak her language.

"I was scared that I was going to mess it up, I would probably get booed or something, but it was fun too because I got to speak my language. I get to know more each year each time, every time I go to speak the language I get to know about my people, sometimes about how they actually said it and when I mess up sometimes they'll help me and when I don't mess



Cheyenne and Arapaho youth Audrina Greeley places first in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade Modern Song category for her performance of "Father, Now I See It" in the Arapaho language. (Photo via Facebook)

it up, they'll start applauding and I feel happy about that," Harjo said.

Cheyenne and Arapaho youth Audrina Greeley, 12, participated in the 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade Modern Song category with her performance of "Father Jesus Now I See It" in the Arapaho language. Greeley's performance won her first place.

Greeley previously participated in the language fair with her siblings but said this year she did it by herself.

"I feel proud to share my language with other people and so they know that I'm a part of the tribe," Greeley said.

Having been taught small words in the Arapaho language since a young age, Greeley said learning her language has become important to her.



Aashari Hollins, with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Language Program performs a short conversation in the Cheyenne language and places third in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual Spoken Language Group. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

# YOUTH LANGUAGE FAIR

## Norman, Oklahoma

### ONAYLF

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“When I was younger my mom would teach me small words and so then I just started getting into it ... I think it’s important for me and others to learn my language because awhile back people couldn’t speak their language,” Greeley said.

Dr. Mary Linn, Curator of Language and Cultural Vitality at the Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage said the spoken language, especially the individual categories are always the hardest. Since being apart of ONAYLF, Linn said she’s noticed that some categories were separated such

as the individual prayer and spoken language.

“You have to get up there and do something by yourself and it was always hard for people to think of other kinds of spoken language from prayer, especially the judges, but I think it’s really good. Prayers are something that youth can really learn and use in their daily life and there’s something kind of more calming about presenting that than any spoken language. I think that kind of category is really helpful to get people used to speaking in public by themselves so I was really happy to see that addition,” Linn said.

## ONAYLF Presents 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fashion Show: Carrying Native Fashion Forward



For the first time, ONAYLF presents the native fashion show “Carrying Native Fashion Forward” as part of their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Model Chaleina Littlesun showcases a designer outfit for Courtney Little Axe. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)

As part of the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary for the Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair (ONAYLF), the fashion show “Carrying Native Fashion Forward” was presented for the first time during the two-day language fair.

Featured designs were showcased by native designers and their models, such as Courtney Little Axe with AL-TRN8V, who is Northern Cheyenne, Absentee Shawnee and Seminole, Louisa Harjo with Creations by Louisa, who is Mvskoke and Seminole, and Claudia Tyner Little Axe with A Tipi Maker’s Daughter, who is Seneca Cayuga, Mvskoke and Absentee Shawnee.

Dr. Raina Heaton, director of the ONAYLF said the fashion show is a special one-time deal for the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

“They were trying to do something special and really engage people because we have a language fair family core that always come and do this with us as well as new people, it’s just really exciting, so the fashion show is new this year and we had three native designers to showcase their designs,” Heaton said.

Of the featured designs that were showcased, it was only

her second time participating in a fashion show for Courtney Little Axe, who grew up on the Northern Cheyenne reservation in Lane Deer, Mont.

Little Axe said she started doing fashion because she felt there was a lack of representation of alternative native styles.

“I felt the need to craft it for people like me that like this sort of alternative style,” Little Axe said.

The type of designs that Little Axe specializes in ranges as she does beadwork, quillwork and ribbon skirts with an alternative twist.

“I used to make more traditional style beadwork but I kind of utilized those skills and paired it with my contemporary alternative style and created what is now AL-TRN8V, I do different things I also make harnesses like chain harnesses and then I started doing beaded harnesses, I haven’t really debuted those yet,” Little Axe said.

Little Axe said she’s still working on perfecting the craft with her designs.

“Anything from denim kind of like a native twist, like Seminole patchwork, my grandma taught me how to Seminole patchwork and she really inspired me with the way that she started learning and she taught me around 8<sup>th</sup> grade,” Little Axe said.

From denim to ribbon skirts, Little Axe’s designs are also made to be eco-friendly as fashion is one of the largest polluters of the environment.

“What I like to do is I’ll go to thrift stores and I’ll thrift different materials and incorporate it into my projects or I will just take a piece and kind of alternate it, I would add a twist to it of how I would wear it myself and so yeah, it just ranges,” Little Axe said.

In carrying her fashion forward with alternative style at the language fair, Little Axe said she’s excited to see where her fashion designs take her next.

“I want to create more representation and visibility for natives that are alternative and that are more in the subcultures of like the scene, in alternative style there’s different types so I try to incorporate more of a broad style so that everybody can wear it,” Little Axe said.

By incorporating the fashion show with the language fair, Christine Armer, ONAYLF Coordinator said it made a wonderful turnout for the event overall.

