





# Office of Veterans Affairs hosts Veteran outreaches to share knowledge and encouragement

By Kimberly Burk, Tribal Tribune Correspondent

(CONCHO, OK) The annual veterans’ luncheon was a lighthearted affair, complete with door prizes and plenty of wise-cracking by master of ceremonies Max Bear.

But Jerry Chebon Levi, director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Veterans Affairs, keeps a serious list in his head of ways to help his fellow veterans. So does Vietnam Veteran Harvey Pratt, who designed the National Native American Veterans Memorial and serves on the tribal veterans’ board.

One priority is to convince Cheyenne and Arapaho military veterans to avail themselves of services provided by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

“Only half of Native veterans, once they are discharged, enroll in any kind of VA health system program,” Levi said during an interview prior to the luncheon. “Among non-Natives, it’s 75 to 80 percent.”

Levi used himself as an example. “I’m nearly 50 years old, but it wasn’t until 2022 that I did anything,” he said.

A veterans’ service officer told him to get evaluated for a hand injury and his migraine headaches, Levi said.

“I didn’t think I was going to be eligible for any help, much less get compensation for it,” he said.

“A lot of veterans give the VA one chance, and after that they want nothing to do with them,” Levi said.

Pratt and others are working to start an intertribal association of veterans.

“There is strength in numbers, and we can have a better voice,” he said.

Michael Gardner, a Native American nurse navigator for the VA who spoke during the May 24 luncheon in Concho, thinks that’s a great idea.

“If we can get Native veterans organized, that would be a force,” said Gardner, who is Choctaw and Comanche. “That would be a political force that cannot be ignored.”

Ray Orphan, director of veterans’ services for the Chickasaw Nation, is among

about getting services to Native veterans who live in rural Oklahoma.

Kiowa Tribe Veterans Director LaRue Guoladdle is the only woman serving in Oklahoma as a tribal veterans’ services officer. She’s been in that post since 2021, following a 23-year career with the U.S. Army.

Guoladdle is also hopeful about what an intertribal association could mean to rural veterans. Challenges, she said, include computer literacy, technology access and distance from the VA in Oklahoma City.

“Hopefully we can get some laws changed or bring some things to the attention of the Oklahoma governor,” she said.

Shayla Goombi, who served in the U.S. Army from 2014 to 2023, was among the tribal employees who attended the luncheon. She works as a language and culture apprentice and is learning the Arapaho language.

Goombi said she was stationed at Ft. Hood and deployed from there to Syria and Iraq, where she was exposed to burn pits and other hazards. She was approved by the VA for 90 percent disability and is working toward full disability. Receiving full military disability benefits would not prevent her from working for the tribe, she said.

“The VA system is changing and evolving,” she said. “I would say to my fellow veterans, don’t be afraid to seek help from the VA. They are there to assist us in all our needs and with our health.”

Pratt also hopes for the day when Native veterans can register with the VA by tribal affiliation rather than just being shown on applications as “Native” or “Pacific Islander.” But he admits there has been some progress. When he enlisted, he said, there was no category for Indians and he was forced to identify himself as “white.”

Levi announced during the luncheon the launching of Saturday coffee socials, which he said are “a safe space for our veterans to come and talk.”

The tribes’ Office of Veterans Affairs



Max Bear (left) and Ed Wilson address Veterans at the Veteran’s Memorial Day cookout May 23 in Concho, Okla. (Courtesy photo)

The Robert K. Wilson PACT Act will honor a veteran who attended last year and was immediately rated for 100 percent disability. Wilson was a Vietnam veteran who died a few months later, “but it improved the quality of Robert’s life for those few months,” Levi said.

Gardner told the audience that the VA has a contract with the Indian Health Service.

“When a veteran gets healthcare at IHS, we pay for it,” he said.

“You can use the IHS as much as you want and use the VA as much as you want.”

Bear, a military veteran and director of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Historic Preservation Office, reminded the audience of the important role veterans play in Native culture.

“There are certain things that veterans have the right to do,” he said.

“You can’t hold Cheyenne and Arapaho ceremonies without veterans there. We all took an oath, similar to what our Society men take.”

Gov. Reggie Wassana and Lt.Gov. Hershel Gorham also spoke during the luncheon.



Shayla Goombi is a military veteran and a Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ employee who encourages her fellow veterans to sign up for VA benefits. (Photo / Kimberly Burk)

Wassana said he grew up with uncles who had served in World War II.

“All the things those people have taught us, and shown us, we don’t pay much attention to them until we get older,” Wassana said.

“But those people who came before us, they made us who we are today.”

Gorham is a military veteran who deployed to Iraq.

“As Cheyenne and Arapaho people, one of the most important legacies we can leave is that we did the best that we could,” Gorham said.



Cheyenne and Arapaho Gov. Reggie Wassana welcomes Veterans to the Veteran’s Memorial Day Cookout/Luncheon in Concho, Okla.

those to whom Pratt has proposed an association.

“All coming together, we could brainstorm and come up with good ideas, and find avenues for our problems,” said Orphan, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who served in the first Gulf War.

Orphan said he is especially concerned

staff attended training in San Antonio in October to help them better serve veterans with PTSD, Levi said, and the OVA has applied for a suicide prevention grant.

On July 26, the OVA will hold its second PACT Act, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Respect Gym in Concho. The VA will be on hand with mobile exam rooms, he said.



