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# Hidden in Plain Site: Tribal Gaming Facilities Join Efforts to Combat Human Trafficking




Latoya Lonelodge
*Senior Reporter*

Human trafficking affects millions across the world and continues to grow as one of the world's most hidden crimes. It is undeniable it is a crime happening in plain sight. Tribal gaming facilities are taking the initiatives to join efforts in combating human trafficking and prevent the crime from happening on tribal land.

By implementing awareness and education on human trafficking, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) has made it part of their mission to provide resources and training on this trending topic.

According to data gathered by NIGC, it is estimated that 24.9 million people are currently trafficked, generating billions of dollars in illegal profits in a multi-billion-dollar industry. It has grown to be the third largest criminal enterprise globally.

Human trafficking is defined as involving the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labor or commercial sex act.

Human trafficking can happen in any community and while there are no particular attributes when it comes to gender, age or race, most victims targeted can be considered highly vulnerable. Historically, American Indians have come to be the most vulnerable due to historical trauma as Indigenous peoples have been exploited for centuries since colonial times.

While efforts to bring awareness to human trafficking continue, more information and resources are coming to light with January 11 officially marking National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, or otherwise known as the Blue Campaign.

Joining the awareness campaign efforts on Jan. 11, NIGC held a livestream training webinar with a special emphasis on "Combating Human Trafficking in the Tribal Gaming Industry: A Call to Action." Guest speakers for the webinar included David Vialpando, executive director of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi, who shared how their tribe has used education and training with undercover operations and Juan Sanchez, investigator for Pechanga Gaming Commission, who also shared his experience with a recent human trafficking incident that occurred at their casino.

In assessing the scope of human trafficking, particularly in tribal gaming, NIGC Vice Chair Jeannie Hovland said human trafficking can happen anywhere and at any time, all communities and establishments are susceptible to human trafficking.

"Thanks to the tribal gaming industry, many tribal communities have been able to use their gaming revenues to either supplement, create and sustain important programs to combat human trafficking," Hovland said.

Hovland said many tribes use gaming revenues to support law enforcement, judiciary programs, substance use services, victim and survivor service programs for individuals and their families and many other support services needed to help end human trafficking.

**HUMAN TRAFFICKING** / *pg. 9*

# Public hearing opens discussions on upcoming second regular session of the 10th Legislature

(CONCHO, OK) On Jan. 25, a public hearing was held in Concho, Okla., to discuss agenda items up for vote at the second regular session of the 10th Legislature to be held Feb.10, 2024.

At 10:13 a.m., roll call began with A1 Diane Willis, A2 Kendricks Sleeper, A3 Travis Ruiz, C1 Bruce Whiteman, C2 George Woods and C3 Thomas Trout present. Not present, A4 Rector Candy and C4 Byron Byrd.

After approving minutes from the Jan. 11 special session, item one on the agenda, public discussion began on the six remaining agenda items.

A tribal resolution approving the submission of the FY 2024 Coordinated Tribal Assistance Solicitation (CTAS): Purpose Area 3: Tribal Justice Systems Program (BIA) Grant to the US Department of Justice.

Introduced by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Judicial Branch, Phaliesha Kodaseet said the grant will be to enhance and strengthen the probation office as there is only one probation officer and will be used to gain another counselor for the Healing to Wellness program.

"With our probation officer we can enhance our program so if she is needing more training or if the court allows us to go in more depth, then she can find resources for that offender or client that she gains from the courts," Kodaseet said. "For Healing to Wellness, we are needing another counselor, a male counselor, so he can act whenever she's not there or assist whenever she needs to switch out for a male counselor."

**PUBLIC HEARING-LEGISLATIVE** / *pg. 4*

# Bison restoration efforts in three tribal communities receive $1.5M boost

Three tribal communities will receive a total of $1.5 million aimed at expanding and sustaining their bison restoration efforts through the Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs, per an announcement released earlier this week.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma will double the area of pasture to make room for growing their herd past an existing 650 bison. The project will increase herd size, improve ecosystem health, and explore a market for bison products resulting in ecological restoration, cultural preservation, and economic development in Northwest Oklahoma.

The Three Affiliated Tribes of the Fort Berthold Reservation in North Dakota will leverage the funds to build a 10,000-acre pasture on tribal lands to support expanding their 250-strong herd. The expansion will allow for an eventual capacity of 4,000 bison.

The Shoshone-Bannock Tribes of the Fort Hall Reservation in Idaho plans to grow its herd from 465 to roughly 1,100 by purchasing additional buffalo and developing their bison-raising operations with more staff and economic development.

"Bison are vitally important culturally, economically,

**BUFFALO** / *pg. 9*

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## *Low voter participation causes Cheyenne and Arapaho constitutional amendments to fail*

*By Tristan Loveless*
*NonDoc Media*

Three proposed constitutional amendments failed Thursday after only 11.3 percent of Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes voters mailed back ballots for the proposals, which would have broadened the candidate base for executive and legislative offices.

Because the tribes' proposed constitutional amendments require at least 30 percent voter participation to be counted in a special election, the 637 ballots submitted by Thursday's deadline "are not to be considered," according to the official certification signed by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Election Commission.

"In order for the amendments to pass, 30 percent of the total registered voters would need to participate in the special election," read a statement provided by Rosemary Stephens, the tribes' public information director and editor of the Tribal Tribune. "Out of the 5,654 ballots mailed out to eligible registered voters, only 637 ballots were returned. A voter participation of 11.27 percent."

The three proposed amendments would have:

- Allowed tribal citizens to seek the offices of governor and lieutenant governor regardless of where they live, requiring only that they move within tribal boundaries after winning election;
- Allowed tribal citizens to seek legislative offic-

**ELECTION** / *pg. 7*

# ‘Keep Quiet’ filmmakers begin filming new movie in Cheyenne and Arapaho Country

Rosemary Stephens,
*Editor-in-Chief*

(CONCHO, OK) Keeping quiet about a film crew filming at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes headquarters in Concho, Okla., was the goal … and that goal was almost successful. Well almost.

Within an hour of actors Lou Diamond Phillips and Tommy Schulz being spotted in Concho, Social Media came alive with cell phone pictures and videos. The film … “Keep Quiet,” being filmed was no longer quiet.

Scenes for the upcoming movie, ‘Keep Quiet,’ were filmed in and around Concho on Jan. 23, including with the bison herd and in/around the unique murals painted by Steven Grounds.

“All of this is a first for our tribe and I hope to see future endeavors such as this,” Christine Morton, tribal planner for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Planning & Development Program, said.

“Keep Quiet” is a story about a Native police officer, Teddy Littlechild (played by Lou Diamond Phillips) with the Thunderstone Tribal Police Department, who has dedicated his life to protecting the reserve he was born and raised on. Tormented by a mysterious shame that has isolated him from his people, he is tasked with teaching his naïve new partner Sandra Gursky (played by Dana Namerode) how policing is different on the reservation.

Meanwhile, recently released from prison and now on the run for a series of brutal gangland murders, Richie Blacklance returns to the reservation to lay low, settle old feuds and to take his 12-year-old nephew, Albert, under his wing. Both the Littlechild and his new trainee must find this ruthless fugitive, whose return to their rural Indigenous reservation has exposed its darkest secrets and could ignite a violent gang war.

The story is written by Zach Montague, a police officer from Canada, who wrote the fictional story based on some of his actual experiences. The movie is produced by Ran Namrode, Angelica Adzic, Cole Payne, and Executive Producer Marcus RedThunder; and directed by Vincent Grashaw.

“I didn’t know much about Concho when I first reached out to Christine. I was just looking at the different tribes that surround Oklahoma City. When I reached out to Christine I had a really great conversation with her and she told me about the bison herd,” Payne, CEO Traverse Media, and one of the producers of ‘Keep Quiet,’ said. “I was like ‘guys we have to at least look at this bison herd,’ so we drove up there and saw the bison herd, we saw the reservation and then those murals on the walls we were like we have to film up here. Right away I told Christine we wanted to film up at Concho. Vincent Grashaw, the director, wrote a new scene specifically for the bison herd and we got to meet Kiefer, who was very curious.”

Payne said the crew had a great experience and felt the scenes filmed in Concho will add a lot to the film.

“Christine set up a blessing ceremony and that was really important for Lou. From the very beginning he said any of the tribes we are going to be working with he wanted to talk to them in advance and meet them in advance. The people were really fantastic. Honestly it was such a great experience,” Payne said.

Along with actors Lou Diamond Phillips and Tommy Schulz, other actors include Nick Stahl (*Sin City*, *Terminator 3*, *Rise of the Machines*), Elisha Pratt (*Killers of the Flower Moon*, *True Detective*), Lane Factor (*Reservation Dogs*, *The Fablemans*, Dana Namerode (*The A-Frame*, *What Josiah Saw*), and others.

“We are super lucky to have the local Native actors we have cast. Like Lane, Tommy Schulz, Elisha Pratt and several others. I think they saw the potential in the screenplay as well,” Payne said

The movie will be filmed entirely in Oklahoma and projected to be completed in a few months. From there the film will be submitted to film festivals, with their sights on submitting to the Sundance Film Festival next fall.

***Becoming ‘Certified Film Friendly’***

Becoming a filming location film directors and producers utilize for filming isn’t just a random point of their fingers Christine Morton, tribal planner, and Sam Riffel, project manager soon found out when they attended an infrastructure workshop in September 2022. One of the presenters at the workshop were representatives from the Oklahoma Film & Music office who said Oklahoma had an influx in the field of film production within the past few years and was expected to continue to increase.

“We learned there are several requirements to meet in order to be considered for future film production and to become “Certified Film Friendly.” Although all this information was shared, not enough interest was generated at that time, but we did set up a presentation with the Oklahoma Film & Music Office here in Concho,” Morton stated.

Fast forward to December 2023 Morton received a phone call from Payne requesting information about filming in different areas of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal headquarters for a film. Payne had been referred to her from her contacts with Oklahoma Film & Music Office.

“We had a Zoom meeting with Cole Payne wherein the synopsis of the movie was presented; he shared with us photos of scenes they were looking for, the script of the movie and on Jan. 4 he (Payne) along with Vincent Grashaw, director, and three other crew members came to visit. Sam (Riffel) and I provided a tour of the Concho Campus. They were interested in the old school, the murals, the dilapidated housing, and prior arrangements were made with Randy Hawk for a buffalo tour. Kiefer the buffalo was on hand, he made quite an impression and we provided the story of Kiefer and how he came to be so tame,” Morton stated.

What’s next? Morton and Riffel said they will continue to get the tribes certified as “Film Friendly,” for future film/movie productions.

“The Tribes can identify, showcase and register various locations of our tribal land for future tv/film production. Example: buffalo herd, Ranch, open range, etc. Other things to think about:

Sound Stage: There are only 4 in Oklahoma. The former Cox Convention Center in OKC is now a Sound Stage,” Morton stated.



***Actor Lou Diamond Phillips meets Kiefer the Buffalo during filming of ‘Keep Quiet.’ (Photo / Lou Diamond Phillips)***



***Pictured l-r: Planning & Development Project Manager Theresa Faris, Executive Producer Marcus Red Thunder, actor Lou Diamond Phillips, Tribal Planner Christine Morton, Planning & Development Project Manager Samuel Riffel, actor Tommy Schultz, and Producer Cole Payne.***



***Blessing Ceremony given by the Tribal Historian. Pictured l-r: Tribal Historian Cheyenne Chief Gordon Yellowman, Executive Producer Marcus Red Thunder, actor Lou Diamond Phillips, Director Vincent Grashaw, and Producer Cole Payne.***




The Cheyenne and Arapaho Community Development Corporation (CACDC) Small Business Credit Initiative (SSBCI) application was approved by the U.S. Treasury in the amount of $2.5 million. The funds are part of the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to provide access to capital for Native American entrepreneurs and small business startups. The tribes’ SSBCI program will include access to competitive rate interest business loans.

CACDC should begin making its first loans within 90 days. An open house will be held 5:30 p.m. Feb. 8 at the CACDC office located at 107 S. Rock Island in El Reno, Okla.

To learn more about the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ SSBCI program, please contact the CACDC CEO Shane Jett at shane.jett@cheyenneandarapahocdc.org or CACDC’s Loan Officer Jordan Adams at jordan.adams@cheyenneandarapahocdc.org.




# New podcast delves into MMIW cases

Rosemary Stephens, *Editor-in-Chief*

Red Road Echoes podcast's first episode in January opened with the case of Nevaeh Kingbird, Ojibwe, a 15 year old girl from Bemidji, Minnesota, who went missing on October 22, 2021. Her case is still open and unsolved.

Their second episode, 'Secrets in the Lake,' revolved around Olivia Lone Bear, who went missing on Oct. 4, 2017 from New Town, North Dakota. Her body was found nine months later on July 31, 2018, submerged beneath Lake Sakakawea. She was buckled into the passenger seat of the pickup she was last seen driving. Her case is still open and unsolved.