“It’s beautiful, even the fashion show, it’s part of it because we had young people in there, it makes them important, notice that they think they’re important so that will carry on with their schooling and education and being who they are and it’s just a grand thing,” Armer said.



Steele Pratt, with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Language Program, placed third for the Pre-K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Individual Spoken Language. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)



Fashion Designer Courtney Little Axe, Northern Cheyenne, Absentee Shawnee and Seminole, showcases her ALTRN8V brand at the ONAYLF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fashion Show. (Photo / Latoya Lonelodge)



ABOVE: Model Sharon Forte showcases a design by Courtney Little Axe at the ONAYLF 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Fashion Show.

LEFT: Jayleigh Harjo, with the MCN Euchee Language Learning Center placed first for her performance of “Yafu” in the 3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Individual Spoken Language Group. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)



# HIGHER EDUCATION

continued from pg. 3

“The limit is 10 semesters for full time students which follows the federal financial aid guidelines. The scholarship amounts vary by class and classes are determined by of hours, so for freshmen it’s \$1500, for sophomores it’s \$2000 and it goes up to \$4000 for our doctoral students,” Faris said. “We are just now starting to keep statistics of how many students we help, but I would say over the last four years the average of students we have helped is around 140-150 students per semester.”

The scholarship program is available to any enrolled citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes 16 years or older, no matter where they live. Faris said the program currently has clients from across the U.S. and some across the sea in other countries. “What most people don’t know about applying for scholarships is it is a continual process. You don’t just apply one time for scholarships and then you are done. It’s a continual process and that’s what we are trying to get our students to learn, with these partnerships, to learn it is an annual thing. You have to apply for scholarships in the Spring for the next Fall semester, like if you are trying to apply in August it’s too late,” she said.

With education being a hot political topic in many states, Faris is keenly aware of what impacts these political decisions may have on Native students. From Critical Race Theory (CRT) to anti-diversity, book bans and attempts to erase history, many lawmakers have made it their sole mission

to alter the education landscape across the country.

“You see anti-CRT laws, but a lot of people don’t even know what Critical Race Theory is,” Faris said.

In September 2020, former President Donald Trump issued an executive order excluding from federal contracts any diversity and inclusion training interpreted as containing “Divisive Concepts,” “Race or Sex Stereotyping,” and “Race or Sex Scapegoating.” Among the content considered “divisive” is Critical Race Theory. In response, the African American Policy Forum, led by legal scholar Kimberlé Crenshaw, launched the #TruthBeTold campaign to expose the harm that the order poses. Reports indicate that over 300 diversity and inclusion trainings have been canceled as a result of the order. And over 120 civil rights organizations and allies signed a letter condemning the executive order. The NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF), the National Urban League (NUL), and the National Fair Housing Alliance filed a federal lawsuit alleging that the executive order violates the guarantees of free speech, equal protection, and due process.

So, exactly what is CRT, why is it under attack, and what does it mean?

CRT is not a diversity and inclusion “training” but a practice of interrogating the role of race and racism in society that emerged in the legal academy and spread to other fields of scholarship. Crenshaw, who coined the term “CRT,” notes that CRT is not a noun, but a verb. It cannot be confined to a



The Higher Education staff for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Dept. of Education hosts College Prep event night for high school juniors and seniors at Redlands Community College. (Photo / Adriel Clements)

static and narrow definition but is considered an evolving and malleable practice. It critiques how the social construction of race and institutionalized racism perpetuate a racial caste system that relegates people of color to the bottom tiers. CRT also recognizes that race intersects with other identities, including sexuality, gender identity, and others. CRT recognizes that racism is not a bygone relic of the past. Instead, it acknowledges that the legacy of slavery, segregation and the imposition of second-class citizenship on Black Americans, Native Americans and other people of color continue to permeate the social fabric of this nation.

Faris believes the role of student affairs support for the Higher Education Program will be a consistent support system if learning institutions are unable to

provide that support because of the controversial laws being pushed surrounding education.

“The biggest impact I think we have seen here in Oklahoma is that Oklahoma an anti-affirmative action state meaning most colleges aren’t going to base awards off of race base, but what institutions don’t realize is we (Native Americans) have identities they still have to honor. You see anti-CRT laws, but a lot of people don’t even know what Critical Race Theory is. We see people going after diversity initiatives and this will impact our Native students and we are going to have to wait and see how this all plays out.”

For more information or questions about the Higher Education Program, call 405-422-7646 or email [highered@cheyenneandapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:highered@cheyenneandapaho-nsn.gov).

# 2023

## Graduation Banquet

Thursday, May 4, 2023	Begins at 6:00pm	Location RESPECT Gym Concho, OK
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Published June 1, 2023

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LANGUAGE SERIES

continued from pg. 2

Guy said as Americans, we're used to the American culture and viewpoint on certain interpretations.