Amaris Sweezy, a Veteran of the U.S. Navy is an employee of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. (Courtesy photo)

Office of Veterans Affairs

Robert K. Wilson Memorial

PACT Act Disability Event

July 26th

VA

Concho OK

RESPECT Gym 8a-5pm

- VA and their Mobile exam units will be here
- Submit Disability Claims and Increases
- Possible Disability Rating Given Same Day
- All Veterans Welcome, BBQ Lunch
- Screenings for Exposures to Toxins
- Enroll in VA Healthcare
- Over \$40,000 in Monthly Claims were granted at last year’s event
- Widows and Families of Vets are encouraged to attend. Bring ALL Documents!

Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

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*Pictured l-r: Jim Ramey, Colorado director for the Wilderness Society, Chester Whiteman, Colorado Governor Jared Polis and Fred Mosqueda. (Photos / Facebook)*

## Elevate Conservation awards Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Outdoors for all Award

(DENVER, CO) Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes receive the Elevate Conservation: Outdoors for all Award for leadership on the renaming of Mt. Blue Sky in Colorado. The event was held May 30 in downtown Denver, Colo.

The organization has brought together over 50 Colorado and national conservation organizations, outdoor industry companies, and diverse community leaders as hosts to honor the intersection of outdoor recreation and conservation, celebrate the ways organizations work together, and “challenge ourselves to do more, and acknowledge how equitable policies are critical to our long term.”

A local Denver community dance group provided an honor song and dancing demonstration to open the program. The Emcee was Conor Hall, the director of the Colorado Outdoor Recreation Industry office. Colorado Gov. Jared Polis was also a special guest being honored for creating the landmark climate wildlife and land fund and expanding the critical conservation easement tax credit program.

Chester Whiteman and Fred Mosqueda accepted the award on behalf of the tribes addressing the crowd of more than 200 people. Whiteman and Mosqueda have been instrumental with the renaming efforts in Colorado since 2019.



*Above is Fred Mosqueda, Arapaho Outreach Specialist for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Arapaho Language and Culture program.*

*Below is Chester Whiteman, Cheyenne Outreach specialist for the Cheyenne Language and Culture program.*



## National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition launches historic initiative: National Indian Boarding School Digital Archive

(Minneapolis, MN) The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is proud to announce the launch of the National Indian Boarding School Digital Archive (NIBSDA), the first-ever digital archives database on Indian Boarding Schools. NIBSDA is a groundbreaking project aimed at preserving and bringing to light the history of the U.S. Indian Boarding School era. Over the last four years, NABS has been dedicated to compiling and digitizing records from Indian boarding schools.

Indian Boarding Schools hold a complex and often painful legacy in American history. For generations, Native American children were forcibly removed from their families and communities and sent to these schools, where they were subjected to cultural assimilation and abuse. The repercussions of this traumatic chapter continue to reverberate through Native communities to this day.

Through NIBSDA, survivors, families, researchers, educators, tribal leaders, and the general public will have the ability to access information that allows them to gain a better understanding of what happened at Indian boarding schools. This digital repository will include documents, photographs, and oral histories, offering invaluable insights into the experiences of those who attended these institutions and the impact they had and continue to have on Native communities.

"This initiative marks a significant milestone in NABS commitment to truth, healing, and justice," said

NABS CEO Deborah Parker (Tulalip Tribes). "The majority of all Indian boarding school records are currently not available to the public, by making these records accessible, we are taking a big step towards honoring the history and strength of Native peoples and building a more just and equitable future."

In August, NABS released our latest research, identifying 523 Indian boarding schools across the U.S. This is the largest list ever compiled, and we know it is going to take years and the support from all of Indian Country to collect records for all of these institutions.

We invite the public to explore this resource and join us in our efforts to acknowledge the past and create a brighter future for generations to come.

For more information and access to the Native Indian Boarding School Digital Archives, please visit [boardingschoolhealing.org/nibsd/](http://boardingschoolhealing.org/nibsd/).

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition is available for interviews and further inquiries. Contact Joannie Suina, Director of Communications at [jsuina@nabshc.org](mailto:jsuina@nabshc.org) to schedule.

The National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition (NABS) is dedicated to advocating for Native peoples impacted by U.S. Indian boarding schools. NABS seeks truth through education and research, justice through activism and policy advocacy, and healing through programs and traditional gatherings, <http://boardingschoolhealing.org>.

# Welcome!

## Connor Bushyhead, Acting Executive Director, Department of Health

**Background & Experience:**  
Connor holds a degree in nursing from the Canadian Valley Technology and is currently enrolled at Excelsior University pursuing a BSN. Her certificates include a LPN (8 years), Certified Wound Care Associate, Certified Correctional Health Professional, BLS/ACLS. Connor has worked in the health field since 2013. Her experience includes working for Cheyenne Arapaho Tribes Health Education, Tradition Not Addiction, and the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. Program before becoming a nurse in 2016. Most of Connor's nursing career has consisted of working in the psych field, specifically drug and alcohol. She has experience in long-term care, correctional, and home health nursing. She has also worked in many different capacities as a nurse, including lead/charge nurse, assistant nurse manager, nurse manager, and director of nursing. Fun fact: Last summer, Connor was selected to present on Mental Health and Music Therapy at the National UNITY conference in Washington, D.C.

[www.cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/health](http://www.cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov/health)  
[cobushyhead@cheyyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:cobushyhead@cheyyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov)

### Children of White Thunder

Legacy of a Cheyenne Family 1830-2020

By Dee Cordry

Available on Amazon:  
<https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09WPZSJKY>

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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.



# It’s Men’s Health Month: Why Men Should Be Aware of Their Health

In 1920, the female life expectancy in the United States was one year longer than for men. Half a century later, that gender gap had grown to 7.6 years. Over the next few decades, the difference shrank to 4.8 years. But, over just the past two years, while women’s life expectancy has remained steady, men’s declined, and the gender gap has crept back up to 5 years. Despite numerous advances in medical science, men continue to die at younger ages and in greater numbers than women of nine of the top 10 causes of death.