The new podcast was created by Annette Nowlin and her brother Josh to bring awareness to the thousands of unsolved cases of missing and/or murdered Indigenous girls and women through the country.

"I have always been a huge true crime fan, but I told my husband I've noticed a serious lack of coverage for Indigenous people. I'm not sure why our people don't get the coverage other people get, and it's sad. So, my husband told me, 'You should do it then. Why don't you be the voice for your people?' I am here today to do just that," Nowlin stated in her opening podcast. "Join me in sharing a light and giving a voice to these victims."

Listening and watching Red Road Echoes podcasts sent a chill through this viewer as the thoughts of what if this happened to my daughter, my mother, my sister, my auntie?

Missing and Murdered Indigenous women (MMIW) has grown into a nationwide epidemic, sparking laws and legislation to be enacted specifically addressing missing and murdered Indigenous people (MMIP).

According to statistics provided by the National Crime Information Center, in 2020, there were 5,295 reports of missing Indigenous women and girls. However, due to a lack of information gathering, these statistics sometimes represent a significant undercount of actual missing cases for Indigenous people. In August 2023 the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigations estimated there were 500 cases of missing or murdered Indigenous people in Oklahoma alone.

Congress has passed a few acts in recent years that offer more targeted support in addressing the MMIW crisis. Savanna's Act was passed in 2020 and aims to improve coordination between law enforcement agencies in cases of missing or murdered indigenous persons. The act was named after 22-year-old Savanna Lafontaine-Greywind, a member of the Spirit Lake Nation, who was murdered while eight months pregnant. In 2021, the Not Invisible Act was passed, mandating the formation of a commission to investigate ways to reduce violent crimes against American Indians and Alaska Natives. Also in 2021, Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland announced the formation of a Missing and Murdered Unit within the BIA that will help lead and coordinate federal investigations of MMIP cases.

Individual states have also passed MMIW legislation. In Oklahoma Ida's Law was enacted in November 2021. The law was named after Cheyenne and Arapaho citizen Ida Beard who went missing in 2015. Beard, 29 at the time of her disappearance, lived with her mother in El Reno, Okla. On June 30, 2015, Beard told her mother she was going to go visit some friends and she never returned. Her case remains open and has not been solved.

Ida's Law is intended to improve coordination between law enforcement entities working on cases involving missing or murdered Indigenous people in Oklahoma, while also assigning a point person to work closely with the family members of victims.

Also in Oklahoma, the Kasey Alert system went into effect Nov. 1, 2023, an alert system for missing adults in Oklahoma between the ages of 18-59. It is named after Cherokee citizen Kasey Russell, who went missing at the age of 29 in McAlester, Okla., in 2016. It took six years for his family to learn anything about his disappearance and death.



***Annette Nowlin is the host of Red Road Echoes, a new podcast created by Annette and her brother Josh to bring awareness to the missing and murdered Indigenous women's cases across the U.S.***

MMIW and MMIP task forces have formed throughout the country to assist families in searching for their missing loved ones, navigate a complicated law enforcement system and supporting the family members throughout the pain wrenching process of looking for answers.

In an effort to bring awareness to missing and murdered Indigenous people epidemic, May 5 has been designated as MMIP Awareness Day. In a statement regarding MMIP Awareness Day, U.S. Attorney General Merrick Garland wrote, "The Justice Department is marshalling the full strength of its resources to confront the crisis of Missing or Murdered Indigenous Persons, which has devastated the lives of victims, their families, and entire Tribal communities. Addressing this crisis requires a whole-of-government approach, and we are grateful for the partnership of Tribal and other law enforcement agencies across the nation that are working alongside the Justice Department to help reduce crime and support victims in American Indian and Alaska Native communities."

With so many open and unsolved cases, the podcast Red Road Echoes will serve as another tool to bring these cases back into the light and hopefully bring new tips for law enforcement and the families to pursue to bring their loved ones home.

To watch Red Road Echoes podcast on YouTube, visit www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gq8qHJuqrZ0.

# Making a Plan: Addressing MMIP in Communities

*By LaRenda Morgan*

For generations the Cheyenne Arapaho people have experienced family members who have gone missing or murdered. The cases of tribal citizens nationwide have been a silent epidemic and families have suffered alone. In 2024, there are now many resources due to advocacy and legislative changes. Ida's Law was a historic piece of legislation for Oklahoma and Indian Country. It gave the cases of missing and murdered indigenous people visibility. There is now an Office of Liaison for MMIP at the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) to investigate these cases. South Dakota also modeled MMIP legislation after Ida's Law and the State of Colorado also recently established an Office of Liaison for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Relatives to address cases.

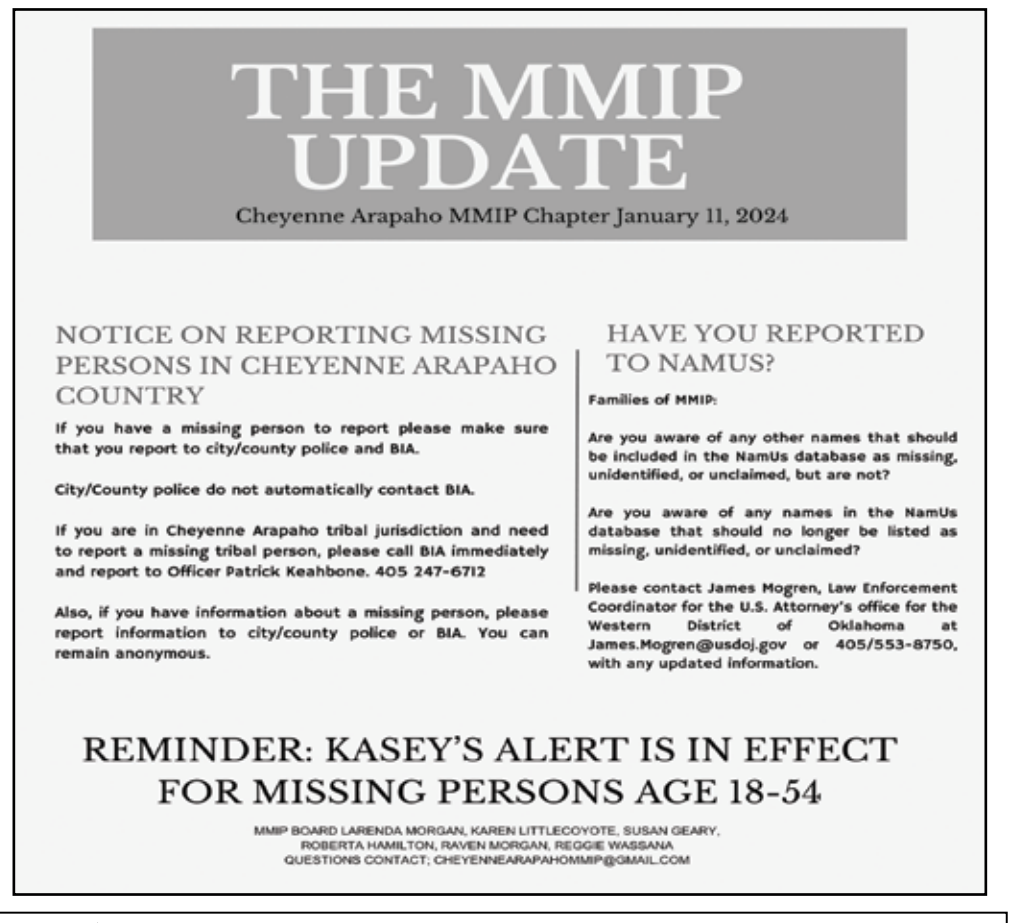
In 2023, Kasey's Alert, named after Cherokee citizen Kasey Russell, was passed in Oklahoma to create an alert system for missing and at-risk persons. It will notify the public of missing persons ages 18-59 similar to the Amber and Silver Alert systems.

The OSBI, Bureau of Indian Affairs' Dept. of Interior (DOI) and the U.S Attorney's Office for the Western District of Oklahoma (DOJ) now have Missing and Murdered Units to assist tribal citizens with their cases.

There are some important details you should know about reporting a missing or murdered case. While all these entities can work together with local law enforcement, reporting your case to one does not automatically report to all. Here are some tips to help you make a plan to report, address and bring awareness to your loved ones' case.

For example, if your loved one goes missing there

**MMIP /** *pg. 6*



THE MMIP UPDATE

Cheyenne Arapaho MMIP Chapter January 11, 2024

NOTICE ON REPORTING MISSING PERSONS IN CHEYENNE ARAPAHO COUNTRY

If you have a missing person to report please make sure that you report to city/county police and BIA.

City/County police do not automatically contact BIA.

If you are in Cheyenne Arapaho tribal jurisdiction and need to report a missing tribal person, please call BIA immediately and report to Officer Patrick Keahbone. 405 247-6712

Also, if you have information about a missing person, please report information to city/county police or BIA. You can remain anonymous.

HAVE YOU REPORTED TO NAMUS?

Families of MMIP:

Are you aware of any other names that should be included in the NamUs database as missing, unidentified, or unclaimed, but are not?

Are you aware of any names in the NamUs database that should no longer be listed as missing, unidentified, or unclaimed?

Please contact James Mogren, Law Enforcement Coordinator for the U.S. Attorney's office for the Western District of Oklahoma at James.Mogren@usdoj.gov or 405/553-8750, with any updated information.

REMINDER: KASEY'S ALERT IS IN EFFECT FOR MISSING PERSONS AGE 18-54

MMIP BOARD LARENDA MORGAN, KAREN LITTLECOYOTE, SUSAN GEARY, ROBERTA HAMILTON, RAVEN MORGAN, REGGIE WASSANA
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# PUBLIC HEARING-LEGISLATIVE

*continued from pg. 1*




Deputy Attorney General Antonio Church said with regard to prosecution, there are currently 50 to 75 criminal defendants every year that are prosecuted.

"When we're working towards services or alternative methods of correcting these behaviors, that's where probation officers and counselors become very essential and currently, I'm sure our probation officer is at 25 but that number increases or decreases depending on the year and the number of defendants that we're having especially as we're expanding our enrollment," Church said.

The grant will award approximately up to $900,000 and will be performed for a duration of 60 months.

Next discussion was on a resolution to approve the Election Commission's amended legal consultation service agreement.

As a year-to-year renewal contract for the legal representation for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Election Commission. No one was present from the Election Commission to introduce the item for discussion.

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Lt. Gov. Hershel Gorham questioned the mileage that was included in the contract pointing out there was no line item for mileage in the Election Commission budget.

"If you look at the election commission budget, I don't see a line item for mileage so if he's allowed, where's it going to come from? Is it going to bill as part of his billable rate or come from the actual line item, which does not exist," Lt. Gov. Gorham said.

Sleeper said for the next working session they would like to discuss the matter with the Election Commission to determine more details.

Next up was a resolution to appropriate funds for a tribal enrollment audit.

The resolution comes after the 2021 Constitutional Amendment passed in October 2021 regarding Article IV Membership in the Constitution, which states in Section 6, "Tribal Enrollment Auditing: The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes shall perform a tribal enrollment audit employing an outside agency in order to establish a new, accurate, base roll to be conducted within one year."

According to the resolution, the adoption of the Constitutional amendment is in the best interests of the tribes and the one-year window to perform an audit has expired.

Executive Director of Enrollment, Jerrie Oglesby said there are two proposals, one by Penn Ridge and the other by Creating Stronger Nations.

"Penn Ridge is going to be a little more expensive with their research into our files … Creating Stronger Nations are the ones that proposed a 12-week plan to go over our files as opposed to Penn Ridge who is going to take 15 months to conduct audit on our files and it's going to cost $338,500.00," Oglesby said.

Oglesby said Penn Ridge was highly recommended by the BIA.

"There is an $88,000 difference between the two but there's a lot of work involved in one of them as opposed to the other, one is going to put a little more work into it taking 15 months to perform the audit and the other is less costly which is Creating Stronger Nations," Oglesby said.

During the discussion, there was conflicting views on the membership ordinance that is being followed to allow for disenrollment or individuals that aren't eligible for enrollment. Sleeper halted the discussion to be continued in the next working session and discussed at the next public hearing.

The resolution to adopt the Cheyenne and Arapaho Defamation Act was written and introduced by Honia Jackson, associate general counsel within the Office of Tribal Attorney. She said Oklahoma already has a Defamation Act with most states having it in their common law. The issue is a lot of the laws, especially common laws are not accessible to tribal citizens.

"If a tribal citizen were to look up case law it's very hard for them to do so … the issue with the tribe is even though we do have case law, it's not as easily accessible because for instance if you go to Westlaw, it's outdated and hasn't been updated in years. It's harder for tribal citizens to get their hands on them as it pertains to Cheyenne Arapaho cases, so it makes it easier when we have a code that breaks down all the laws," Jackson said.