"This is an Arapaho way of thought and we're slowly getting insight to that, how language is used to view the world in a different way and it's not as easy as you would think," Guy said.

However, what is most fulfilling for Guy is speaking the language correctly and knowing she's on the right path in learning the language.

"When we're having a session and you speak to an Arapaho speaker and they're able to understand you, you have a small conversation and know you're on the right path, sometimes it's a little challenging you might not say it completely correct, it could be a different word but once you get it and you're able to talk to them and they're able to understand you during a following session or the next week, it makes a big difference and it's a really great feeling," Guy said.

Being a part of the apprenticeship, both apprentices agree that learning the language has not been an easy road for them and they've learned some hard lessons along the way.

"Working with the language so far has taught me more patience and to listen to our elders as they teach us their knowledge and to be

grateful for it," Hawk said.

For Guy, she said the program has taught her that learning the Arapaho language was a lot harder and challenging than she initially thought.

"It gets frustrating, so patience is definitely important, mostly patience with yourself, you're not going to learn just immediately you have to repeat a lot of the same words because it has to sink in, we're taking a lot of information in and it's challenging," Guy said.

Guy said she's also learned the importance and the need behind learning the language.

"Our speakers are elders and some have passed away since our time being here and they're not getting any younger, that immediate response to get things in a hurry when we can only do so much, so patience definitely," Guy said.

Looking toward the future, Hawk and Guy hope their experience in learning the languages takes them far.

Hawk said he hopes to see a new generation of Cheyenne and Arapaho speakers.

"The thing I love most about my job is that I'm learning Cheyenne and having the opportunity to teach it, where I hope it goes is that we have a new generation of teachers and speakers," Hawk said.

Accepting that the language has become a part of

their everyday lives now, Guy said she'll continue to enjoy hearing the language spoken amongst other speakers and herself.

"What I love about our job is that I love our speakers, they're a part of our lives now, I enjoy hearing them speak when they really get into their speaking and continue on, I love hearing that, it's one of the things I love about my job, I won't get that anywhere else and I love the opportunity that was opened that I was able to take to be here," Guy said.

While continuing to learn the language, Hawk said his perspective has changed as he's come to realize the importance behind the languages and being able to speak it.

"The importance of learning a language that I learned so far is that it's vital, it's part of our identity as a tribe," Hawk said.

And thinking about how much learning the Cheyenne language has affected her life, Guy said it's become very emotional.

"The investment you put into learning and the time you took out of your day to practice, learn, listen, it's emotional when you think about it, when you really think about how many speakers are left, the whole aspect, it's a lot and people feel very passionate about language, about the Arapaho or Cheyenne languages," Guy said.

REGALIA

continued from pg. 1

year alone, he knows of four or five schools that told students they couldn't wear things that represented their tribal beliefs like headdresses, graduation cap decorations, medallions or eagle feathers. Eagle feathers, for instance, traditionally symbolize a milestone accomplishment in someone's life.

"We're not going to tell a student they can't wear a yarmulke," Caldwell said. "We're not going to tell a student that they can't wear a hijab. We're not going to tell a student that they can't wear a crucifix, and so I think it does a disservice to our founding principles if we tell a certain subset of our student population that you can't wear an eagle feather (or) you can't wear some form of sincerely held regalia as part of your culture and who you are."

He said the proposal previously faced legislative pushback because of concerns that a student might want to bring a tomahawk or a pipe to smoke. The latest bill specifically bars weapons or other objects prohibited by federal law. In addition, a school's local governing board could bar items that could endanger public safety or interfere with the ceremony.

Cherokee Nation Principal Chief Chuck Hoskin Jr. said there's a need for the legislation to protect both Native students who want to exercise their protected rights to engage in cultural activities and school administrators who need further guidance from the state.

"I think all students, whether they're Native or not, see a more enriched ceremony when they see some of their Native fellow graduates adorned with eagle feathers," Hoskin said.

He said despite a strong attorney general opinion that schools must allow tribal regalia, some schools continue to try to ban it. Codifying the right into statute will give administrators peace of mind and resolve any lingering doubts about the actual application.

"(Students' tribal regalia) is showing re-

spect to their own traditions or their ancestors' traditions of understanding that they descend from a people who are distinct and have distinct cultural practices and still maintain those cultural practices," Hoskin said.

He said it's also fitting that the right soon will be protected in public schools because public schools were used as tools to erode cultural practices in the 20th century.

"I think it's also part of a remedial measure the state can take to make sure there's a welcoming environment for these sorts of cultural practices when we know that for generations it was the opposite," Hoskin said.

The measure, which has cleared the state Senate, next heads to the full House, where it is expected to pass easily. It then heads to Gov. Kevin Stitt's desk.