Within the broader men’s health crisis, there is one area where differ-

ences between male and female mortality and morbidity are especially stark: mental health, the most visible manifestation of which is suicide.

Across all ages and ethnicities, American men commit suicide at far higher rates than women. According to the most recent CDC data, between the ages of 15 and 64, roughly 3.5x more men than women commit suicide. From 65 to 74, male suicides outnumber females by more than 4:1. For those over 74, the difference is a startling 9.3:1. Overall, for males, suicide is the 7<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death. For females, it’s number 14.

One sub-population that’s profoundly affected by the epidemic of male suicides is the military. Historically, service members were less likely than their civilian counterparts to take their own lives. But since 2001, more active duty service members (including Reserve/Guard) have killed themselves than have died in combat. And the number of veterans who complete suicide dwarfs those numbers. According to the *Military Times*, veterans account for a total of 14 percent of all adult suicides in the US, even though only eight percent of the population has ever served.

The alarming disparity

in suicides is undoubtedly driven by equally alarming disparities in the underlying mental-health conditions that lead to suicide itself, including depression and anxiety<sup>[v]</sup>, psychosis, and substance abuse. In fact, nowhere is the connection between suicide and an underlying mental health condition more obvious than with substance abuse.

Between 2015 and 2016, male life expectancy decreased by .2 years, a rather dramatic decline over such a short period of time. That decline was driven, to a large extent, by an even-more-dramat-

MEN’S HEALTH / pg. 5

## Tribal Ready, PBC Chairman and CEO Commends the Launch of the Center for Tribal Digital Sovereignty

Washington, D.C. – The American Indian Policy Institute (AIPI) at the Sandra Day O’Connor College of Law at Arizona State University and the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) announce the launch of the Center for Tribal Digital Sovereignty.

The center will be the first and only of its kind in the nation. It is intended to provide the resources and support

needed for Tribal leadership and communities to institute a digital sovereignty plan.

“On behalf of Tribal Ready, I would like to congratulate AIPI and NCAI on this groundbreaking announcement. The needs of each Tribe differ and require unique planning that accommodates their values and way of life,” said Joe Valandra, Chairman and CEO of Tribal Ready. “The Center for Tribal Digital Sov-

ereignty is designed to assist with policies that can help Tribal Communities access and use all of the benefits of digital connectivity while not sacrificing sovereignty.”

About Tribal Ready

Tribal Ready is a Native American-owned-and-governed company with decades of expertise in communication network design and delivery to high-cost rural areas. Our team has the knowledge and

relationships vital for tribes to access broadband grant funding, as well as the trust necessary to preserve culture and advance tribal sovereignty. We are committed advocates for tribal sovereignty, fighting for the right to govern our own communities and benefit from access to modern technology. Our mission is to ensure that high-speed broadband reaches every Native American individual and community.

## MENTAL HEALTH SUMMIT

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“I think this is really good and it ties into that mental health where they’re taking them out of that comfort zone but then I know at the end of the day they’ll be happy that they did something so courageous yet beautiful because being Indigenous is so beautiful,” Jarvey said.

As youth were encouraged to participate in the day’s agenda and activities, many enjoyed learning the topic of wellness and mental health.

Cheyenne and Arapaho youth, Aracelie Chavez, 15 said mental health is a big thing and we need to focus more on the topic. Participating in the youth summit, Chavez thought it would be a great opportunity to experience it a second time, as she was in attendance at the first summit.

Chavez said the summit has been eye opening for her and she liked the discussion of mental health and being scared to get out of one’s comfort zone.

“I’ve learned that it’s okay, you have to feel defeat before you can feel like you’re coming out of your comfort zone to where you feel you can do anything, you have to feel

defeat first,” Chavez said.

Cheyenne and Arapaho youth Azlynn Salinas noticed the summit grew in size and attendance from the previous year’s summit.

Salinas’ favorite part was learning about animal therapy and interacting with the animals. Salinas said overall the summit is a good experience and she feels like more people should come because there’s nothing to lose and it’s pretty fun.

And when it comes to learning about mental health, Salinas said she feels there’s not enough attention on it.

“Some people like to keep it to themselves and that’s not good, I feel like people should talk about it more because it could prevent a lot of bad things that’s happened to people,” Salinas said.

With the mental health youth summit deemed successful in attendance and participation from youth, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes prevention programs wanted to create something that would be ongoing annually specifically for tribal youth. To highlight youth and let them know they they have a purpose and dreams are not too big,

whether it’s going into fashion, art, singing, DJ, acting or film.

“Their dreams do matter,” Kati Sullivan, director for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Dept. of Health Prevention Program, said.

