Indigenous led survey centers on boarding school, adoption experiences

By Sylvia Merrel

The Child Removal Survey looks at how the federal government upended Native American communities and how they have sought healing.

For more than a century, Native American children were forcibly removed from their families and driven into boarding schools where their hair was cut, and they were stripped of their culture. Now, Indigenous community members and University of Minnesota researchers are looking at the trauma caused by this practice.

The Child Removal in Native Communities Survey centers the experiences of American Indian and Alaskan Native people who were forced into boarding schools and the foster care system, focusing on the generation-al impact of these practices. Led by Native researchers, it is meant to study the trauma inflicted on Indigenous communities and subsequent healing.

In April 2019, two Indigenous community-based researchers opened the survey with a ceremony, establishing that their academic research would be “paid by spirit, not just by the intellect,” said Sandy White Hawk, a Sicangu Lakota tribal citizen and founder of the First Nations Reatria tion Institute.

The Towering Spirit award is just one of five awards recognized, the mission to return names to Mt. Blue Sky, named Mt. Blue Sky.

The JOM Program looks forward in serving your student in his or her educational needs. Have a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Please stay safe, and wear your mask.

Tribes’ Bison Program Accepts Towering Spirit Award

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-Chief

As one drives up the lands of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes in Concho, Okla., they are met with a picturesque view of the tribes’ Bison herd grazing freely in the pastures blanketed in thick native grasses. The sight is breathtaking and would explain the recent award presented to the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Bison Program.

The Towering Spirit Award was presented to the tribes on Friday, Dec. 4 by the Keep Oklahoma Beautiful (KOB) organization.

“I am pleased to be a part of Keep Oklahoma Beautiful and Excellence awards virtual presentation. The Towering Spirit award is just one of five awards chosen by Keep Oklahoma Beautiful board of directors and given to a person, program, business or organization for upholding the mission of KOB in an unique way. I consider it a true honor to have the opportunity to recognize this evening the Cheyenne and Arapaho Bison Program,” Brad Henry, the 26th governor of Oklahoma said during a taped video presentation.

KOB is a statewide nonprofit organization founded in 1965 and is a state affiliate of Keep America Beautiful, with a national network of nearly 1,000 participating organizations working to improve communities through litter prevention, waste reduction and beautification. According to the KOB Website, the mission to return names to Mt. Blue Sky.

The JOM Program looks forward in serving your student in his or her educational needs. Have a Merry Christmas, and Happy New Year. Please stay safe, and wear your mask.

156th Remembrance of the Sand Creek Massacre: Petition Filing to Change Mt. Evans name to Mt. Blue Sky

(EADS, COLO) On Sun-
day Nov. 29 in a remem-
brance ceremony at the Sand
Creek Massacre National His-
toric Site, the Cheyenne and
Arapaho Tribes an-
nounced an official petition
to rename Colorado’s Mt.
Evans. The petition has been
filed with the U.S. Board of
Geographic Names.

“One hundred and fifty-six years ago, Territorial Governor Evans devised the strategy for the massacre at Sand Creek for political gain and now the victims, the Cheyenne and Arapaho People, will continue to be known in Colorado through the renaming of this moun-
tain as Mt. Blue Sky,” Fred Mosquera, Arapaho coordi-
nator of the Cheyenne and
Arapaho Tribes’ Culture Pro-
gram said.

As the 156th anniversary of the Sand Creek Massacre was honored, the mission to rename Mount Evans got an
other option, this time from the tribes whose descendants were victims of the attack. The Wilderness Society and the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have filed a petition with the U.S. Geological Survey’s Board of Geographic Names to rename Mt. Evans to Mt. Blue Sky.

The mountain was named after Colorado’s second terri-
torial governor, John Evans.
As the holiday season approaches, Lt. Gov. Gib Miles and I would like to wish everyone a happy and joyous Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

We hope 2021 brings us better and happier times as we have all faced many challenges and heart breaks this past year.

The coronavirus pandemic has taken many of our beloved tribal members much too soon, and our prayers and thoughts go out to all the families mourning the loss of their loved ones during this holiday season. We continue to pray for those who are facing this pandemic crisis, for our healing and our health during these difficult times.

We know Christmas is a time for families to come together and share in the season of giving. We ask that each of you be especially mindful when in stopping the spread of COVID-19 by wearing a mask and taking precautions within your family.

May God Bless you.
Gov. Reggie Wassana & Lt. Gov. Gib Miles

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May God Bless you.
Gov. Reggie Wassana & Lt. Gov. Gib Miles
COVID-19 Continues to Spread Across Western Oklahoma

Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

With the promise of a COVID-19 vaccine release right around the corner, positive cases and deaths from COVID-19 continue to rise across Oklahoma and the U.S.

On Thursday, Dec. 10 the Oklahoma State Dept. of Health reported 2,460 new positive cases bringing the state cumulative total to 225,453 and reported 35 new deaths bringing the death total to 1,900.

The coronavirus is hitting the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes hard, as November brought record-breaking deaths of tribal citizens.

Charles Fletcher, a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Health Board and the tribes’ COVID Task Force took to Facebook asking tribal citizens to do their part by wearing face masks and social distancing.