Hoskin said he hopes Stitt signs it into law "thinking about this as something larger than the very important issue of the rights of Native Americans and graduation ceremonies."

"This is an opportunity, I think, to send a good message to the state and, really, to the country that there's a welcoming environment for Native Americans from the state government, including the governor," Hoskin said.

State Rep. Josh West, R-Grove, said about 40% of his constituents, including his wife and children, are Indigenous. He's never received a complaint that a tribal citizen hasn't been allowed to wear regalia, but he supports enshrining the right into law given the state's Native American history.

"It probably needed to be done a long time ago," West said.

He said some school leaders, though, have previously expressed fears that allowing tribal regalia "was going to open up Pandora's Box, and students (would) be wearing baseball caps and cowboy hats and things like that" to graduation.

If signed, the measure would become law immediately.

LEGAL NOTICES

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma legal notice regarding a name change for Kaitlyn Brown. Includes court information, docket details, and contact information for Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma legal notice regarding a hearing for Paige Burris. Includes case details (CIV-2017-0071, PG-2023-0022) and Zoom meeting information.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma legal notice regarding a guardianship case for Jenyssa Whiteskunk & Shawn Black Sr. Includes case details (PG-2023-0009) and Zoom meeting information.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma legal notice regarding a custody modification for Mercedes Meeke. Includes case details (CIV-2014-0032) and Zoom meeting information.

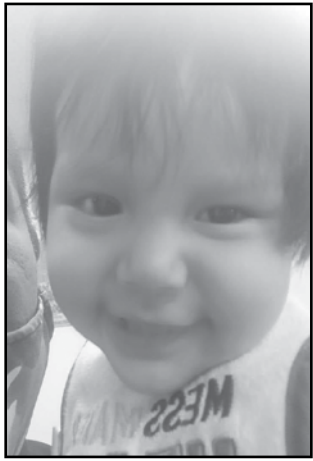
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma legal notice regarding a summons for Trenton Redbird. Includes case details (JFD-2023-0007) and Zoom meeting information.

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma legal notice regarding a guardianship case for Kristopher Hornsby Sr. & Niela Wahweah. Includes case details (PG-2023-0008) and Zoom meeting information.

# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



**Happy "14" Birthday Jada Renee**  
 April 24  
 Wishing a very "Happy Birthday" to my beautiful baby girl! You're such an amazing person with a heart of gold. Don't ever change who you are for nothing or nobody. Always stand strong like you always have before. For yourself & family. I love you more than life itself.  
 Love, dad Hector, the Charley and Shawnee family



**Happy 3rd Birthday James Nelson**  
 April 10th  
 Wishing a very "Happy Birthday" to my handsome baby boy! Sweet baby James, I mean baby face Nelson according to your uncle Brando! You're such a blessing to our family. I know you are destined for greatness. Every time I see you smile I love you more than life itself.  
 Love dad Hector, the Charley and Shawnee family



**Happy 93rd Birthday Sidonia Osage Blackowl**

Wishing this beautiful and wonderful full-blooded Cheyenne lady a very Happy Birthday! And many more to come. A birthday celebration was recently held on Sunday April 2 with five generations of family in attendance from 1 year old to 93 years old.  
 Love all your family and friends



Former Defensive Back for the University of Oklahoma Football, C.J. Coldon visits El Reno, Okla., once again to show support for the El Reno Indians football program. Since fall of 2022, Coldon has had an opportunity to build a relationship with the 11U football team and coaching staff via community initiatives led by Green Book Cares.

On March 31, Coldon surprised the El Reno Football Program with a special visit along with two of his closest friends and NFL Prospects, Azizi Hearn and Xazavian Valladay. Coldon was fresh off the field from his NFL Pro Day but wanted to warm the hearts of the youth by hosting an inspirational meet and greet to motivate the El Reno Indians Football Teams (11U-Varsity) on following their dreams, goals, and aspirations.

Honorable Mentions that helped facilitate the event, Sidney Pratt, Coach Russell Cook, Andreas Sonnier and Frisco Guzman.



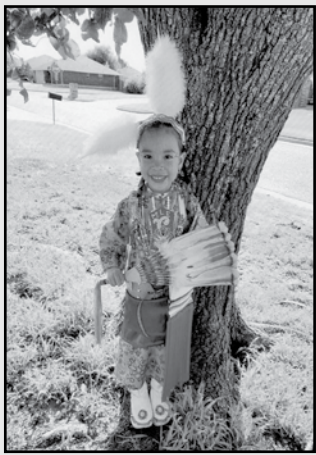
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 Saturday 10:30 AM - 4 PM  
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Come see us!