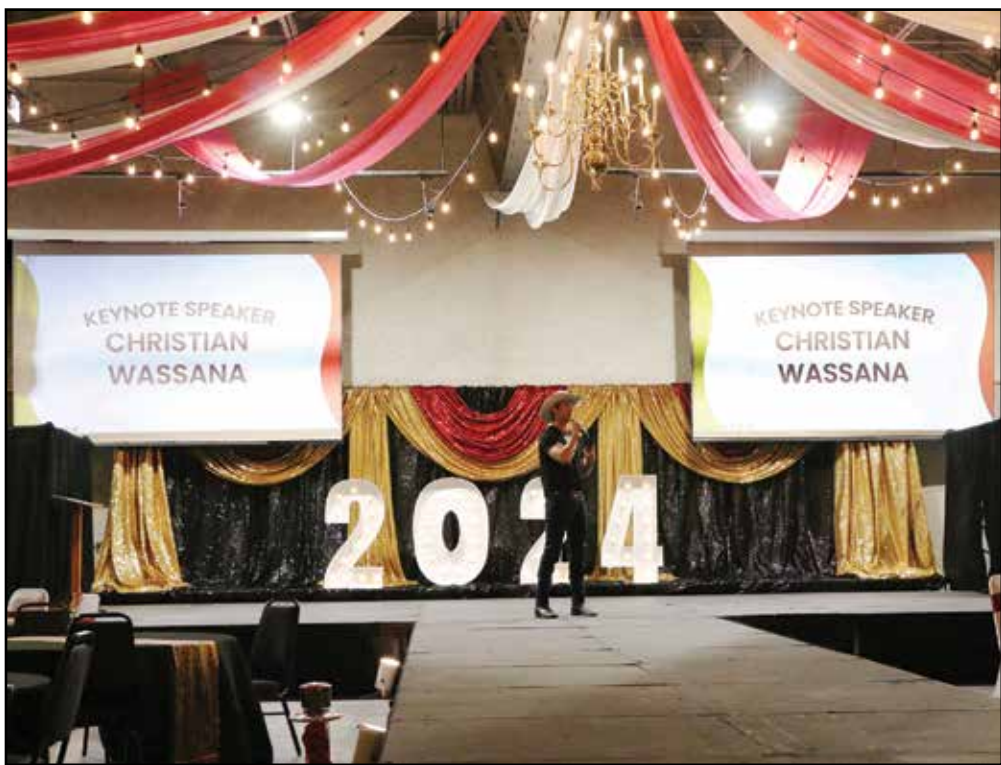
Sullivan said they see a lot of youth facing depression and suicidal thoughts, anxiety and they don’t know how to cope with it.

“They don’t know how to handle it and we have gotten feedback that they feel like they aren’t able to express that,” Sullivan said.

Visiting schools, including high school, junior high and colleges, Sullivan said the prevention programs work with a lot of the youth and want them to know that they are there for them.

“Their dreams matter, what they want to do with their life matters and their voices and whatever experiences they’ve had, need to be heard, they are the next generation of this life,” Sullivan said.

Sullivan said the purpose of the summit is all about the youth, to highlight them and thank them for being who they are and for being able to express themselves freely.



Keynote Speaker Christian Wassana talks about the importance of mental health to youth during the second annual Mental Health Youth Summit. (Photos / Latoya Lonelodge)



Domingo Whiteman and Courtney Reeder showcase a presentation on traditional dancing during one of the breakout sessions offered at the Mental Health Youth Summit.

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# MEN’S HEALTH

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ic nine percent increase in the male suicide rate, which, in turn, was related to a parallel increase in substance abuse, in particular opiate use, among men. Such a change in the suicide rate over the course of a single year could easily be classified as the bellwether of a looming public health catastrophe. Actually two catastrophes. The second is the dramatic increase in opiate overdose deaths. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, between 2015 and 2016, those deaths increased 20.4 percent among women and 31.5 percent for men primarily middle-aged men, who would otherwise be expected to be among the most productive members of their communities and our society as a whole.

Medical providers, members of the public health community, community organizations, politicians, and the media have collectively been unable (or unwilling) to acknowledge the massive scope of the mental health issues that affect men. As a result, tens of thousands of American men and boys are dying and suffering from what many experts believe are preventable or treatable behavioral and



mental health issues.

The effects of this collective mismanagement of mental health issues in men and boys extend into nearly every aspect of American society and have broad implications for the ways we provide (or don’t provide) preventive mental health services to our fathers, sons, brothers, partners, and friends. (The Affordable Care Act, for example, provides girls and women with annual, free, well-woman visits, which include mental-health screenings. No such coverage exists for boys and men.)

At the very least, the lack of adequate mental health care negatively impacts men’s and boys’ academic endeavors and achievements, their productivity in the workplace, the overall quality of their

family life, their ability to care for their children and spouse or partner, and their level of community engagement and the contributions they make to the social capital of their communities and our nation.

So what can we do about the male mental-health crisis? First, most experts agree that in order to help boys and men manage the behavioral health and mental health issues, particularly those that are inextricably linked to violence, we need male-focused tools, programs, social support systems and clinical care, not only in primary care providers’ offices, but also in our schools, work environments, social support networks, and community organizations, both on the hyper-local and national levels.

Second, rather than criticize “toxic masculinity,” we need to celebrate fathers and other male role models. From a very young age, boys grow up hearing that “big boys don’t cry,” “play through it,” and “man up.” Those powerful messages keep boys and men from recognizing that they need help and from reaching out to get that help, especially with regard to mental health issues. Fathers and other adult male role models can help boys and young men understand that expressing emotions and asking for help are signs of strength, not weakness, and that caring and nurturing are far better ways of showing you’re a man than committing senseless acts of violence.

# WOMEN’S CONFERENCE

continued from pg. 1

without even realizing it. And that’s what I came to realize when attending the conference.

On day one of the conference breakout sessions and workshops, I participated in a jewelry-making workshop where I learned that creating things with my hands could also be therapeutic. In a world full of chaos and duties, it was peaceful and satisfying to make something for myself, such as a traditional bone and bead necklace. I saw many women leave that workshop wearing their necklaces proudly.

Throughout the conference, various workshops were held with the focus primarily on mental health. There were workshops for information on physical health, self-defense, budgeting and debt reduction, art therapy, modern dancing, confidence and self-esteem, talking circles were available simply to just talk, and the list went on of different workshops that were held for just us women.