She mentioned they are trying to update all the codes and get them into one place such as the website, not just the Defamation Act but they are wanting guardianship codes and civil procedures on there as well for tribal citizens to access.

"It just makes it easier for tribal citizens to read and understand. There are no elements that are included that are different than any other Defamation Act, and I know there was concerns about the government surpassing the tribal citizens, I understand it, but by law the government, state, tribal, federal they're not allowed to sue for defamation," Jackson said.

She said that while governments themselves, (state, federal, or tribal) cannot sue, if it's an individual, such as a legislator, they can't have the legislative branch sue but they can sue as an individual. But because they are a public official, it will be much harder for them to actually prove defamation. They would have to prove actual malice or that a statement was knowingly or recklessly made.

"Regardless if we had a Defamation Act or not, we can already go ahead and sue for defamation we would just use the state law and not tribal law, they just want to have everything in one spot for citizens to access."

Jackson confirmed the act is for individual tribal citizens and the goal is to get acts written down for tribal citizens to access for themselves.

"For instance, one of the things that are upcoming is the guardianship code so that way they would know the process and then hopefully once we get most of these drafted we're trying to get them on the website so that people can have them, the tribal citizens can have them for when they're trying to get a guardianship or they're trying to pursue litigation, but it's basically about individual tribal citizens," Jackson said.

According to Cornell Law School Legal Information Institute, defamation is a statement that injures a third party's reputation. The tort of defamation includes both libel (written statements) and slander (spoken statements). State common law and statutory law governs defamation actions, and each state varies in their standards for defamation and potential damages. Defamation is a tricky area of law as the lines between stating an opinion versus a fact can be vague, and defamation tests the limits of the first amendment freedoms of speech and press.

To prove defamation, a plaintiff must show four things: 1) a false statement purporting to be fact; 2) publication or communication of that statement to a third person; 3) fault amounting to at least negligence; and 4) damages, or some harm caused to the reputation of the person or entity who is the subject of the statement.

Next item discussed was a resolution to amend the Codification Act.

According to the resolution, the Seventh Legislature had passed resolution 7L-RS-2019-04-003 which established an organized Law and Order Code, organized in a logical manner and allows for a system of codification.

The amendment to the Codification Act is to update and account for recent controlling documents of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

In attempting to amend the codification act, Jackson said a few of the acts were not in the original codification act.

"There's other ones in which have been drafted but the names are different, for instance, the zoning one, there's a zoning ordinance that is being drafted in this point and time, but the title is going to be a little different than what it was originally and then there are some that have already been drafted but we just didn't include it initially," Jackson said.

Gorham said he wanted to clarify that the reserved placeholders in the act are just ideals and not in concrete.

"Ultimately, the legislature would have to approve any enactment to these reserve place holders and the executive branch, our office, we can draft something and submit it to you all but you all are the only ones that can pass it, if there are some reserved placeholders on here that you all do not like or agree with those can be removed from the codification act," Gorham said.

The last item discussed was a resolution to authorize Gov. Reggie Wassana to negotiate and execute cross-deputation agreements with certain law enforcement agencies located within constitutional boundaries detailed in Article VI, Section 2(b) of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Constitution.

Church presented the item and said the cross deputation is something that has been discussed with past legislators, past attorney generals and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). Church said it's an appropriate time for cross deputation as there is an increase in incidences where law enforcement, either state, federal or BIA are running into jurisdictional questions.

"What this does is it allows them, that law enforcement officer, to have legal protection to enforce tribal law within the constitutional boundaries of the tribes," Church said.

Church said there will be requirements in order to fully become cross deputized as they will have to take a test to show certain awareness and applicability of tribal law.

"It allows our BIA officers to not be the only law enforcement agency or law enforcement body that can enforce tribal law, which decreases the response times, and also allows for actions being taken where there is a question of jurisdiction. The only state officers that have gone through the federal program and take the test and get deputized by BIA, would actually be able to effectuate the tribal law," Church said.

Ruiz raised concern for the resolution as there have been instances where there is distrust between the sheriff deputies and tribal citizens.

"It really gives a lot of distress to individuals when we sign something like this, or should we vote to pass this because it's basically opening up a lot of uncertainty. We did talk about this in the past and we voted it down before but just reading what we have it doesn't look different from the old one that was presented to us, but I just feel that there has to be a little bit more work done before we can just say we're going to go forward," Ruiz said.

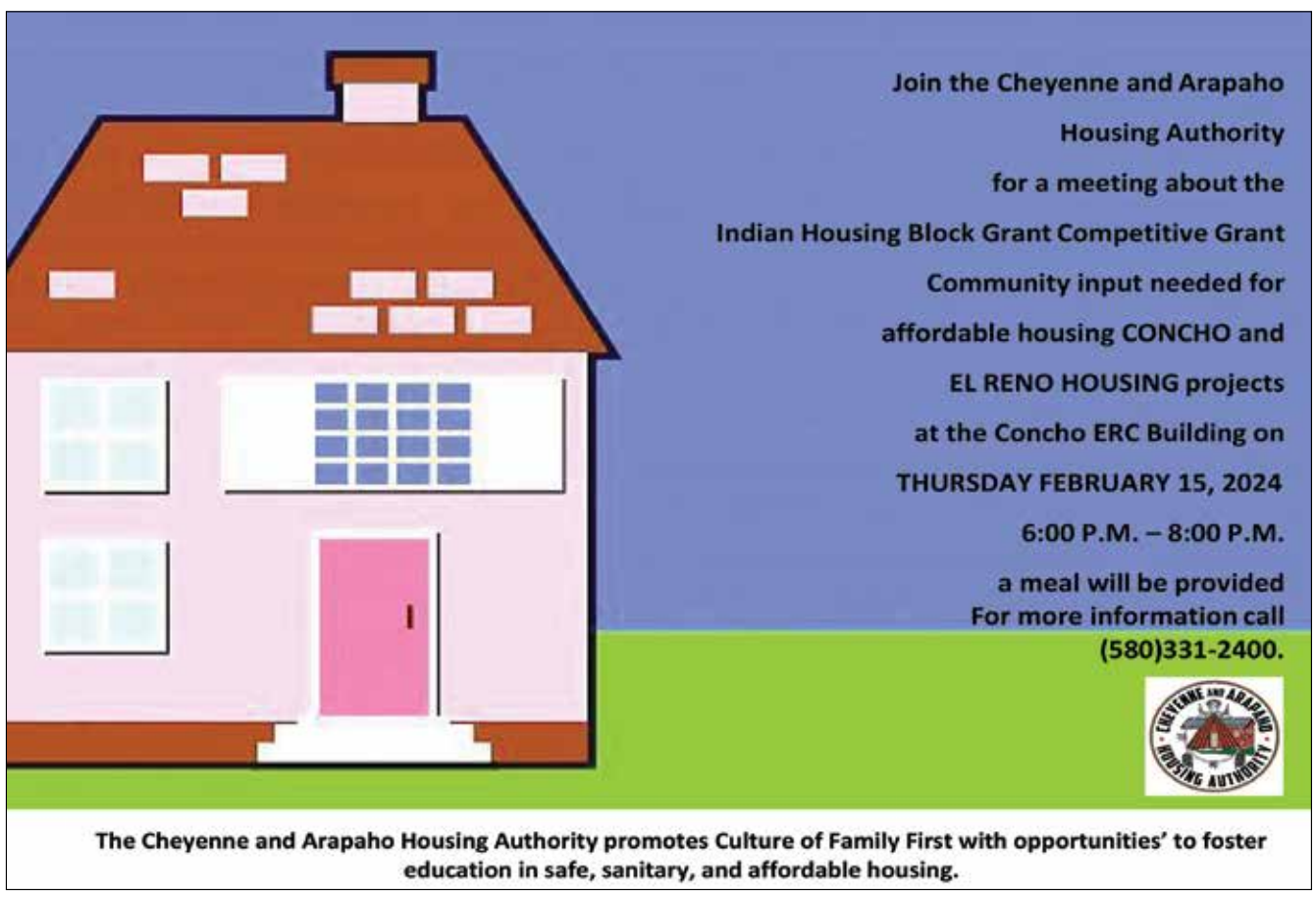
To address his concerns, Church said the resolution is just a template and certain requirements can be included.

"If we wanted to require for example, tribal sensitivity or awareness or certain requirements on when and where that officer can go onto a tribal property those are all certainly welcome to be included in the agreement and I would actually encourage the legislators if they have specific concerns to be addressed by these agreements please let us know and we can include that," Church said.

This agenda will be voted on during the second regular session of the 10th Legislature at 9 a.m., Saturday Feb. 10 in the large conference room located within the Dept. of Administration building in Concho, Okla.

The first regular session of the 10th Legislature held Jan. 13, the legislature appointed A2 Legislator Kendricks Sleeper as the new Speaker of the Legislature, and A4 Legislator Rector Candy as the new Assistant Speaker of the Legislature. There was only one resolution brought to the table for a vote, Resolution 10L-RS-2024-01-0005, A Tribal Council Resolution to Support and Re-Establish Traditional Cultural & Ceremonial Homelands in the state of Colorado. The resolution was unanimously approved by all eight legislators.

The next public hearing for discussion on the second regular session agenda will be held 10 a.m. Thursday Feb. 8 in the large conference room located within the Dept. of Administration building in Concho, Okla.






# Finding a path to language revitalization

**This article first published in the Fort Lewis College student newsletter**

Chaz Meadows becomes first generation to graduate college at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colo.

When he graduated high school in 2019, Chaz Meadows hadn't considered college a possibility. He dove into work in Oklahoma's oil fields, but a spur of the moment decision altered his life's course.

"I didn't even know that I was gonna go to college, that was just something I decided last minute. I applied and got in. Honestly, I didn't think I was going to get into college," Meadows said.

As the first in his family to step into higher education, Meadows faced early hurdles, not being familiar with the process of higher education.

"I didn't know anything about college or getting scholarships, being ready for class, registering and all the academic language. That was new to me," he said.

Adapting to college life posed challenges, especially far from the family he typically turned to for help and guidance.

"None of my family went to college, some of them didn't even graduate high school, so I really just had to own up to it as a young man and as a person to say I'm going to graduate no matter what," Meadows said.

He attributes his success to three Fort Lewis College professors, Keri Brandt-Off, Dr. Majel Boxer and Dr. Deanne Grant, who provided him with unwavering support.

"When I'd go to them and tell them how I was feeling, they would keep me holding on. They told me, 'We want you to gradate whatever it takes,' and that really pushed me," he said.

Encouraged by these professors, Meadows pursued a double major in Native American and Indigenous Studies and Sociology.

"Keri Brandt-Off impacted my life in lots of different ways. She was my counselor, advisor and somebody I could lean on and depend on. Deanne Grant showed me how to bridge my Native American Studies major and Sociology major to connect them and to see them jointly, instead of separate, because they do go together. And she was also a really good mentor that I had all throughout my four years at Fort Lewis," Meadows said.

Dr. Grant said Meadows was a great example of one of the stellar Native students attending Fort Lewis.

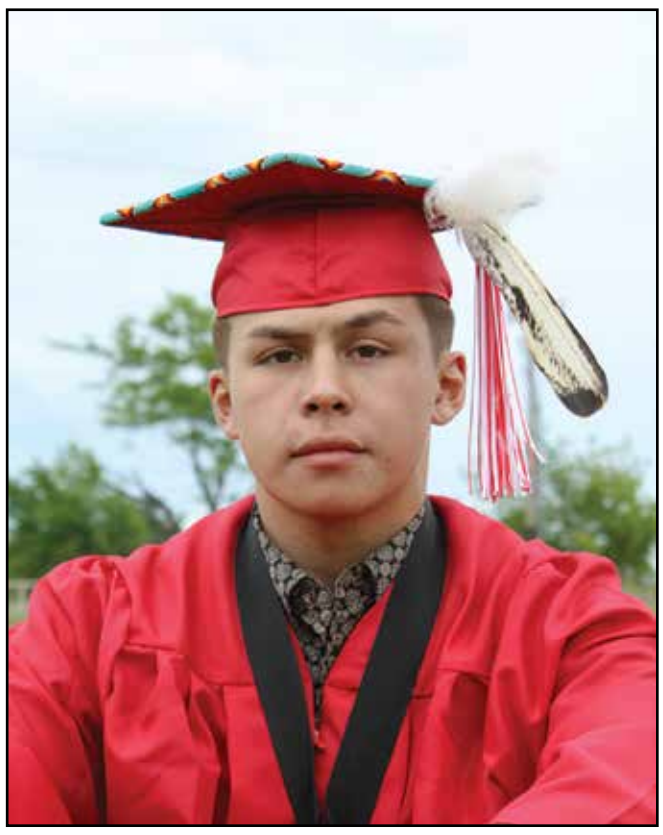
"He has a curious mind, a strong worth ethic, all while remaining culturally grounded and rooted. I have no doubts he'll accomplish his goals in life and am excited to see all the things he'll do to help his people and the field of Native American Indigenous Studies."