**Little Miss Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow Princess Candidate: Emily La'Miyah Gray**



Emily La'Miyah Gray is Cheyenne and Kiowa and is running for the 2023 Little Miss Indian Nations Princess. She is 5-years old and the daughter of Carmen Gray and Joseph Hales of Yukon, Okla., the granddaughter of Carmen Gray of Yukon, Cecil Gray of Elgin, Okla., and the great-granddaughter of the late Beulah Penn (Cheyenne), the late Ralph Leland Dru (Cheyenne), the late Dorothy Gray (Kiowa), the late Simon Toppah (Kiowa), the great-great granddaughter of the late Cecil and Jenny Horse (Kiowa) and the great-great granddaughter of the late Leonard and Abbie YellowEagle (Cheyenne). She resides in Yukon with her mother, father, sister Hazel and grandma Carmen.

Emily won the prestigious title of the American Indian Exposition Most Beautiful Indian Baby by winning first place in the 0-12 month cate-

gory in the 2018 pageant. She has been dancing since before she could walk and has found passion in expressing herself in the dance arena. During her first tiny tot competition, she made the winner circle at the 2022 Stroud Powwow. She loves to sing, dance and go to powwows. She also enjoys playing with her cousins and playing Roblox in her free time. She is an avid collector of LOL dolls. She is being raised to keep her culture alive and strong in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. She really appreciates your support and is also accepting cash donations. The family will be doing a raffle drawing to help her raise money with the drawing to be held on April 25, 2023, on Facebook live.

Cashapp: \$carmen01j  
 Venmo: cgray01j  
 PayPal: cj\_gray10@yahoo.com

Chances are \$5 for a ticket or \$20 for five tickets for the following items:

- Michael Kors Purse and Wallet
- Coach Purse
- Two Michael Kors Mens Wallet
- Three Pendleton Fleece Blankets
- Two OU Zero Gravity Pair Zale Diamond Earrings
- Bath and Body Works Candles and Candle Holders
- Glitzy 20 Quart Cooler
- Gold Venti Starbucks Cup

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES  
 ELECTION COMMISSION  
 PO Box 89  
 Concho, OK 73022

**2023 Elections Voter Registration**

Voter Registration is open and will close on June 1, 2023. You must be registered if you want to vote in the 2023 Elections. You may register or update online using the jotform at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Website, coming to the Election Commission Office located in the Education Building or by calling the office at 405/422-7619.

**YOUR VOTE COUNTS**

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# Calendar of Events

**Weatherford Public Schools JOM First Annual Powwow**  
 April 22, 2023 at the Weatherford Middle School gym, 219 West Arapaho in Weatherford, Okla. Gourd dance 2 p.m., supper 5 p.m., Grand Entry 6 p.m.  
 Head Staff: MC Coy McLemore, HS Max Watan, HM Travis Ruiz, HL Janaye Toppah, HB Rufus Ellis, HG Georgina Whiteshield, Honored Elder Cherry Davenport, Color Guard Riverside Indian School, Host Weatherford Native America Club, ADs SWOSU Indigenous Student Association.  
 Arts and crafts vendors welcomed, \$50 plus raffle item. For more information call TuSheena Watan at 580-302-1240.

**2022/23 Miss Oklahoma Indian Biker Princess Georgia Adeline 'Ushta' Harjo Honor Dance**  
 April 22, 2023 at the Tunderbird Casino Event Center, 15700 OK-9 in Norman, Okla. Gourd dance 2 p.m., supper 5 p.m., Gourd dance 6 p.m. and Grand Entry 7 p.m.  
 Head Staff: MC Ace Greenwood, HS OT Sankey, HMGD Henry Sleeper, HLGD Faithlyn Seawright, HM Avery Fields, HL Nuka Nivy Yarholar, AD Neil Colbert, Color Guard Oklahoma Indian Bikers.

**Benefit Dance for Arapaho Sundance Sponsor Sidney Valentine Willow Loneman**  
 April 22, 2023 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Gourd dance 2 p.m., Supper 5:30 p.m.  
 Head Staff: MC Alan Fletcher, HS Watan Brothers, HMD John Cannon, HLD Paula Gould Whitebuffalo, HTB Harding Levi, HTG Rosemary Sleeper, HLB Abel Levi (9), HLG Skylynn Birdwoman Pratt (6), ADs Seth Littleman and Scotty Redbird, Honored Male Elder Grant Fletcher Sr., Honored Female Elder Ernestine Whitebird, Honored Veteran Alvin Sage, Honored Arapaho Chief Richard Curtis, Honored Family Virgil and Vera Franklin, Co-Host Star Hawk Society.  
 There will be sweat ceremony 2 p.m., Friday April 21 at the Medicinebird/Rowlodge residence, 302 Winnview Street in Geary, Okla., hosted by Earl and Angela Plumley.  
 For more information call 405-761-3376 or 405-985-6613.