The keynote speakers for the conference were Darryl Tonemah, a Native health psychologist and musician who is Kiowa, Comanche and Tuscarora, and Cecilia Firethunder, a citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation and president of the Oglala Lakota Nation Education Coalition. Dr. Henrietta Mann was also a special guest for the conference.

Various things stuck out to me when listening to the guest speakers and some were revelations to how I address my mental health. Such as when Tonemah was wrapping up his discussion, he pulled out his flute to play a harmonious melody, in which I was reminded to

breathe as I closed my eyes and really pondered my inner thoughts. I thought ‘wow, when do I ever just take a moment to really channel my emotions and feelings?’ It felt empowering.

When Firethunder spoke, she mentioned she would put pictures of herself on the wall from the time she was a little girl on up to adulthood. It was to serve as a visual reminder of who you are and of the memories that are reminders of the good and the bad and the ugly that we face in life.

I realized that going through the good, the bad and the ugly is normal and as human beings, the emotions we feel are nothing to be ashamed of. If anything, it shows we are well and alive. Again, I breathed a sigh of relief knowing this.

During one of the panel discussions about mental health and grief, what struck me the most about the topic is that while everyone deals with grief differently, we all need someone to help us and love us through the darkness. Usually, when I feel my mental health declining, I resort to brushing it off and not dealing directly with the racing thoughts inside my head. My revelation during the conference was coming to terms with my mental health and addressing where I am in my wellness journey and to really ask myself what is it that helps me when I’m struggling?

It was when I participated in a vision board workshop that I really thought about what I envision for the future. I cut and pasted different magazine cutouts on my vision board of what



On the final day of the Women’s Wellness Conference keynote speaker was Cecilia Firethunder, citizen of the Oglala Lakota Nation. (Photo / Adriel Clements)

makes a happy home and a happy version of me.

Throughout the entirety of the conference, we were given tools and opportunities to expand our minds on wellness and what it means. And while channeling our inner thoughts at various times during discussion or a break out session, we were reminded yet again to breathe.

By the end of the conference, I came to realize that what I pour into myself is reflective of what I pour into the world and others. As Cheyenne and Arapaho women, we have many responsibilities and figuratively one of those responsibilities is making sure we are of good health, mind, body and soul.

Participating in the conference that was focused primarily on women wellness helped me think and

evaluate my mental state of being and how to explore options. While listening to other women share their thoughts and feelings on mental health, I believe held power in and of itself.

As we were encouraged to stand and recite positive affirmations together as one, our voices collectively echoed through the room, “I am worthy. I am enough. I am deserving. I am my own perfect. I am worthy of receiving love. I am beautiful ...”


Taking a day, or even two to recharge and address my mental and physical state of being was significantly important, as I became aware of the need to address my mental health. And while I venture through my wellness journey addressing those needs, it was nice to be reminded to just breathe.

### BlackwolfBeadz

by krista blackwolf


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Sabrina Norris (l) and Jennifer Riggles share a moment to take a photo during the first Women’s Wellness Conference hosted by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Oklahoma City. (Courtesy photo)



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY



June 7  
Wishing you the biggest slice of happy today – happy birthday mom! We are always here for you and we love you. Toya, Tommy and Jackie and all the girls



Happy 6<sup>th</sup> Birthday River Rose!  
June 9  
To my sassy little girl - here's to another year of being the amazing kid you are. You will always be my shining star. Love, mom.



HAPPY 1<sup>ST</sup> BIRTHDAY ZORI ROUXI!  
JUNE 20  
YOU HAVE BROUGHT SO MUCH HAPPINESS INTO OUR LIVES SINCE THE MOMENT YOU WERE BORN. WE LOVE WATCHING YOU GROW INTO YOUR OWN LITTLE PERSON. MOMMY AND DADDY LOVE YOU!



Happy 2<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Yunique Skie Osage  
Here's to another year on this earth may you continue to grow and be blessed! We love you sis, our sour patch baby! Love mom and dad



To the Best Father on Dad's Day!  
Love your family




Happy Father's Day Nick!  
Love your Aunties



To the BEST Dad  
Love your family in El Reno





Taylor R. Sutton  
Business Administration  
University of San Diego  
Congratulations from all your family & friends

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal offices will be closed on the following dates:

**June 19**  
Juneteenth, officially Juneteenth National Independence Day, is a federal holiday in the United States. It is celebrated annually on June 19 to commemorate the ending of slavery in the United States. The holiday's name is a portmanteau of the words "June" and "nineteenth", as it was on June 19, 1865, when Major General Gordon Granger ordered the final enforcement of the Emancipation Proclamation in Texas at the end of the American Civil War.

**June 25:**  
The Battle of the Little Bighorn, also known as the Battle of the Greasy Grass, and commonly referred to as Custer's Last Stand, was an armed engagement between combined forces of the Lakota Sioux, Northern Cheyenne, and Arapaho Tribes and the 7th Cavalry Regiment of the United States Army. The battle, which resulted in the defeat of U.S. forces, was the most significant action of the Great Sioux War of 1876. It took place on June 25–26, 1876, along the Little Bighorn River.

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In the Matter of Dissolution of Marriage:

JUDITH C. GARCIA  
and  
RODOLFO PRECIADO-GARCIA

Petitioner,  
  
Respondent,

Case No. JFD-2024-0014

**CIVIL SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION**

CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES TO: RODOLFO PRECIADO-GARCIA  
Address Unknown


YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED TO FILE A FORMAL, WRITTEN ANSWER to the Petition which is filed in the Office of the above-named Court. A copy of the Petition is available through the Court Clerk's office and to file your Answer with the above-named Court within twenty (20) days of service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service. Within the same time, a copy of your Answer must be delivered or mailed to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court P.O. Box 102 Concho, OK 73022.