It was Dr. Boxer was the professor who sparked his interest in language revitalization, unveiling a path to potential careers.

"She taught me about the issues facing Indigenous communities and how we can start to look forward, making opportunities to resolve them. And one of them was language revitalization. I mentioned it to her and she told me that it's possible that I could do that and make a career out of it. That's what really pushed me to come back to my tribe and learn my language," Meadows said.

This passion for language revitalization led him to become an All Our Kin Fellow and to intern with the Language and Cultural preservation office for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. These experiences clarified his post-graduation goals.

Meadows secured a full-time position as a Language Apprentice with hopes of pursuing a Master's in Native American and Indigenous Studies. He received an acceptance letter to the University of Oklahoma for a Master of Arts in Native American Studies in December 2023.



***Chaz Meadows 2019 high school graduation photo. (Photo / Rosemary Stephens)***

Revitalizing the language among younger tribal members is just one facet of Meadows' commitment to his community. He aims to be an example, demonstrating success in college.

"I'm trying to set the example of somebody that they could look up to. And that's all I ever wanted to do. I push myself to be in a place where not only to my tribal nation, but the people that I surround myself with, I can be a better influence on them. That's what really pushed me because I didn't make straight As in high school … I didn't really have the best grades at all," Meadows said. "I'm doing something that I really love, something I want to wrap my life around. Our language is becoming endangered, it's in the sever stages of extinction. So I'm helping in the bigger goal of revitalizing langue within the younger generation of people."

Meadows graduated Fort Lewis College in December 2023 and is already preparing for the next generation of Fort Lewis College students. His first child was born in December and he hopes one day his son will follow in his footsteps as a Skyhawk.

"I want my kids to go there because that's where I went to school, you know? It's something I'm really proud of myself for doing. I'm proud of everybody that had a hand in making this happen for me," he said.

Meadows has left a lasting impression with Dr. Brandt-Off and she sees him continuing t make an impact post-graduation.

"Chaz is exceptional in every way and working with him has been a complete joy. He is bright and imaginative, kind and compassionate, and has the skills to create new possibilities for a better world."

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Public Service Announcement
Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) Wind-Down
February 7, 2024
This is the LAST DAY that the ACP will accept new applications and enrollments. Eligible households must be approved and enrolled with an internet company by 11:59 PM ET on February 7th to receive the ACP benefit. Starting February 8, 2024, there will be NO more enrollments into the ACP.
Affordable Connectivity Program funding is expected to last through April 2024, running out completely in May, barring further Congressional appropriations . Please let congress know how much this program has helped you and benefited your household.
Thank You! FCC ACP Cheyenne And Arapaho Housing Authority

# MMIP

*continued from pg. 3*

are steps to reporting. First determine if your family or friend is really missing. Check the person's home, ask local law enforcement to do a "welfare check." Sometimes if a person is in the hospital, the hospital will not give out information due to HIPAA. A law enforcement officer may be able to get the information. You should also check with coworkers, friends and county or city jails or coroner's office.

If your loved one is not located, file a missing person's report with law enforcement. Due to jurisdictional issues with overlapping tribal and state, county, city boundaries, it is advisable to file report with local law enforcement and Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Missing and Murdered Unit or simply call BIA dispatch and an officer will do an intake. You may also report the case to the OSBI Office of Liaison for MMIP and U.S Attorney's office for the Western District of Oklahoma. Make sure you have all and any details relevant to your loved one, including physical description, address, vehicle information and social media pages frequented and cell phone number and last known whereabouts.

Next, you may contact the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUS)**.** This is a system operated by the U.S. Department of Justice that allows you to upload information about a missing person into a database for use by law enforcement and the public. If a minor is missing, you can contact the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children or the Polly Klass Foundation. You can also use the FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) for more information. Make sure you know your loved ones' details such as eye, hair color, height, weight, last known items of clothing, or any identifying marks such as tattoos or birthmarks. Please upload a recent photo.

Once you have filed the report and entered information into the NAMUS website, you can reach out to media outlets. You can send a photo and missing person information to tribal, local TV, radio or newspapers and share on social media.

Once you share your loved ones missing person case or murdered case online or with the community, please be aware of private investigators. Make sure they are legitimate. Any private investigator you hire should be certified and willing to work with the detective or law enforcement on your loved ones' case. Families can be targeted during this vulnerable time.

Families whose family members have been murdered can also make sure tribal, DOJ or OSBI law enforcement is aware of your case. If your case is being handled by local law enforcement, BIA-MMU can monitor the investigation or help liaison for you in communicating with case detectives. You must contact them and request their assistance. There is an intake process where an officer will take all your information and provide you with information on what they can assist with. BIA, DOJ and OSBI can work together and review cases, but they are separate agencies, and you may have to contact each one individually.

Also, it is common for detectives or the medical examiner's office to request a DNA sample from an immediate family member. This is important in checking unidentified remains that may be in the coroners or medical examiner's office. Your DNA will not be used for any other purpose other than searching for a DNA match.

During this difficult time period in dealing with missing or murdered loved ones' cases, family members may experience grief or anger, high variance of psychological distress which may include behavioral health issues, suicidal thoughts, substance abuse, domestic violence, or stress related illnesses.

Please reach out to your healthcare provider or Indian Health Service medical provider to help you cope with your distress. They can provide you with medical treatment and/or refer you to resources for counseling. For emotional support you may reach out to your friends, tribal behavioral health, suicide prevention and local MMIP chapter for support.

Lastly, take care of yourself. Eat healthy meals which includes greens, salads, fruits, nuts, yogurts, protein and plenty of water. Take walks or exercise and keep movement in your daily routine. Also take time to pray or meditate to calm your spirit. It is okay to cry and feel your emotions. It is healthy to cry and tears help release stress. Get plenty of rest. It may seem like you can't rest, but you should give yourself plenty of time to sleep so that you can maintain your health for yourself, your family and your loved one. Please remember you can join tribal wellness programs for physical activities or call the Indian Health Service nutritionist to assist you with guidance on a healthy diet.

If your missing or murdered loved one was the main financial provider, and you are in tribal jurisdiction, the Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes has a HOPE program, Social Services program and Food Pantry to assist.

Remember, if you know of any information regarding a missing and murdered case, you can report anonymously to BIA-Missing and Murdered Unit and to local law enforcement. If you know of someone being kidnapped, a human trafficking victim, physically harmed or sexually assaulted/abused please call 9-1-1 and report, you may also remain anonymous. You could save someone's life by taking action.

It will take our whole tribe and community to make a change and protect our people. It is okay to talk about your MMIP loved one and remember them. Tell their story. It could help bring them home or justice to their case and healing to the family in due time.

Everyone can be an advocate!

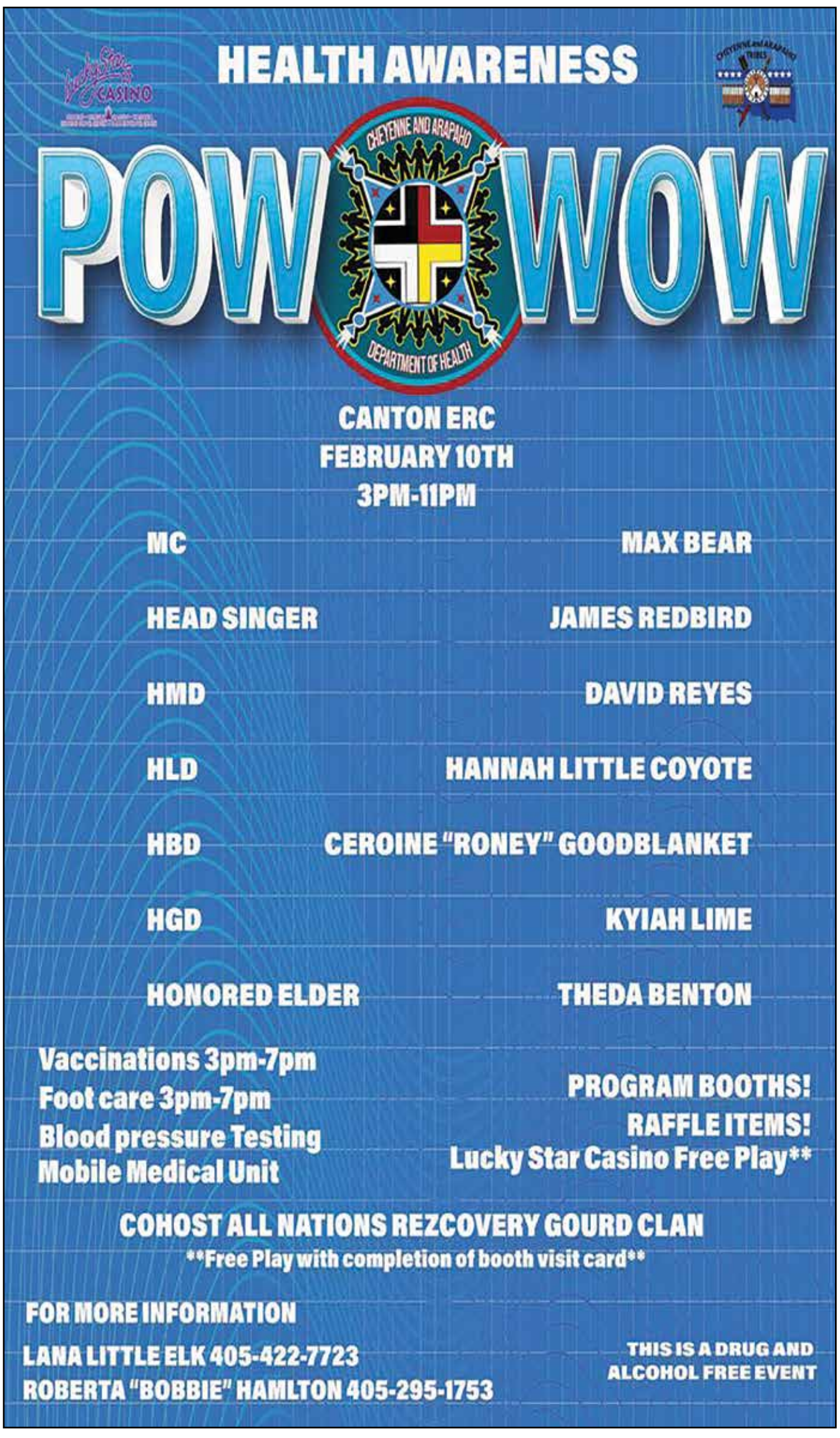
Resources include: BIA Law Enforcement to report a MMU case, call: 1-833-560-2065 or email: ojs_mmu@bia.gov. To submit a tip text keyword BIAMMU and your tip to: 847411 or visit www.bia.gov/service/mmu.

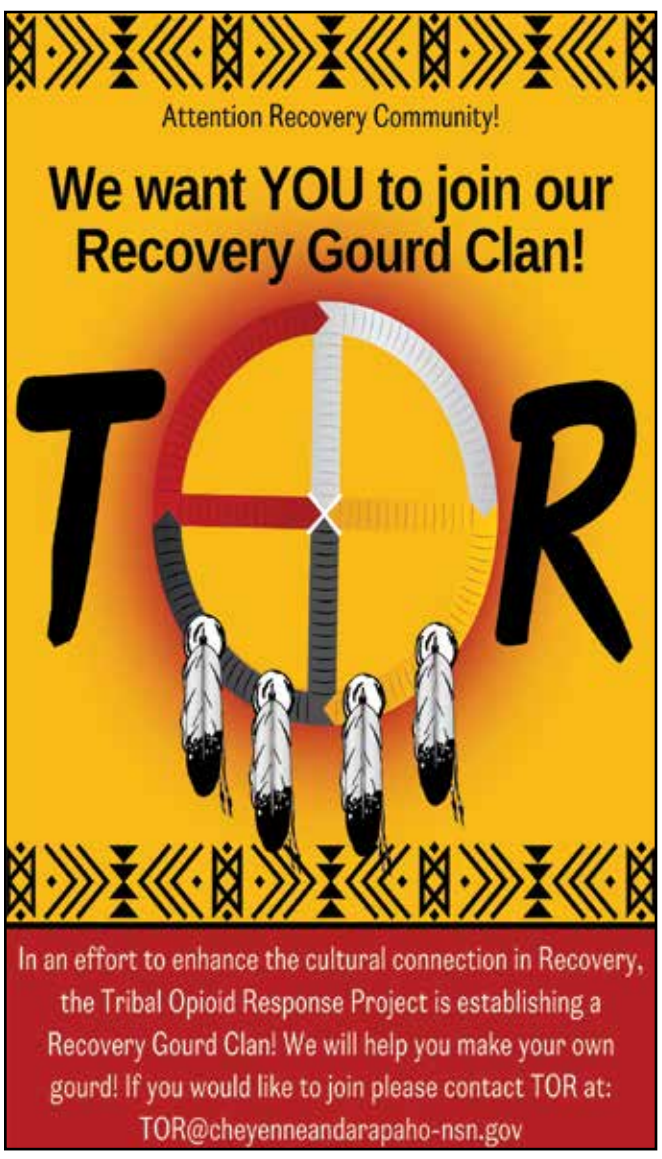
Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation Agent Joshua Patzkowski. Tip line 1-800-522-8017, www.osbi.ok.gov/