**Graduation Dance for Marcella Solis Panana**  
 Saturday, May 6, 2023 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Dinner at 5 p.m. with dance to follow.  
 Head Staff: MC Burl Buffalomeat, HS Emmett Redbird, HMD Kelly Loneman, HLD Edwina Whiteman, HLBD Toma Hawk, HLGD AbbyGail Littleman, AD Moses Starr Jr., Honored Chief Jason Goodblanket, Honored Veteran Ruben Watan and Host Red Moon Gourd Clan.

**Comanche Little Ponies 53rd annual Celebration**  
 May 12-13, 2023 at the Comanche County Fairgrounds in Lawton, Okla. Free and open to the public. Please bring own chairs. All princesses, singers, dancers, clubs and organizations are cordially invited to attend. A special invitation to all mothers. Friday gourd dancing all day. Saturday gourd dance and contests in all divisions, Grand Entry at 6 p.m. on Saturday May 13.  
 Arts and craft vendors contact Margaret Wallace at margwall1960@gmail.com. For general powwow information contact Lowell Nibbs at lowellnibbs@yahoo.com.

**Memorial Dance for Marine Cpl. David 'Beano' Fanman III**  
 May 13, 2023 at the Canton Emergency Response Center in Canton, Okla. Gourd dance 2 p.m., dinner 5 p.m. with gourd dance following at 6 p.m.  
 Head Staff: MC Wilbur Bullcoming, HS Roger Davis, HMD Kingston Pipestem, HLD Katelynn Pipestem, HB Kota Bear Littleman (8), HG Cayden Little Coyote (15), AD Cody Zimmer, Honored Veterans John Redbird, U.S.M.C. and Gerald Panana, U.S. Army, Honored Elders Merle BigMedicine Lopez and Marie Whiteman with Honored Guest Veterans William 'Billy' Brown, U.S.M.C. and Hugo Armando Gonzales Jr., U.S.M.C.  
 For more information contact Sarah Fanman at 480-431-5472.

**Graduation Dance for Baleigh Standingwater and Aiden Williams**  
 May 13, 2023 at the Hammon Emergency Response Center in Hammon, Okla. Supper at 4 p.m., with dance to follow.  
 Headstaff: MC Thurman Starr, HS Bad Company, HM George Levi, HL Edwina Whiteman, HB Kendrick Kauley, HG Morning Sky Whiteman, Honored Elder Arleen Kauley, Honored Veteran Michael Emhoolah, AD Michael orange and Ian Williams.  
 Raleigh is graduating from Hammon High School, class of 2023. She has been accepted and will be attending WTA-MU in Canyon, Texas in the Fall 2023 to pursue her nursing degree. For more information call 580-210-9344 or 806-346-7315.

**Chiefs Whitehawk & Otterby Memorial Dance**  
 May 20, 2023 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. Gourd dance at 2 p.m., supper at 5 p.m.  
 Head Staff: MC Cody Zimmer, AD Adeas Old Crow, HM Chris YellowEagle HL Angie Littleman, HLB Isen Hartico, HLG Georgia Tapia, HGD Gerald Panana, Honored Veteran Darrell Flyingman, Honored Elders Merle Big Medicine & Margie Pewo, Host Drum Goodblanket Drummer, Host Hammon War Mother's Club.  
 Painting and smudge by Max Watan, limited vendors, \$35 craft booth / \$50 food booth.  
 For more information call 405-706-2385 or 702-684-1454.

# Veteran Spotlight: Samuel Buck Blackowl

Submitted by Jerry Levi Jr., Office of Veteran Affairs



Samuel Buck Blackowl was born July 23, 1960, in El Reno, Okla. to Clarence L. "Scorp" Blackowl and Sidonia Ann (Osage) Blackowl. Sam's paternal grandparents are the late Cheyenne Chief John Blackowl and wife Susie Blackowl from Concho, Okla. His maternal grandparents are the late Don Osage and wife Katie (Hamilton) Osage from Longdale, Okla.

Blackowl was raised around the Concho area until the family moved into El Reno at the age of 8. Sammy Buck, as he is known, attended and graduated from El Reno High School in 1978 and worked in various jobs in the El Reno area until he enlisted in the United States Navy March 1981.

Blackowl's duty rating was that of an Ocean Systems Technician Analyst (OTA), having attended "A" school at Fleet Anti-Sub Warfare Training School, Norfolk VA. Some of his duty stations over his 12 years in the Navy included

stints in California, Newfoundland Canada, Wales United Kingdom, Sigonella Sicily and Damneck Virginia.

OTA1 Blackowl was honorably discharged from the Navy as an E-6/Petty Officer First Class in March 1993. While enlisted he received various medals, awards and ribbons which included, Good Conduct Medal(s), the Navy Achievement Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation(s), Navy and Marine Corps Overseas Service Ribbon(s).