AFTER THE TWENTY (20) days, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court shall set a date for hearing of this cause, and you will be notified of the time and date.

IF YOU FAIL TO APPEAR before the Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court on the date set for hearing, a Judgment by Default can be entered and the Plaintiff shall be awarded the relief asked for, in the Petition.

YOU MAY SEEK THE ADVICE OF AN ATTORNEY on any matter connected with this suit or your Answer at your own expense. Such Attorney should be consulted immediately so that an Answer may be filed within the time stated in this summons.

Dated this 30<sup>th</sup> day of MAY, 2024.

  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

CHEYENNE & ARAPAHOTRIBES  
OF OKLAHOMA  
FILED JUN 03 2024  
IN THE TRIAL COURT  
CHEYENNE AND ARAPAHOTRIBES OF OKLAHOMA  
P.O. BOX 102  
CONCHO, OKLAHOMA 73022

In the Matter of the Guardianship of:

ESTHER LENE WHITEBIRD  
DOB: 11/07/1956

Case No. PG-2024-0020

An Alleged Incapacitated Adult,

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

The Cheyenne-Arapaho Tribes to: ANY INTERESTED PARTIES


TAKE NOTICE that Rose Highorse, has filed in this Court a Petition for Guardianship, and is hereby set for a Hearing to be heard by the Cheyenne-Arapaho Trial Court of Concho, Oklahoma in the Courthouse located at 100 W. Black Kettle Boulevard, P.O. Box 102, Concho, Oklahoma, on the 24<sup>th</sup> day of JULY, 2024 at 10:00 A.M., at which time you may appear and show cause, if any you have, why said relief should not be granted.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED TO APPEAR on the above date and time indicated for the 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://us9.zoom.us/j/4524251494?pwd=SZRCenU2WDV0OEFuMnM5Q3R3cUJtTGh0T0p0> 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 3<sup>rd</sup> day of June, 2024.

  
Tawny Melendez, Deputy Court Clerk  
Cheyenne and Arapaho Trial Court

Cheyenne and Arapaho Social Services Program

# Red Tie Gala Sponsorships

**\$5,000 Platinum:**  
8 seats  
Half page ad  
Slide show (company logo)

**\$2,500 Gold:**  
4 seats  
1/4 page ad

**\$10,000 Diamond:**  
8 seats  
Full-page ad  
Company banner  
Slide show (company logo)  
Door sign

**\$1,000 Silver:**  
3 seats  
1/16 page ad

**\$500 Bronze:**  
2 seats  
1/16 page ad

Individual ticket price: \$100

Scan the QR code or visit  
<https://form.jotform.com/231213880767055>  
to register.





Contact: Andrea Patterson at  
[apatterson@c-a-tribes.org](mailto:apatterson@c-a-tribes.org) or  
Carmen Harvie at  
[charvie@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:charvie@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov)



Cheyenne and Arapaho  
Social Services Program



Presents

# Red Tie Gala

Saturday, June 8, 2024  
6pm - 9pm  
**POSTPONED**  
First Americans Museum  
659 First Americans Blvd, Oklahoma City

**NEW DATE:**  
**Friday, October 4, 2024**

Join the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Social Service Program to bring awareness and funds to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples Chapter.

Contact: Andrea Patterson at [apatterson@c-a-tribes.org](mailto:apatterson@c-a-tribes.org) or  
Carmen Harvie at [charvie@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov](mailto:charvie@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov)



OBITUARIES



Cheyenne Chief Harvey Kenneth Monetathchi, He-Am-Vehoe-Neve “High Chief”, was born on Dec. 29, 1944, at Clinton Indian Hospital to Edgar Monetath-

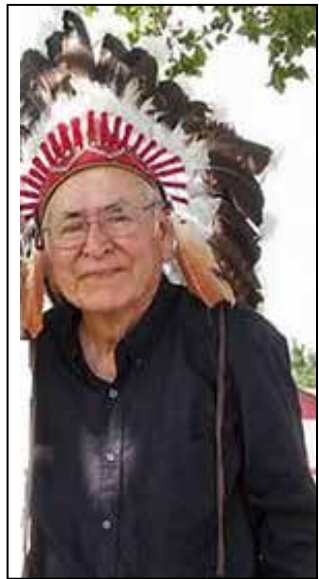
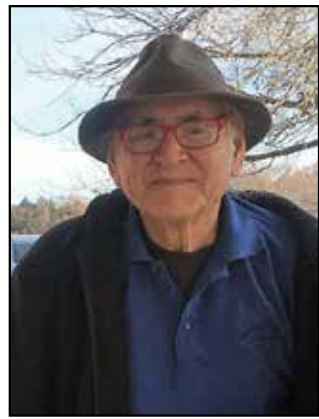
chi and Anola Heap of Birds. He passed away peacefully on June 7, 2024, in Yukon, Okla. Following his grandfather, Chief Joshua Black-