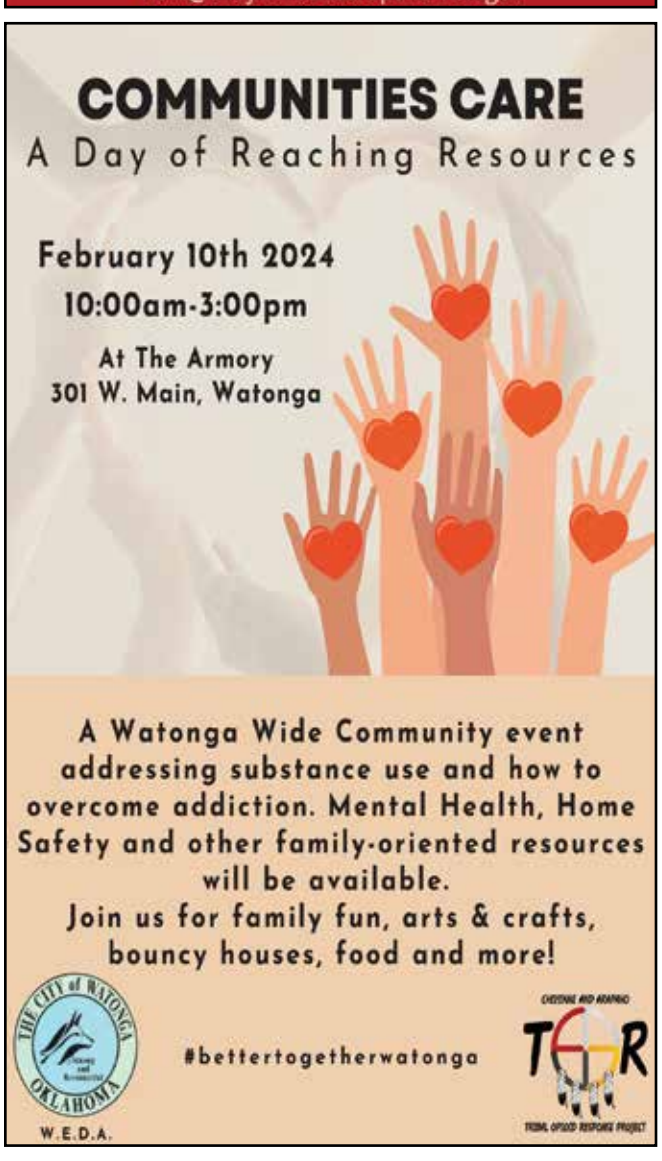
U.S Attorney's Office, Western District of Oklahoma, AUSA Arvo Mikkanen 405-553-8700, www.justice.gov/usao-wdok

Cheyenne Arapaho MMIP Chapter email: cheyennearapahommip@gmail.com

The 2024-2025 Cheyenne Arapaho Missing and Murdered Indigenous Chapter Board Members are LaRenda Morgan, Reggie Wassana, Roberta Hamilton, Raven Morgan, Karen LittleCoyote and Susan Geary.



# ELECTION

*continued from pg. 1*

es regardless of where they live, requiring only that they move within their specific legislative district after winning election;

• Created an at-large legislative district, requiring that candidates live outside of any legislative district.

Thursday's low turnout doomed the proposals, underscoring concerns about voter participation that some tribal leaders sought to address by broadening candidate eligibility requirements. It's also unclear how robustly tribal citizens were aware of Thursday's election.

Beyond ballots being mailed to all registered voters, the only other notice most voters received was an article in the Tribal Tribune published in both December editions of the paper and a vague "vote yes" ad in first edition of the new year.

"The proposal needed more information and maybe people didn't understand it totally," Gov. Reggie Wassana said. "The authors of the resolutions put it up for a vote through passage at the annual Tribal Council meeting. The low turnout may have been (due) to the lack of clarity that most had questions with."

Wassana also pointed to other issues with the proposals, such as only one at-large district being proposed instead of two. All other legislative districts for the tribes have two representatives: one Cheyenne and one Arapaho. Some voters may also have been concerned with allowing out-of-district candidates file for office.

Tribal Council set proposals for special election

Proposed amendments one through three were passed by the Tribal Council on Oct. 7, and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Election Commission scheduled a special election to approve or reject the constitutional amendments for Thursday.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' Tribal Council is not the legislative branch of the tribes' government. Under the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes' constitution, the government is divided into four branches: the Tribal Council, the legislative, the executive and the judiciary.

The Tribal Council consists of every member of the tribe over 18 years old, and whoever attends its meetings can vote. It meets annually on the first Saturday of October, and 75 citizens are required for a quorum. The number of eligible members of the Tribal Council was expanded in 2021 when tribal citizens voted to lower the blood quantum requirement for citizenship from one-fourth to one-eighth.

Tribe elected legislators, election commissioners in November

Between last year's October Tribal Council meeting and Thursday's special election, Cheyenne and Arapaho citizens elected four tribal legislators and four election commissioners.

Two incumbents for the election commission were reelected without an opponent: Norma Yarbrough, representing Cheyenne District 2, and Sarah Orange, representing Cheyenne District 4.

Arapaho District 1 Election Commissioner Ray Mosqueda won reelection with 61.43 percent of the

**ELECTION /** *pg. 8*

## CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

### CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT ELECTION

**January 18, 2024**

OFFICIAL RESULTS

| PROPOSED AMENDMENT #1 | MAIL IN | HAND COUNT | TOTALS | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YES | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| NO | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |

| PROPOSED AMENDMENT #2 | | | TOTALS | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YES | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| NO | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |

| PROPOSED AMENDMENT #3 | | | TOTALS | % |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| YES | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| NO | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |
| TOTALS | 0 | 0 | 0 | #DIV/0! |

| | |
|---|---|
| ELIGIBLE VOTERS | 5654 |
| BALLOTS CAST | 637 |
| VOTER PARTICIPATION | 11.27% |

**CERTIFICATION**

**We, the undersigned members of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Election Commission, hereby certify the above to be a true abstract of the results of the Constitutional Referendum Election held January 18, 2024. We further certify that the 30% threshold of voter participation was not reached therefore the election results are not to be considered.**

Sarah J Orange C4/Chairperson

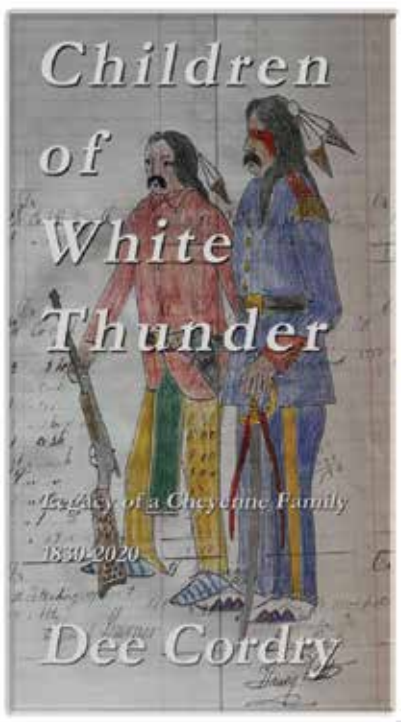
AT&EC

Kelly Foreman AZ EC

Sandra Hunshan - C1/Sec.

Norma Yarbrough C2

AT


**Children of White Thunder**
Legacy of a Cheyenne Family 1830-2020
By
Dee Cordry

Available on Amazon:
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Detailed biography of the descendants of White Thunder, Cheyenne holy man, including Owl Woman, Julia Bent, and Edmund Guerrier. 444 pages.



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## Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Day
## Oklahoma State Capitol
## 2300 N. Lincoln Blvd,
## Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**Monday, February 19, 2024**

***Schedule***

***1:30 pm*** *OK House of Representatives*
*5th Floor Gallery*

***2:15 pm*** *2nd Floor Rotunda*
*Opening Prayer by Chief Gordon Yellowman*
*Flag Song by Elder Fred Mosqueda*
*Welcome to State Capitol by Rep. Anthony Moore & Rep. Mickey Dollens*
*Reading of Cheyenne and Arapaho Day Proclamation*
*Keynote Address by Governor Reggie Wassana*
*Remarks by Lt. Governor Hershel Gorham*
*Cheyenne and Arapaho Legislature*
*Special Recognition*
*Closing Prayer*

**Questions or Inquiries, please contact LaRenda Morgan at lmorgan@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov**

# ATHLETE'S SPOTLIGHT

Latoya Lonelodge, *Senior Reporter*

## Alex Elizondo, El Reno High School




*Photos by Adriel Clements*

(EL RENO, OK) As a point guard looking to make his next move, Alex Elizondo, 17, hopes to make an impactful statement this basketball season. Elizondo thrives on building connections and making memories on and off the basketball court in his junior year of high school.

Standing 6'0 tall, Elizondo plays point guard for the El Reno Indians High School basketball team.

Born in Tulsa, Okla., and raised in El Reno, Okla., Elizondo was introduced to the game of basketball at an early age by his father.

"I was in kindergarten and introduced by my dad, I know my parents' played basketball when they were my age as well, my dad just kind of threw us in there and I loved it ever since and made a lot of memories," Elizondo said.

Elizondo said what he loves the most about basketball is the connections he's made and continues to make.

"I would say building connections from people around you, I'm an unselfish player but I like to get the assists and also love to score when it's needed," Elizondo said.

And his motivation for playing, Elizondo said comes from the support of his family.

"There's always someone from my family that always comes to watch me, and I always feel my best with them, to play for them because there's always someone to come watch me," Elizondo said.

Alongside his goals for the season, Elizondo said what he looks forward to the most this season is going back to the state championship. In the previous season, the El Reno Indians fell short during the state quarter finals.

In preparing, Elizondo said his goals are to work on being a better ball handler, a better scorer and a better assister.

"I always work on my ball handling it's a must for a point guard and I always work on my mid-range jumpers, my free throws, my three pointers and I always work on finishing at the rim," Elizondo said.

Wanting to take his game to the next level, Elizondo practices beyond his normal basketball practice hours after school.

"I stay another hour and a half after practice getting shots up and dribbling and if we don't have practice, I just try to get in the gym everyday even when we don't have practice, I go for three hours sometimes I'll be by myself, or just me and my sister," Elizondo said.




Elizondo's sister Emmary also plays for the El Reno Lady Indians basketball team.

With a 3.5 GPA, Elizondo continues to maintain his grades by doing his work in the classroom before playing basketball.

"I just try to do my work in class because I practice in the evening and I'm always tired after I get home, so I always try to do my best to get my work done in class," Elizondo said.

Striving to always do his best on and off the court, Elizondo is always looking to improve his game. And Elizondo said the only way to do that is by practicing every day.

"You have to be practicing every day going hard, working a sweat because no one's going to do it for you, it has to be yourself, no one can want it for you," Elizondo said.

With years of playing experience, Elizondo said basketball has taught him that it can also be enjoyable making connections and building relationships from the sport.

"It's taught me that it's fun, you can also build connections with your teammates and coaches as well, lifelong connections through basketball," Elizondo said.

Through basketball, Elizondo said what he hopes to accomplish the most is being a better teammate and to hopefully play at the next level.

"I would want to be remembered as a good teammate to my teammates and a player that someone can look up to and also to be a leader on the court," Elizondo said.

Overall, Elizondo said basketball has been able to give him the extra push that he needs.

"Basketball makes me feel good, I always have the want and the will to win, it's like my extra push, the fire to win and always wanting to push myself," Elizondo said.

El Reno Boys Basketball Head Coach, Rodney Haydon said Elizondo is a leader on the team.

"Alex is an extremely special player and student for us, Alex started every game as a sophomore and has started every game as a junior to this point, he is an extremely hard worker and leads this team by his actions in practice and in games, ironically this weekend he was voted to the all-tournament team at the Shawnee tournament," Haydon said.




So far in the season, Elizondo is averaging 9.1 points per game and shooting 80 percent from the free throw line. He has 56 assists on the year as well as 23 steals and leads the team in charges with eight.

Elizondo will graduate in the spring of 2025. Although he has no definite plans as of now, he hopes to continue his education in college and play basketball at the next level.

*Alex's parents are Jeffery Elizondo Sr., and Teranne Spotted Bear. His paternal grandparents are Michael Elizondo Sr., and Lou Ann Chouteau. His maternal grandparents are Tracey Moore and Print Spotted Bear. Alex's siblings are Emmary, Jeffery, Skylar Elizondo and Elyza Spotted Bear.*

## ELECTION

*continued from pg. 7*

vote, defeating Kennesha Willis (38.57 percent) in the November election. In Arapaho's District 2, Kelly Loneman won 63.64 percent of the vote to unseat incumbent Dale Hamilton Jr., who garnered 36.36 percent support.