Blackowl enjoyed traveling and visiting the many sites of interest while assigned to various duty stations around the world and also enjoyed getting to know and getting along with the locals and foreign nationals and their unique cultures. He made many friends while in the Navy and still enjoys visiting with and just getting in touch and reminiscing with his old Navy buddies.

Upon his discharge, Blackowl returned home to El Reno to his family and friends and then worked various jobs before choosing to further his educational opportunities. He attended and graduated Summa Cum Laude from Redlands Community College in 1999 with an Associate of Science degree in Computer Science. Sam then attended and graduated from the University of Oklahoma in 2001 with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Management Information Systems (MIS) at the Price College of Business.

Blackowl has worked at various places before finally being employed at Lucky Star Casino in 2004. While at Lucky Star he has worked as a floor cashier, slot technician, slot technician supervisor, slot technician manager, compliance officer and compliance manager. He left the casino briefly in 2015 and was later hired at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Gaming Commission as compliance manager in 2015 and then as internal auditor. He returned to Lucky Star Casino in 2018 and has since been employed to present as the compliance director.

Blackowl resides in El Reno and spends his time off with his fiancé Jewel Black and likes to take the grandkids to various places and watch them participate in their sporting events. Family members outside the home are son, Zachary Blackowl of El Reno, daughter Connor Bushyhead of York, Penn., daughter Adonshia Smith and 5 grandkids of Oklahoma City and daughter Anna Whitestar, also of Oklahoma City.

Blackowl would like to recognize the support and love he gets from all his family members, especially from his beautiful and wonderful mother Sidonia, who turned 93 years old April 2, 2023.

We honor and remember his service to his country ... thank you.



**MUSTER IN PLACE**

**A Monthly Newsletter for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Veteran**

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**OVA Outreach**

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

→ **Tuesday April 25th Woodward ERC 11-230p**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED!**

Also, if you'd like a caseworker or a member of our OVA Staff to make a home visit we'd love to come See you! Contact the number below to make appt!

---

**VA Monthly Disability Rates 2023**

• 10%	\$165.92	
• 20%	\$327.99	
• 30%	\$508.05	w/spouse \$568.08
• 40%	\$731.86	\$811.86
• 50%	\$1,041.82	\$1,141.82
• 60%	\$1,319.65	\$1,440.65
• 70%	\$1,663.06	\$1,804.06
• 80%	\$1,933.15	\$2,094.15
• 90%	\$2,172.39	\$2,353.39
• 100%	\$3,621.95	\$3,823.89

Veterans entitled to compensation who have a disability rated at 30% or more are entitled to additional compensation for dependents such as children and parents. Check with OVA or the va.gov website.

**There are no costs or hidden fees to file a claim for benefits.**

Stop by or call the OVA office to see about your service connected disability compensation.

**Office of Veterans Affairs**  
 Located in the Concho ERC  
 \*200 Wolf Robe Circle\*Concho OK 73022\*  
 \*405-422-7724\*  
 veteranservices@cheyenneandrapaho-nsn.gov

*"Duty, honor, country: Those three hallowed words reverently dictate what you ought to be, what you can be, what you will be..."* -Douglas MacArthur

**VA Benefits and Healthcare News**

Veterans can now refill their prescriptions (Rx) using the VA Health and Benefits mobile app. Existing users will need to download the latest version of the app to gain access to new features. If you don't see the Prescriptions feature in the "Health Care" tab after you download the latest version, completely quit the app and open it again.

The Health and Benefits mobile app is VA's official, all-in-one, on-the-go, easy-to-use, accessible, on-demand app enabling Veterans to manage both their VA health care and benefits services on their phone

Adding Rx refill makes the VA Health and Benefits mobile app more useful and multi-functional for the over 1 million Veterans who have downloaded and are using the mobile app, plus those who will do so.

**VA**

Look for the above app logo to download to your phone or mobile device.

**Save the Date!**

Reminder that OVA will be having a **FACT Act Disability event on July 14th at Concho**

All Day Event  
Place of Event TBD

**OVA ARPA Fund News**

If you are changing address, a W-9 with a Correct Address needs to be submitted to the OVA Office.



**Vietnam Era Zippo Lighters**

Beginning January 17, Veterans in acute suicidal crisis will be able to go to any VA or non-VA health care facility for emergency health care at no cost – including inpatient or crisis residential care for up to 30 days and outpatient care for up to 90 days. Veterans do not need to be enrolled in the VA system to use this benefit.

This expansion of care will help prevent Veteran suicide by guaranteeing no cost, world-class care to Veterans in times of crisis. It will also increase access to acute suicide care for up to 9 million Veterans who are not currently enrolled in VA.

**Veterans Crisis Line**  
 DIAL 988 then PRESS 9

## OBITUARIES

### Alan Ray Morton

Alan Ray Morton was born June 15, 1990 to Gary Morton Sr. and Linda McKenzie in Lawton, Okla. Alan passed away on April 4, 2023 at home in Anadarko, Okla., at the age of 32.