Cheyenne Chief Harvey Kenneth Monetathchi

wolf, Harvey was chosen to serve his people at the age of 13 by a council of chiefs. Harvey attended Concho Boarding School in his youth and eventually graduated from Clinton High School. He briefly went to Haskell University and began his working career, which saw him obtain a wealth of knowledge and experience throughout Oklahoma and Texas. Later in his life, realizing his responsibilities required him to further educate himself to properly serve and provide for his Native people, he completed his associate of arts degree from Redlands Community College. Harvey then received his Bachelor of Arts and Master of Liberal Studies from the University of Oklahoma. This allowed him to better assist his people by working for various Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal programs in numerous capacities – including business manager, health education director, and lieutenant governor to name a few. Harvey deeply cared for the Concho community where he resided. He formed a boy scout troop to benefit

tribal youth, which assisted throughout tribal territory at different powwows and functions. Boy Scout Troop 844 was chosen by Billy Mills to help carry the Olympic torch through the Cheyenne and Arapaho Nation. They were also invited by the Circle Keepers to accompany them to ancestral Cheyenne homelands in Colorado, Wyoming, and South Dakota. He attended Sacred Heart Catholic Church in El Reno and was a lifelong member of the Native American Church. Harvey enjoyed carpentry, fishing, and playing cards with family. He liked classic cars and antiquing. Harvey loved sharing knowledge through story telling. He also taught many youths Cheyenne culture through gourd making, singing, beadwork, put up teepee, and introductions to sweat lodge and the Native American Church. He enjoyed playing softball and watching OU football, as well as NFL football. Harvey spent his later years as an elder Cheyenne chief providing guidance and encouraging the continuance of traditional ways. In

which, he enjoyed preparing for and going to Sundance ceremonies. He is survived by companion Mary (Barnes) Monetathch, sons, Harry Tofpi, Dusk Monetathchi, Joshua Monetathchi, Eli Monetathchi, daughters Gina Monetathchi Frazier, Clarice Monetathchi Shirley, Nola Monetathchi Robertson, Mary West, sisters, Christina Waters and Evelyn “Taters” Waters and numerous cousins including, Ramona Welch, nephew Eddie Henry and numerous grandchildren and other relatives. He is preceded in death by his father Edgar Monetathchi, mother Anola Heap of Birds, aunts Evelyn Gouse and Angie Old Bear, brothers Rollo Waters and Wadie Waters, sister Sandy Spottedwolf, daughter Tina Monetathchi, nephew Orlando Waters, grandchildren Matthew Jones and Angela West. A traditional all night visitation was held Sunday June 9 at the Clinton Emergency Response Center in Clinton, Okla. An all-night wake service and Native American Church services were held Monday June 10 at the same



venue, and funeral services were held June 11 with Alan Fletcher officiated, followed by an interment at the Clinton Indian Cemetery under the direction of Kiesau-Lee Funeral Home.

Cheevers Heap of Birds

Graveside Service for Cheevers Heap of Birds, 66-year-old El Reno resident, will be held Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 11:00 A.M., at Chief Black Shortnose Allotment Cemetery, with Gerald Panana officiating, under the direction of Lockstone Funeral Home. Cheevers Heap of Birds was born May 19, 1958, to Alfrich Heap of Birds and Joyce Standingwater and passed away Sunday, May 26, 2024, at the Oklahoma Heart Hospital in Oklahoma City. Cheevers was raised and attended school in Weatherford, graduat-

ing from Weatherford High School in 1976. He married Ramona Tall Bear and later made their home in Oklahoma City where they raised their three children. He was preceded in death by his father, Alfrich Heap of Birds; mother, Joyce Standingwater; and one brother in infancy, Daniel Heap of Birds. Cheevers was survived by his son, Robert Heap of Birds of El Reno, Oklahoma; two daughters, Rachael Heap of Birds of El Reno, Oklahoma, and Janet Heap of Birds of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma; one brother, Kinsley Heap



of Birds and wife, Margaret of Thomas, Oklahoma; three sisters, Cleo Heap of Birds of Thomas, Oklahoma, Celeste Heap of Birds of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, and Roberta Heap of Birds of Arlington, Texas; and nine grandchildren.

Charyl Kay LittleRaven Mackety

Charyl Kay Littleraven Mackety was born on July 5, 1947 in Concho, Okla., to Troy Alfred and Alberta Christine (Miller) LittleRaven. Kay passed away on May 30, 2024 in Edmond, Okla., at the age of 76. Kay grew up traveling coast to coast with her family since her father was in the Navy. She worked for AAFES while she earned her bachelor’s degree in business administration in Lawton, Okla. Kay loved her job as an accountant and was very dedicated, serving over the years as senior staff accountant, Tribal business manager, treasurer for the Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes of which she was also a proud citizen of, retiring in December 2023 after 22 years of service, also celebrating 40 years of sobriety. Kay loved cooking, her most requested dish was her spicy rice, and made the best potato salad. She loved the holidays, especially Christmas, making it a special holiday for her family. She enjoyed powwows and at-

tending Arapaho Sundance in Ethete, Wyoming every year. Kay’s favorite color was red, and her favorite flower are carnations. Most of all, Kay has been a loving mother, daughter, sister, grandma, auntie, and a true friend. Kay will be dearly missed and cherished always. Survivors include her children, Donna M. Hamilton of Tacoma, Wash., Alisa C. Mackety of Lawton, Leah C. Mackety of Fountain Valley, Calif., and Shirleen E. Mackety of Geary, Okla., her grandchildren, Jonathan S. Hamilton, Stephanie C. Hamilton, Stefan J. Wahkinney, Quintin A. Sessoms, Justice L. Hamilton, Lauren T. Hamilton, Sophia K-L Hamilton, Shaun’Da K-A Goodson, Rosemary G. Sleeper, Monte J. Goodson, and Jessye B. Goodson, her 10 great-grandchildren, her siblings, Troy L. LittleRaven of Geary, Okla., Janis L. LittleRaven of Tacoma, Lyle D. LittleRaven of Calumet, Okla., A. Dennis LittleRaven of Geary, and Rory



D. LittleRaven of Geary, as well as many other relatives and friends. Kay was preceded in death by her parents, Troy A. and Alberta C. LittleRaven, her siblings, Barbara A. Beard, Kris A. LittleRaven, Bonita J. LittleRaven, and David B. LittleRaven, her grandchildren, Jeremy M. Hamilton and Stevaughn S. Mackety, her great grandson, Jonathan M. Chillous Jr., and a very special friend, Lee W. Graveside services were held June 4 at the Concho Indian Cemetery, with Rev. Kevin Wahkinney Jr., and Rev. Waylan Upchego officiating, under the direction of Turner Funeral Homes.