In the four legislative elections, all three incumbents who ran were reelected:

- Travis Ruiz (Arapaho District 3) won 54.29 percent of the vote, while Alfred Whiteshirt garnered 45.71 percent;
- Rector Candy (Arapaho District 4) won 55.56 percent of the vote, while Reva Wassana garnered 44.44 percent;
- Bruce Whiteman Jr. (Cheyenne District 1) won 60.32 percent of the vote, while Wilma Blackbear garnered 39.68 percent.

In the open Cheyenne District 3, Thomas Trout was elected to a first term in the Legislature with 54.73 percent of the vote, to Charlene Wassana's 45.27 percent.

Death of Lt. Gov. Miles leads to appointment of Hershel Gorham

The position of Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes lieutenant governor became vacant after the Sept. 4 death of Lt. Gov. Gilbert LaMott Miles. He was first elected as lieutenant governor in 2017 and reelected in 2021. He was the first Cheyenne and Arapaho lieutenant governor to serve two consecutive terms after the passage of the 2006 constitution. Before constitutional amendments were made in 2006, the nation was overseen by a business committee.

Gov. Reggie Wassana appointed his general counsel, Hershel Gorham, to complete the rest of Miles' term, which expires in 2025. Gorham had served as general counsel since January 2018. He also serves as ex-officio director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Community Development Corporation.

Gorham and the newly elected officials were sworn in during a ceremony Jan. 6.

Formal reservation disestablished, but informal reservation growing

While the landmark decision in McGirt v. Oklahoma found the Muscogee Nation Reservation was never disestablished and later decisions have upheld the reservation status of several tribes in eastern Oklahoma, tribes in western Oklahoma have been less successful in having their historic reservations recognized. In December 2022, the Oklahoma Court of Criminal Appeals held that the Cheyenne-Arapaho Reservation was disestablished by Congress in 1891.

The disestablishment and allotment of the reservation predates Oklahoma statehood and highlights the different histories of tribes in Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory. On April 19, 1892, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Reservation was opened for settlers in Oklahoma's third land run after a presidential proclamation by President Benjamin Harrison.

However, the disestablishment of a formal reservation did not entirely eliminate the tribe's authority and jurisdiction. As highlighted in the oral arguments for the Stroble v. Oklahoma Tax Commission case, reservations can be "formal" or "informal." Informal reservations are lands held in trust by the federal government for the benefit of a tribe.

Trust lands expand authority of western Oklahoma tribe

Over the past few years, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have expanded their informal reservation by putting more land into "trust status," a process which requires approval from the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs. Recently President Joe Biden signed an executive order that includes efforts to streamline the process for placing land into trust for tribes.

Since 2020, three properties under the jurisdiction of the tribe have been given trust status. Before that, Wassana told the Tribal Tribune that "research going back over 40 years has shown that the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have never successfully placed one single acre of land into trust status."

In June 2020, the tribe successfully placed a half-acre plot of land including the Geary Community Center into trust status. In January 2022, a 6.8-acre plot of land south of Geary, known informally as "Rodeo Joes tract," was also granted trust status.

In November 2023, the tribe successfully petitioned to place a 79-acre tract of land in Woodward into trust status. The land acquisition increased the territorial jurisdiction of the tribe by more than tenfold, and it could pave the way for casino gaming developments in the area.

While no plans for the 79-acres put into trust have been officially announced, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Tribune reported that Wassana indicated it would be used for economic development.

"Hopefully, we can offer tourists or travelers in that northwest quadrant a place maybe to shop, entertain, get gas, have an overnight stay and those types of things we can develop there just outside of Woodward," Wassana said.

Wassana has also pushed for the return of lands making up Fort Reno, currently held by the federal government. The dispute over the lands in question is decades old and involves over 9,000 acres under the control of the U.S. Department of Agriculture since1947. The fort operated as a military base between 1874 and 1947, and numerous efforts by the tribes to reclaim the land have failed, including contentious negotiations in the 1990s involving a proposed U.S. military graveyard and the subsequent placement of baboon research facilities at the USDA site, an action viewed by some as retaliatory.

Moving land into trust allows a tribe to exercise more control over the land, including granting criminal jurisdiction for crimes committed by Native Americans and granting some immunity from state taxation. Trust lands are sometimes called "informal reservations" since they possess the same legal status — Indian Country — as formal reservations.

*This article first published on Jan. 19, 2024 on www.nondoc.com.*

# HUMAN TRAFFICKING

*continued from pg. 1*

"I feel confident in stating that tribal gaming has a positive impact on preventing human trafficking," Hovland said.

While there isn't anything inherent to tribal casinos that make them susceptible to human trafficking, Hovland said complex jurisdictional issues in tribal communities bring challenges for combating all types of criminal activities.

"Thankfully, the 2022 Reauthorization of Violence Against Women Act recognizes special criminal jurisdiction of tribal courts to cover non-Native perpetrators of sexual assault and sex trafficking," Hovland said.

With more than 500 tribal casinos on Indian land operated by nearly 250 tribes in 29 states, Hovland said there's a need to be proactive to prevent potential crimes before they occur.

"It is reasonable to assume all operations could be affected by human trafficking, so we encourage tribes to increase awareness of these crimes and how to report them in order to stay vigilant in protecting our communities," Hovland said.

Hovland said the training webinar had over 400 individuals in attendance who represented 114 gaming tribes and based on the survey information provided by those in attendance, the training received a 92% favorable rating.

"The NIGC hopes by better preparing tribal gaming employees and operators to identify potential human trafficking incidents, facilities are less vulnerable to human trafficking and the surrounding communities are safer, we remain committed to our collaboration with tribes, our federal partners, and non-governmental organizations to help end human trafficking," Hovland said.

In being aware and knowing the signs to look for with human trafficking, it has become imminent in tribal gaming facilities to always be vigilant.

The Lucky Star Casino locations are actively staying up to date with ongoing efforts to prevent human trafficking on casino properties.

Deputy Director of Security for Lucky Star Casino, Jack Fisher said human trafficking is one of the biggest problems any casino can face, and awareness is key.

"A lot of people just aren't aware of human trafficking and then the ones that see it on TV or something like that, they really just ignore it and so they probably don't recognize it when its right in front of them," Fisher said.

Fisher said with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and Lucky Star Casinos, he hasn't seen any evidence of human trafficking within the jurisdictions, however that doesn't mean it isn't happening.

Fisher said in the event human trafficking is recognized, their protocols involve communicating with local Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officers.

"We gather all the factual information that we could, anything of any material value and provide it for BIA and then BIA will investigate," Fisher said.

Fisher said BIA along with the Oklahoma Bureau of Narcotics are currently working on creating a separate division or entity to combat human trafficking.

"They've been in contact with us and as soon as they get their procedures in line, they're going to get back with us and then we can go from there and try to get some protocol going, but for now we just report it to BIA, provide them with all the information that we could and then they would take over the investigation at that point," Fisher said.

Lucky Star Casinos have six locations throughout western Oklahoma. Out of the six, Fisher said security management is more precocious with the Watonga casino and hotel property.

"Any hotel within any casino atmosphere could have that issue for sure but our guys there, they've been given information to look for so if they recognize it, they can at least gather evidence and factual information and notify BIA, Watonga casino out of all six locations would probably be the most likely to recognize human trafficking as far as sexual human trafficking," Fisher said.

Protocols and procedures regarding human trafficking at the Lucky Star Casinos follow the same guidelines for all locations. General Manager for Lucky Star Casino-Concho, Joshua Mansfield said human trafficking is a chief concern among Lucky Star Casino and the Native communities.

"As we head into 2024 our team is expanding our employee training program for a wide number of topics, among those is a strong focus on human and sex trafficking that goes beyond our security and surveillance teams and will help prepare all of our team members to be more capable in helping identify and deter human trafficking on our properties," Mansfield said.

At Lucky Star casinos, security and surveillance teams are trained in incident reporting and response and are aware of certain indicators of human trafficking, such as signs of physical abuse, style of dress and certain interactions with other guests.

"Casinos can be a hot spot for those in the trafficking trade, especially during the holiday season and our teams always have to be mindful of the intentions of those visiting our casinos and c-stores, our security officers are trained to observe and report any evidence of illegal activity on our property," Mansfield said.

Other tribally owned casinos in communities outside of Cheyenne and Arapaho territory are also taking initiatives to prevent human trafficking.

River Spirit Casino, based out of Tulsa, Okla., has been open for six years and prior to opening, River Spirit Casino Gaming Operation General Manager, Jerry Floyd said the casino wanted their team to be educated on what to do regarding human trafficking.

"Oklahoma is the crossroads of our United States with several major highways passing through, trafficking is possible anywhere and is not restricted to a metropolitan area," Floyd said.

Floyd said identifying the signs of a victim is the first step in prevention. Some examples include identifying if the person is fearful, timid or submissive, questioning whether the person appears to be coached on what to say or noticing if the person has freedom of movement.

"Should they exhibit signs of victimization we contact law enforcement, at no time do we attempt to confront a trafficker or alert them of our suspicions," Floyd said.

At River Spirit, Floyd said they have utilized the NIGC training sessions as they are offered along with e-learning courses as refreshers for their team members. They have also worked with the Demand Project to hold training sessions on combating human trafficking.

"The Muscogee Nation has invested heavily in our casino resort, we offer amenities that are comparable to any upscale casino resort destination in the world and we pride our ourselves in consistently training and retraining our teams to maintain the high standards we have established in guest comfort and safety," Floyd said.

In continuing the ongoing efforts on combating human trafficking, Floyd said it has become a high priority among their casino and resort. The casino management wants team members to know what to look for and know how to react if they identify possible victims.

"See. Call. Save. If you see the signs of victimization or exploitation call law enforcement and save a life," Floyd said.

For more resources on human trafficking, visit www.nigc.gov/utility/human-trafficking-resources.

# BUFFALO

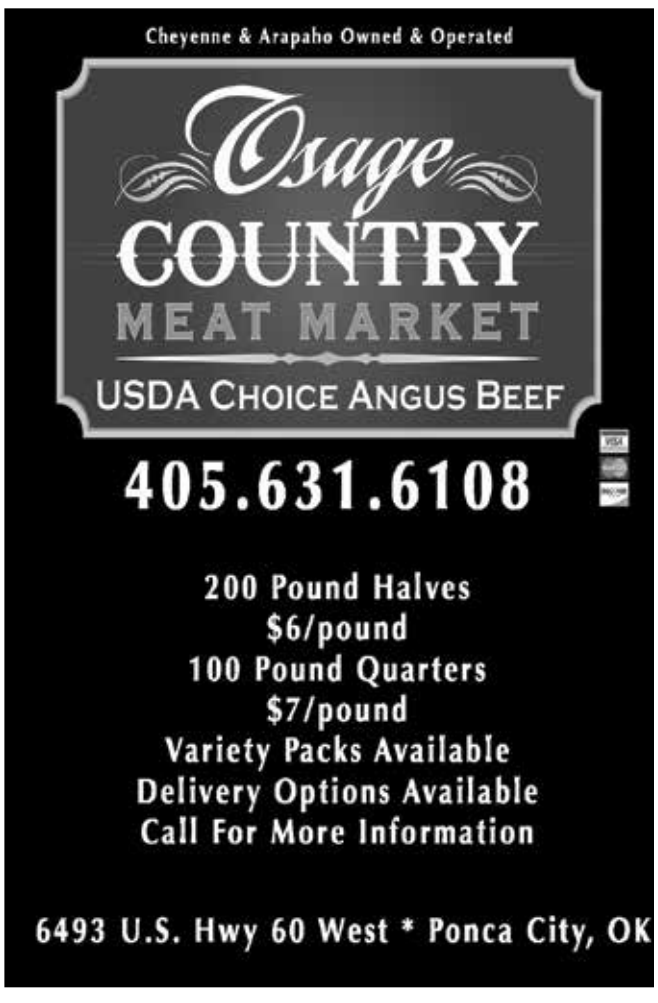
*continued from pg. 1*

and ecologically,"

Bryan Newland, assistant secretary for Indian Affairs said in a statement. "These investments from the President's Investing in America agenda support our efforts to revitalize Tribal cultures and communities and help conserve and restore important ecosystems that benefit all Americans."

The funds stem from roughly $2 billion aimed at climate resilience and restoration measures created first by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Act of 2021, and later the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. The initiative follows similar efforts by the USDA to support bison reintroduction efforts, after the latter agency launched a pilot program aimed at supporting Tribal bison producers and then purchasing their stock for Native food distribution food programs.

The BIA announcement states that bison reintroduction can enhance soil development, restore native plants and wildlife to affected areas, and promote carbon sequestration - a common concern and potential revenue driver for Native environmental projects in recent years, per prior Tribal Business News reporting. Previous TBN stories have also pointed to economic opportunities and cultural renewals as important effects of bison herd restoration.




# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Happy 13th birthday
Jan. 24, 2011
Greg aka Niehhi Pedro
We love you so much and cannot believe you are a teenager now! Look forward to watching you grow into a handsome man. Love always, mom and dad, sisters Carly and Cayli, brothers King Lawrence and Alejandro.

Happy 30th birthday
Aaron Littleman
Thanks for caring and being patient with me.
I love you, grandma
Irene.

**Happy birthday Alan Littleman**
**Love you!**
**Love, Irene.**



Happy 13th Birthday Gregory! We all love you and we're all proud of how grown and mature you're getting. It's only going to get better, love you little bro. From Carly, nephew Kai, your brothers and Cayli, your mom and grandparents plus the whole fam!



*Happy Birthday to our grandma Lydia! The family wouldn't be a family without you, we love you to the moon and back, thank you for everything you do for us. From the whole family, Leah and the fam, Carly and Kai, Gracie and the girls, Justin and the fam, Will and everybody from Montana!*





Happy 2nd Birthday
Kai Angel
I can't wait to see all the things you accomplish in life, you are the sun to everybody's world. We love you, mama and dad, bro, all your grandmas and grandpas, uncles and aunties and cousins



Happy 9th birthday
Tarryn M Willams!
Mommy and your brothers, baby sister, and uncles, aunties, grandparents love you very much!
We Hope you have a great birthday and many more to come.



Happy Birthday to our February babies
Kiyah and Jesse
Love you so much, gma JBO



**Happy 19th Birthday**
**Kiyah Lena Four Horns**
**Feb. 13, 2005**
**We love you, gma JBO, Jesse and your siblings, Keenan, Kionna, Kristopher, Lastarza, Livia and Willie**





Happy Valentine's Day
Nokomis Ellaree Magpie
Daddy loves you

## FOOD PANTRY OUTREACH

**FEBRUARY 8-WOODWARD**

Woodward ERC | 43554 S. County Rd. 206

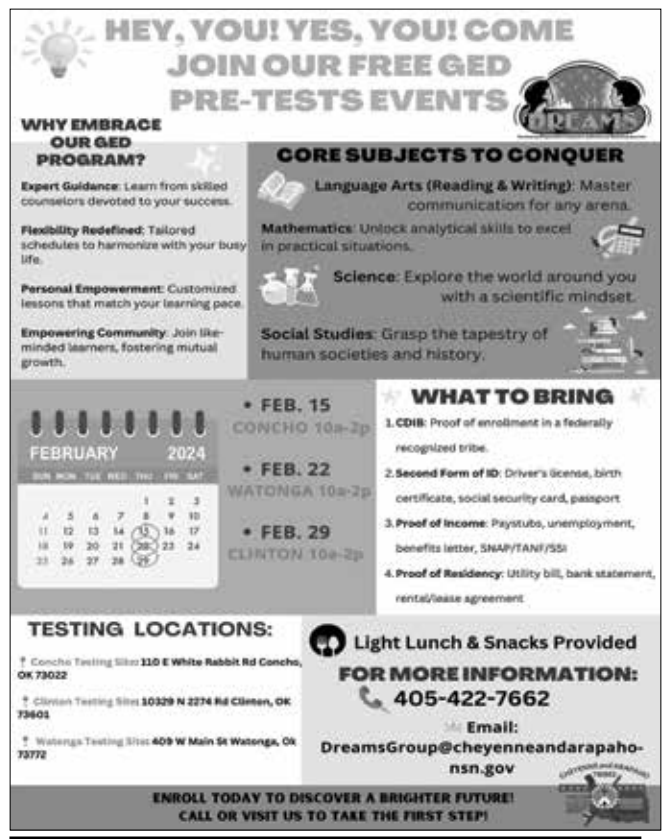
11 AM-2 PM

**FEBRUARY 22-TULSA**

Sear's Vacant Parking Lot | 21st & Yale

11 AM-2 PM

Food boxes will be available to all Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal members. **First come, first serve.** One per household. **Must present a Cheyenne and Arapaho CDIB.** For more information, call the Concho Food Pantry: (405) 422-7908.




## *In Loving Memory of My Son Shannon 'Lil Duke' Blackwolf*



In Memory of my Son Shannon "Lil Duke" Blackwolf, marks the 17 years since you left this place, called Mother Earth. I remember the day you left us like it was yesterday, the day I got the kind of news a Mother never wants to hear. I was on my way out the door to go meet up with Aunt Gil Teresa Bear @ Reno Bingo her and Rose Lobaugh, her Bingo Partner. When your Dad And your Sister Kelly (Factor) and her daughter my niece Kandace show up unexpectedly, you know something isn't right. The news that they brought was devastating to say the least. My Precious Boy was gone no longer here to walk this earth, You were only 24 years young, with 2 young children. Which your daughter has joined you going on six years now. A part of Parent dies when their child that they have given life is taken unexpectedly. Your world stops but the world keeps turning because it stops for no one. I want you son to know that your Precious Soul may have departed this earth, but your Spirit lives on. We don't have all the answers of what happened and if it were met for us to know we would know, but sometimes the Creator spares us the specifics and the details. Your time here was brief and I know Son you wouldn't want us to go on in agony of the what if's. All I know Son is that you were a blessing and are still here in the midst holding us all up, through all of lives Trials and Tribulations of this life. I am thankful God blessed us with your Presences your love and your caring heart. I know Daddy was happy to see his Grandson and your sweet Baby Keira again. You are loved and Missed and Always Remembered Everyday. Love Your Mom, Dad,, Rachel, Joe, Kevin, Jarrod, Derrick, Melinda, and Your Son Rumel. Also Chas and Niyah and all the beautiful babies. Rest in Peace Son Shannon "Lil Duke" Blackwolf 12/26/82-1/23/07



Housing Authority
Waiting List Report
Mutual Help Program

The following applicants need to complete a 2023 Update Form by FEBRUARY 15th.
If an Update Form is not received by this date, they will be removed from the
Mutual-Help waiting list for FAILURE TO UPDATE.
NO EXCEPTIONS!
For questions or more information, please contact Eileen Pedro at 580-331-2400.

| | |
|---|---|
| Tyrone Pewo | Alana Karty-Sealy |
| Caroline Botone | Earl Big Soldier-Plumley III |
| Thomas White Thunder | Krista Blackwolf |
| Rita Price | Ashley Heimer |
| Francine Bullcoming | Kayla Whitehorse |
| Byron Black | Minerva Fletcher |
| Kathy Williams | Timothy Wassana |
| Audra Hill | Marlene Yelloweagle |
| Troylynn Rivers | Lorina Birdshead |
| Lindsey Gould | Dariney Slinkey |
| Reginald Island | Richard Guzman |
| Vivian Lime | Jessica Lone Elk-Luna |
| Tashina Tahdooahnippah | Annette Medicinebear |
| Stephen Fletcher | Brittany Jensen |
| Daryl Williams | Lisa Standingwater |
| Christopher Tall Bear | Norma James |
| Adolfo Elizondo | Paula Pewo |
| Danecia Wandrie | Thomas Trout |







CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 11 2024
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of:
HEAVEN JOHNSON, Petitioner,
VS.
DOMINIC LUPER, Respondent,
Case No. CIV-2023-0060

**NOTICE OF HEARING BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: **DOMINIC LUPER, UNKNOWN ADDRESS**

The above-styled case is hereby set for hearing in the Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes on the 14th day of **FEBRUARY 2024**, at **10:00A.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. **You have the option to appear in person or 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:
  - Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=S2RCenU2WDV0OFMvMnI5Q3RXcTdHQT09 or https://zoom.us/join
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: Court2021
- Phone conferencing for non-smartphone or traditional telephone users:
  - Telephone number: 1 (346) 248-7799
  - Meeting ID: 452 425 1494
  - Passcode: 854454251

**Dated at the Trial Court this 11th day of January, 2024.**

Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 23 2024
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
FILM IMAGE
COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

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

In the Matter of the Estate of:
RUSSELL KEITH LUMPMOUTH,
Deceased Member Of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes,
Case No. P-2024-0002

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes to: Any and all Heirs of **RUSSELL KEITH LUMPMOUTH**, Deceased

You are hereby notified that Nakayla Lumpmouth has filed in this Court a Petition for Appointment of Personal Representative of the Estate of Russell Keith Lumpmouth, deceased. That said petition is hereby set for a hearing in the Courtroom of said Trial Court of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 6th day of MARCH, 2024 at 10:00 A.M. at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said appointment should not be granted.

Dated this 23rd day of January, 2024.

Lafreda Whitecrow, Chief Court Clerk
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHO TRIBES OF OKLAHOMA
FILED JAN 08 2024
IN THE TRIAL COURT
DOCKET PAGE
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COURT CLERK
DEPUTY

IN THE TRIBAL COURT FOR THE CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHO TRIBES
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA

COMANCHE NATION CHILD SUPPORT PROGRAM, EX REL., KYLIE SAPCUTT, PETITIONER,
vs.
ERIC LEVI, RESPONDENT.

Case No: CIV-2023-0091
FGN: 86810619001
ERIC LEVI: OBLIGOR
KYLIE SAPCUTT: CUSTODIAN

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

**TO: ERIC LEVI**

**TAKE NOTICE** that you are a named party in a Petition to Register Order Under Full Faith and Credit and Motion for Income Assignment Order on Per Capita Income filed in the Court listed above by Comanche Nation Child Support Program. You must appear in the Tribal Court for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes (100 Red Moon Circle, Concho, OK) on the 4 day of March, 2024 at 2:00 p.m. Your failure to appear may result in the Petition to Register Order Under Full Faith and Credit and Motion for Income Assignment Order on Per Capita Income being taken as true and the requested relief sought being granted.

Given under my hand and seal this 8 day of January, 2024.

By: Melendez
COURT CLERK
Comanche Nation Tribal Court

Prepared by:
Comanche Nation Child Support Program
P. O. Box 1647
Lawton, OK 73502
Telephone: (580) 280-4641
Facsimile: (580) 280-4628

# OBITUARIES

## Van Catlin Black



Van Catlin Black was born Sept. 27, 1961, son of Paul Elvis Black and Eunice Mae Belly Mule in Watonga, Okla. He passed from this earth on Dec. 21, 2023.

He moved to Montana in his middle school years and lived with auntie Katherine Foote and his good friend Junior Otherbull and his family. He attended school and graduated high school in 1981 from Colstrip, Mont. He enjoyed playing basketball, including winning a basketball championship in 1976 and playing in summer leagues.

He moved to a few states then settled down with his wife Sioux Woman Black in Grand Junction, Colo. They were married up until her death in 2022. When asked about Van, responses were, "He was a kind man," and "Was a really great friend."

He shared many memories of his horseman days, playing basketball, being a mason worker, hanging out with his good friend John, and eating beans with Frybread. Due to Van's health conditions, he was sent to St. Mary's in Grand Junction, where he received lifesaving treatment but passed away.

He was preceded in death by his parents, brother Herman, sisters, Edna, Leona, Violet and Charolette. Aunt Katherine Foote, Helen Yellowrobe, uncles, aunties, and others.

Leaving behind is his brother Elvis Black, daughters, Amber Black (Alex Lewis), Alison Black (Ben Wilson), Virginia Williams (Joe Limberhand), and 13 grandkids.

Thank you to the doctors and nurses that did all they could for our father in his time of need. He left this life in peace. Thank you to John Williamson for 26+ years of friendship and helping him in his last days. Thank you to all the family and friends that gave their time and effort to send our dad off in a good way.

Graveside services were held at the Concho Indian Cemetery, with Rev. Waylon Upchego officiating, under the direction of Turner Funeral Home.

## Charles Eugene Whitetail



Charles Eugene Whitetail (Cantwell) was born July 19, 1966, to Fred Whitetail and Margaret Whitecrow in Clinton, Okla. He was adopted by Eric and Ruby Cantwell in New Yew York. Charles passed away unexpectedly on Jan. 8, 2024, in Oklahoma City.

Charles was raised in Pensacola, Fla., where he attended school and graduated. After high school he traveled extensively and soon found his biological family and has resided in Oklahoma for the past 10 years.

He enjoyed beading and listening to music.

He was preceded in death by his significant other and three sisters, Anosta Sue Horn, Joella Whitetail and Lillian Horn.

He is survived by two sisters, Maynoma Curtis of Anadarko, Okla., and Justine Cantu of Clinton, two brothers, Marcus Horn of Hydro, Okla., and William Pendergraft of Arkansas, and numerous nieces and nephews including Natausha Hope of Tulsa, Okla.

A private family wake service was held, with a graveside service held Jan. 29 at the Clinton Indian Cemetery, officiated by Pastor Delfred Whitecrow, under the direction of Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

## Bert Hudson Dennison Jr.



Bert Hudson Dennison Jr. began his journey on Oct. 13, 1952, when his parents Bert Hudson Sr. and Mary "Aileen" Paddick Dennison welcomed him into this world. He departed this earth on Jan. 10, 2024, at the age of 71 years, 2 months and 28 days.