Alan grew up in Okmulgee, Anadarko and El Reno Okla. He attended El Reno High School. Alan enjoyed fishing, building things, hanging out with all the kids, cooking and taking care of his grandmother Ella. He also enjoyed working on cars, listening to music, traveling and spending time with his best friends/brothers, Gary Jr. and Brandon. Alan had a kind, gentle, friendly, loving spirit and was always helping in any way he could. He will be missed tremendously by his family and friends.

He is survived by his three daughters, Sophia, Emily, and Mavis Morton of Watonga, Okla.,

father Gary Morton Sr., and wife Starrie of Concho, Okla., and brothers, Dylan Morton and Darren Morton, his mother Linda McKenzie of Tulsa Okla., brother Gary Morton Jr., and his wife Jennie, their children Christopher, Maeliee and Olivia, of El Reno, sister Patricia Hogshooter and her husband Yardeka, their children Yardeka Jr., Micah, Jordan, Adrian and Jayden of Muskogee, Okla. Uncles, Delbert Morton of Anadarko, Donnie Morton of Yukon, Okla., aunt Lynda Morton and her husband Joseph Limon of Anadarko. Cousin Tyler Limon of Chickasha, cousin Lyndon Limon of Anadarko, grandmother Ella Mae Morton, of the home in Anadarko, as well as numerous nieces, nephews, other relatives and friends.

Alan is preceded in death by five of his paternal grand-



mothers and four paternal grandfathers as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins.

A traditional all-night wake service was held April 9 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held April 10, at the same venue, officiated by Rev. Waylon Upchego, followed by an interment at the Morton Family Cemetery in Geary, Okla., under the direction of Turner Funeral Home.

### Bea Jones Lammers

Bea Jones Lammers was born May 14, 1938. She passed on March 26, 2023 of pulmonary conditions.

Bea was raised in Pipestone, Minn. and along with her grandparents William and Beatrice Burns, spent many a summer performing as Minnehaha in the Hiawatha pageant. She went on to Macalister in Minneapolis to earn her registered nursing degree. She then took her first job in Hawaii where she would meet Len, her devoted husband of 61 years. Bea later earned a mas-

ter's degree in counseling and had a successful and rewarding career. She was one of the most treasured wives, mothers and friends that ever graced the earth. She always had a smile and a shoulder available and was a truly gracious lady. Her sense of humor healed many a bruised heart through the years and she will be missed by all those lucky enough to have known her.

She is survived by her daughter Laura Bea Lammers, her brother Bill Burns, her granddaughter Julia Beatrice Lammers and her



daughter-in-law Naoko Lammers.

She was preceded in death by her son Steven and her husband Len.

### Lucy Melvina Snyder

Lucy Melvina Snyder died March 30, 2023, at Integris Canadian Valley Hospital in Yukon, Okla. She was born Sept. 6, 1945, in Elk City, Okla.

A citizen of the Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes, she was a dressmaker specializing in bead work and traditional tribal clothing. She was a Veteran serving in the U. S. Air Force during the Vietnam War.

She is survived by her daughter Patricia Lime and husband, Darwin, brother Wilbur Goodblanket, sisters, Thelma Kay Kauahquo, Ida Elaine Hoffman and Sheila Arlene Chapman, grandchildren, Christian Nicholas Synder and wife, Sunsaine, Tresa Alexandra Warren and husband, Dawson, Katrina Lucia Snyder-Her-

andez, and Kaden Neal, and great-grandchildren, Lucious Eckiwaduh, Major Snyder and Maclin Snyder.

Her paternal grandparents, Albert Archie Hoffman and Vinnie Ida Whiteagle Hoffman, maternal grandparents, Tyler Youngbull and Dora Flyingman Youngbull Torres, parents, Fred Buster Hoffman and Kathryn Youngbull Hoffman, siblings, Archie Doyle Hoffman Sr., Frederick Clayton Hoffman, John Tyler Hoffman, and Mary Patricia Hoffman Rhoads and a nephew and niece, Archie Doyle Hoffman Jr. and Jewel Michelle Hoffman, preceded her in death.

An all-night wake service was held April 2 at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho,



Okla. Funeral services, with military honors, was held on April 3 also at the same venue, with Rev. Gerald Panana officiating. Fulfilling Lucy's wishes, after cremation she will be buried at the Mennonite Cemetery in Hammon, Okla. under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

### Wanda Rose White

Wanda Rose White, 66, of Oklahoma City, died on March 12, 2023, in Oklahoma City. She was born Nov. 12, 1956.

Wanda was a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

Wake services were held March 14 at the

Otoe-Missouria Cultural building in Red Rock, Okla.

Funeral services were held March 15, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Cemetery under the direction of Strode Funeral Home.



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