Denise Lynn Tallbear-Jones

Denise Lynn Tallbear-Jones, the daughter of the late Herman Ray Johnson and Lesa Rose (Tallbear), was born on Aug. 19, 1957 in Clinton, Okla., and passed away on May 19, 2024 in the local hospital at the age of 66 years and 9 months. Denise grew up in Watonga, Okla., and attended the Indian Boarding School. She had a long career as a cook working with the Dornick Hills Country Club, Salvation Army, Ardmore Public Schools and several of the local nursing facilities. Denise had recently been baptized at the New Hope Church of God on April 14,

2024. In her leisure time she enjoyed reading, cooking, sewing and loved watching her soap opera. She was proud of her Cheyenne and Arapaho heritage. She leaves to cherish her memories her husband Thomas Carl Jones Jr., sons, Thomas Carl Jones III, Anthony Orlando Jones and Charles Ray Jones, sisters, Dyane Tallbear and Lela Tallbear, brothers, Anthony Tallbear, Darren Tallbear and Keith Tallbear, numerous grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, daughter Christina



Jolene Tallbear, brothers, Gary and Kevin Tallbear. Memorial services for Denise Lynn Tallbear-Jones were held June 10 at the Centennial Chapel of Harvey-Douglas Funeral Home in Ardmore, Okla., with Rev. Nathan Gauwitz officiating.

Lamont ‘Cowboy’ YellowEyes

Lamont “Cowboy” Yellow Eyes of El Reno, Okla., passed away on May 25, 2024 at St. Anthony’s Hospital in Oklahoma City. Cowboy was born March 27, 1955, at the Lawton Indian Hospital in Lawton, Okla., to his parents, Doris Loneman Hamilton and the late Lamont Yellow Eyes Sr. He was raised in Watonga, Okla. Cowboy attended Watonga Public Schools. He worked as a security guard at the Lucky Star Casino in Concho, Okla. Cowboy was an avid OU Fan. In 2009, he and his family attended an OU game against Texas

A&M, sitting on the 50 yard line. He is survived by his mother Doris Loneman Hamilton, brother Samuel James Yellow Eyes of the home, son Thomas Laverne Koons and his grandchildren, Malichi, Michelle, Michaela Yellow Eyes and Michael Farrell, all from Weatherford, Okla., and numerous nieces and nephews. His family preceding him in death include his father Lamont Yellow Eyes Sr, stepfather, Walter Roe Hamilton; 2 daughters, Charmaine and Felicia Yellow Eyes, and 1 son, William Michael Yellow Eyes.



Wake services were held May 31at the Concho Emergency Response Center in Concho, Okla. Funeral services were held June 1, at the same venue, followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery under the direction of Huber Benson Funeral Home.

Big Eagle Diamond Crosses  
Levi Big Eagle

Facebook.com/Big Eagle Diamond Crosses | levibigeagle08@gmail.com  
616 N Noble Ave  
Watonga,ok,73772

580-791-1792

deepest sympathies during this hard time of loss may memories give strength may the love of your dear ones help you through the days ahead



# FIBER OPTICS INDUSTRY JOB FAIR

BRING YOUR RESUME AND BE  
PREPARED TO TALK TO  
INDUSTRY REPRESENTATIVES

For those individuals who have not  
received certification training:  
On-site training program enrollment  
will be available and job opportunities  
for ground hands and general  
laborers.

PRESENTED BY OSUIT AND THE CHEYENNE  
AND ARAPAHO TRIBES JUDICIAL BRANCH

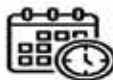


LUNCH PROVIDED TO ALL ISP VENDORS

## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

- ✓ Lineman
- ✓ Testers
- ✓ Splicers
- ✓ Ground Hands
- ✓ Laborers

**RESPECT Gym**  
220 E. Black Kettle Blvd.  
Concho, OK  
17 MINUTES WEST OF OKC  
NORTH ON HWY 81



**July 2, 2024 10 AM – 2 PM**

RSVP to Brandon Dinsmore



918.293.4983



brandon.dinsmore@okstate.edu



**OVER \$200,000 IN CASH & PRIZES**  
**GIVEN AWAY SATURDAY, JUNE 8<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup>!**

**\$10,000**

Drawings Saturday, June 8<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup>  
& 29<sup>TH</sup> at 11pm at Concho and Clinton.



**\$5,000**

Drawings Saturday, June 8<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup> & 29<sup>TH</sup> at 11pm  
at Canton, Watonga, Concho Travel Center and Hammon.



**WIN A**

**Blackstone 1935  
On the Go  
Scissor-Leg  
Griddle**

One (1) name will be drawn  
every hour from 7pm to 10pm  
Saturday, June 8<sup>TH</sup>, 15<sup>TH</sup>, 22<sup>ND</sup>  
& 29<sup>TH</sup> at all Lucky Star  
Casino locations.

(Valued at approximately \$299.99)

Earn entries starting **MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2024.**

Ten (10) points equals one (1) entry. Five times (5x) entries on Fridays.

Promotions valid during Players Club hours only. Management reserves all rights to cancel or modify any or all promotions without prior notice.  
Winner may only win once per promotional period. See Players Club for full details on this promotion. ©2024 Lucky Star.



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