Bert was born in Oklahoma City but his childhood was spent in Woodward, Oka., where he attended school and graduated with the class of 1971 from Woodward High School. In July of that year, Bert enlisted in the U.S. Army. He proudly served as a mechanic, attaining the rank of SP5 and earned a National Defense Metal and his Parachute Badge. He was honorably discharged in March 1975. Bert began working as a roughneck in the oilfield and later began his career as a plumber in the Woodward area.

On Aug. 23, 1996, Bert was united in marriage to the love of his life, Betty Lou Whiteman. The couple made their home in Woodward where they have remained until this day. The couple was blessed with four children, Valencia Michelle, Vivian Mae, James Eric and Vera Aileen.

Bert was an avid fisherman; he also was known to noodle for catfish. He enjoyed being outdoors and being surrounded by nature. His greatest enjoyment came from hanging out with his family and friends, especially his grandkids, who were the light of his life.

Bert is preceded in death by his parents, Bert Sr. and Aileen; his sister Janet Mann, and his brother Jeffrey Dennison.

He is survived by his loving wife Betty, of the home, children, Valencia Dennison and wife Dannelle of Tulsa, Okla., Vivian Lime and husband Robert of Clinton, Okla., James Eric Dennison of Woodward and Vera Aileen Dennison also of Woodward. Others that will cherish his memory are his sister Joyce Nelson of Woodward, brothers W.M. Dennison and wife Mary of Edmond, Oka., and Stanley Dennison and wife Laura of Norman, Okla. Bert's legacy will live on through his beloved grandchildren; Lillian, Andre, CamRon, and Kyiah Lime, Olivia Renee Dennison, Alex, Emily, and Hailey Huckeba, Isaac and Sally Chavez, Carman and Cooper Johnston, Autum Kurtis, Preston and Skyler Rolen, Brendon and Joseph Webster, and Evan Mitchell. He will be greatly missed by his great-grandchildren Isaac Jr., Isiah, and Michael Chavez. There are nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends who will miss Bert's presence in their lives.

Bert will be remembered for his loving heart and adventurous nature. Even though he no longer lives among us, his legacy will live on through those he leaves behind. May his soul rest in peace.

Funeral services were held on Jan. 17, 2024, at the Woodward Emergency Response Center in Woodward, followed by an interment at the Cantonment Indian Mennonite Cemetery in Canton, Okla., under the direction of Redinger Funeral Home.

## Forrest Deal Flyingout



Forrest Deal Flyingout, Sr was born December 25, 1942, in Clinton, to Allen and Jennie (Washa) Flyingout and passed away Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at his home in Weatherford, at the age of 81 years and 16 days.

Forrest was raised and attended school in the Weatherford and Clinton area. He served his county in the US Army from 1961 to 1962. In 1961, Forrest married Claudine Fletcher in Clinton and made their home north of Weatherford. He worked for several construction companies as a carpenter. Forrest enjoyed carving, musical instruments, bead work and spending time with family and friends.

Forrest is survived by one daughter, Goldie Flyingout of Weatherford; two sons, John Flyingout of Clinton and Jasper Flyingout of Weatherford; two grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by four sisters, Leah, Marion, Agatha Gail and Goldie Prairie Chief; three brothers, Willis Magpie, Vernon Magpie and Harry Flyingout; two daughters, Denise and Nancy Ann; and three sons, Forrest Jr., Alex and William.

## Karen Ann (Snow) Everton



Karen Ann (Snow) Everton, known for her radiant spirit and unwavering devotion to her loved ones, departed from this world on Jan. 11, 2024, at the age of 83, in Oklahoma City. Karen was born on Nov. 27, 1940, in Watonga, Okla., into the loving family of Emerson and Ollie Snow.

Karen grew up surrounded by the love of her siblings, Pam (Snow) Hunt and Gene Snow. Brother and sister Deborah and Johnny Snow passed away soon after their birth.

Her heart found a partner early in life in the form of Milton Ray Roberts, whom she married on June 29, 1956, in Enid, Okla. Together they had four children. They are Danny Ray Roberts with his wife Susie of Allen, Texas, Donny Joe Roberts (deceased) and wife Kim of Purcell, Okla., Denny Lee Roberts (deceased) and Dedra Ann (Roberts) Schulz and husband Dennis Schulz of Edmond, Okla.

Karen will be lovingly remembered by grandchildren Brandi Roberts, Ryan Roberts, Amy Becerra, Paige Roberts, Damian Reinhold, Derrick Dobbins, Tanisha Robison, Garrett Roberts, Desiree Roberson, Carmen Fore, Isaac Schulz, and Jennifer Bauman. She is also survived by many great-grandchildren and great-great-grandchildren. She will also be fondly remembered by her many nieces, nephews, cousins, and her cherished uncle, 97-year-old Bobby Koen. Karen was also deeply loved by her companion of 28 years, Lorne Webster of Edmond, and his daughter Amber Allen.

Karen is preceded in death by her parents Emerson and Ollie Snow, siblings, Deborah Snow, Johnny Snow, and Gene Snow, and sons Donny Ray and Denny Lee Roberts.

Karen's interests illuminated her personality. Her cherished dog Roxie was a constant companion; her younger years were spent, in vibrant competition, on the bowling lanes, and she was a huge supporter of all OU sports. The Little League World Series brought excitement each year. However, nothing rivaled the importance of family in Karen's heart. She reveled in their achievements and found immense joy in being a part of their lives, however she could. Her faith anchored her, providing strength and solace through all of life's moments.

The family would like to express their appreciation for the care that Karen received to the doctors and nurses at OU Medical Center sixth floor MICU and the Hospice/Comfort Care unit.

Funeral services were held Jan. 27 at the Crossing Community Church in Edmond, Okla., under the direction of Crawford Funeral Service.

## Henry C. Holmes Jr.



The home going services honoring the life of Henry C. Holmes Jr. 27, of Virgina, will be held 10:00 A.M. Wednesday January 17, 2024, in the Assembly of God, Kingfisher, Oklahoma with Reverend Wendell Prim officiating. A wake will be held 8:00 P.M. to 12:00 A.M. Tuesday January 16, 2024, at God's Covenant Church, Kingfisher. Burial will follow in the Morrison Cemetery, Lacey, Oklahoma. Services are under the direction of Brown-Cummings.

Henry was born March 31, 1996, to Henry and Crisella James Holmes in Enid, Oklahoma and passed from this life December 31, 2023, in Norfolk, Virginia.

He was raised in Kingfisher, Oklahoma graduating from Kingfisher High School with the class of 2014; where he played football, basketball, ran track and was a member of the FFA. He was active in his church as a member of The Extreme and Radical Youth for Christ, serving on mission trips for the First Baptist Church and attended Falls Creek. After graduating he enlisted in the United States Navy, He was stationed in Norfolk Virginia on the USS Gerald R. Ford as an Aviation Ordinance man. He was honorably discharged after six years of service to his country in 2020. He then worked as an Engineer Machinist on Nuclear Submarines. Henry was a dedicated father who loved being with his sons. In his spare time, Henry enjoyed riding motorcycles, gaming, and playing Top Golf with his friends.

He is survived by his three sons, Ezekiel Holmes, Henry Clay Holmes III, and Luka, of Suffolk, Virginia, his parents, Henry Sr and Crisella Holmes, of Kingfisher, Oklahoma, his siblings, Vernon James, of Portland, Oregon, Chelsey, Lexie, Mackenzie, and Christopher Holmes and Savannah Johnston, all of Kingfisher, and Joshua Holmes, of Oklahoma City and his paternal grandmother Julia Holmes, of Dover.

He was preceded in death by one brother, Arthur Almanzar, his paternal grandfather Henry Lee Holmes, his maternal grandparents Floyd and Barbara James; and two aunts, Norma Valles and Barbara B. James.

## Natasha Russell



Natasha Russell of Norman, Okla., passed away Jan. 4, 2024 in Oklahoma City, at the age of 48 years.

Natasha was born Nov. 5, 1975 in Pauls Valley, Okla., to Mickel Ray Russell and Nancy Sue Sargant. Natasha was an ambassador for Oklahoma criminal justice reform.

Natasha accepted the Lord as her Savior and attended church in Oklahoma City where she spent the last 14 years. Natasha loved taking road trips, hanging out with her daughters and friends and taking her grandbabies on adventures. She was always the life of the party. Natasha loved taking photos and would be known for taking many pictures of family and friends. She was loved and truly be missed.

Natasha was preceded in death by her parents Nancy Sue Russell, Mickle Ray Russell, and her son Koreon Russell.

She is survived by her mother Teresa Lightsey, children Courtiney Russell, Asiona Richard, Zara Davis and three beautiful granddaughters, Koreona Phillips-Russell, Ava Standifer, and Marcel Standifer. Siblings, Tommy Russell, Mickel Russell, Myron Russell, Adam Russell, Sonia Brown, Nikki Lightsey, and a number of nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held Jan. 13, 2024 at the Stufflebean-Coffey Funeral Home Chapel in Pauls Valley, Okla., followed by an interment at the Bethlehem Cemetery under the direction of Stufflebean-Coffey Funeral Home.



Apply Now!

DREAMS
Developing Responsible Employees Aptitude and Marketing Success

IN COLLABORATION

# Summer Youth EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM

## DEADLINE MARCH 1, 2024

CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

**The program offers entry-level work experience, job readiness training and career development training to all participants.**

**8-WEEK PROGRAM: June 3rd - July 26th**
**For youth ages 14-24 that reside in the DREAMS Program service area.**
**Salary is $12/hour, 40 hours per week.**

The application will remain INCOMPLETE until all documentation is received.

### Eligibility

- Applicant must reside in the DREAMS Program service area.
- Must be between the ages 14-24 before June 3, 2024.
- Applicant must be able to participate for entire program (8 weeks) and attend all work readiness training events.
- Family income must not exceed 2023 Federal Poverty Guidelines and/or youth have a barrier to employment and education.

### Completed by Youth applicant to submit:

- Program Youth application
- CDIB
- 2nd ID: state ID, Driver's license, social security card, **birth certificate (Mandatory for age 17 and under)**
- High school transcript or Student report card
- Youth self-assessment
- Privacy Statement signed by youth
- W9
- Selective service registration (required from all males age 18 or older)

### Completed by Parent/Guardian of applicant to submit:

- Program Adult Application
- Family income verification form
- Guardianship/court documents/custodial care (if applicable)
- Proof of residency (utility bill, bank statement, lease agreement) OR Residency Verification form (if no bills are in Parent/Guardian's name)
- Proof of income (paystub, W-2, or benefit letter for SNAP, SSI, Unemployment, or IIM) OR No Income Verification form (if Parent/Guardian has no income)

**Documents may be physically dropped off or emailed/faxed/mailed.**
**All documentation MUST be submitted by 4PM 3/1/2024.**

### EMAIL/FAX/MAIL

dreamsgroup@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov
FAX: 405-422-8243
MAIL: P.O. BOX 67, CONCHO, OK 73022
Phone: 405-422-7662



Apply Now!

DREAMS
Developing Responsible Employees Aptitude and Marketing Success

# SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYERS

## DEADLINE MARCH 29, 2024

**The DREAMS Program provides PAID entry-level work experience for 8 weeks from June 3 - July 26 to employers.**

- Employer location must be in the DREAMS Program service area.
- Employ youth between the ages 14-24.
- Employer must be able to participate for entire program (8 weeks) and attend DREAMS Program Career Fair.
- Complete a DREAMS Program Job Site Request form application

### PRE-EMPLOYMENT SCREENING, IF REQUESTED

- ✓ BACKGROUND CHECKS
- ✓ FEES: MVR, GAMING LICENSE
- ✓ DRUG SCREENING
- ✓ PPE

### WORK SCHEDULE

**Work Hours 8:00AM - 5:00PM**
**MONDAY - FRIDAY**
**$12/hour paid by DREAMS using Paycom Services.**
**Summer youth will be offered work readiness training every Monday and Friday.**

CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

### CONTACT US

***PHONE: 405-422-7662***
***MAIL: P.O. BOX 67, CONCHO, OK 73022***
***FAX: 405-422-8243***
***dreamsgroup@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov***

LuckyStar CASINO

# Win a MINI!

MINI COOPER GIVEAWAY!

*We're Giving Away Six*
**2024 MINI COOPERS**
*this Valentine's Day!*



Earn entries starting **MONDAY, JANUARY 15, 2024.**

**Fourteen points equals one entry. 5x Friday entries are not included in this promotion.**

*Vehicle shown not actual prize. Promotions valid during Player's Club hours only. Management reserves all rights to cancel or modify any or all promotions without prior notice. See Player's Club for full details.*

CHEYENNE and ARAPAHO TRIBES

LuckyStarCasino.org