He wrote, “Lately it seems like every day that I go onto Facebook I see another obituary about a tribal member that has passed from COVID-19, this is sad because we are losing so many of our elders who are the caregivers of our tribe and historians and the teachers of our traditions and cultures.”

According to data released by the tribes’ Health Education Division, Dec. 10, the tribes’ eight county area had 14,306 total cases with 88 reported deaths and 12,242 reporters recovery.

The Clinton Service Unit has identified 510 total positive COVID-19 cases since beginning testing, the Clinton Service Unit has identified 510 total positive COVID-19 cases with 52 of the 139 or 37% of all positives, Canadian County with 23 of 139 cases or 16.5% of all positives and Blaine County with 23 of 139 cases or 16.5% of all positives.

“Dewey County” has been rising as well with three active cases last week and now 10 active cases.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Gov. Reggie Wassana has mandated masks for all employees in all offices and screenings for temperature checks are ongoing for anyone visiting any of the tribal offices. Also put into place has been mandatory employee testing through the tribes’ Dept. of Health on a regular basis.

The Clinton Service Unit is preparing for the arrival of the long anticipated COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available. The FDA authorized the Pfizer vaccine for emergency use on Thursday, Dec. 10 and the first round of doses are being distributed throughout the U.S., with priority being given to health care workers on the frontlines and the vulnerable elderly population. The vaccine will be a two-dose series, separated by 21-28 days.

According to the Indian Health Services (IHS) the COVID-19 pandemic has disproportionately affected American Indian/Alaska Native populations across the country, with infection rates over 3.5 times higher than the non-Hispanic white population. In addition American Indian and Alaska Natives are over four times more likely to be hospitalized as a result of COVID-19. In total, since beginning testing, the Clinton Service Unit has identified 510 total positive COVID-19 cases with over 9,000 COVID-19 tests conducted as of Dec. 1, 2020.

On Dec. 4 the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) recommended facial masks to be worn in all indoor places. This is the first time the CDC has recommended universal mask wearing, including indoors. The agency for months has encouraged mask wearing, especially in indoor places. This new recommendation comes when COVID-19 cases in the state and country are at an all-time high.

For more information on testing, precautions and new CDC guidelines visit www.cdc.gov.

Avoid indoor gatherings; Wear a mask; Keep your distance; Protect Our Elders; Stay home; Wash your hands; Get a COVID vaccine

Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief
Cheyenne and Arapaho

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Society of Professional Journalists member
Oklahoma Press Association member
Native American Journalists Association member

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2018-2020 NATIVE AMERICAN JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION MEDIA AWARD WINNER - 2021-2022 AWARD WINNER OF THE OKLAHOMA BEST NEWSPAPER CONTEST - 2021 SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS OKLAHOMA CENTER FOR MEDIA AWARD WINNER

Be Wise as a Chief and Make COVID as rare as Bigfoot:

Cover your face in Arapaho

Be Wise as a Chief and Make COVID as rare as Bigfoot:

Avoid indoor gatherings; Wear a mask; Keep your distance; Protect Our Elders; Stay home; Wash your hands; Get a COVID vaccine

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Colorado High School Alumni Fight to Change Racist Mascot

By Avella Orono

After nearly 15 years of graduating, two Lamar alumni formed a petition to change the name “Savages” from their team.

(DEVNER, CO) “You know, at the time, I had no reason to feel anything but pride that name,” said Blake Mundell, a 2006 graduate of Lamar High School, “It was just something that’s just here in this small town where this definition exists,” he said.

Blake Mundell and Matthew Davis have both been active in the Lamar community, with Mundell as the first chair or the school’s pep band and Davis as a former cheerleader. Each time, we welcomed the af

“Pow Wow drum beat. And the school’s pep band. And the athletes, you know, at the time, I had no reason to feel anything but pride that name,” said Blake Mundell, a 2006 graduate of Lamar High School, “It was just something that’s just here in this small town where this definition exists,” he said.

Blake Mundell and Matthew Davis have both been active in the Lamar community, with Mundell as the first chair or the school’s pep band and Davis as a former cheerleader. Each time, we welcomed the athletes as the first chair or the school’s pep band.

“The long-standing head football coach of all state pride,” she said. “You know, at the time, I had no reason to feel anything but pride that name.”

Davis added that this is not just a school issue but an issue in the community as well and we all thought it was a mark of pride for that name.”

“Blake Mundell left for college in 2007 that his eyes were opened to that name. However, they

“It’s the ultimate act of SELF- CARE. You deserve it! You are worth it.”

“Your handwriting is beautiful. I am I want you to know that you are always welcome here at the Diabetes Wellness Center. You deserve it! You are worth it.”

“We’re always looking for ways to improve our services and stay relevant in today’s fast-paced world.”

For more information and resources, please visit the Diabetes Wellness Center website at https://diabeteswellnesscenter.org. We look forward to helping you on your journey to better health.”

Want to stay up-to-date on the latest news and events at the Diabetes Wellness Center? Follow us on social media: Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Be sure to check out our blog for articles and resources on diabetes management and prevention.

Authentic Native American Pottery | Weaving | Flatties | Leland Lefland | www.agallienations.org

Create change.
Be the rising tide that lifts all boats.

“Rising Tide Lifts All Boats” - John F. Kennedy

What JFK meant by this quote is that a good economy should benefit all participants. When some economies should benefit all participants. When some economies should benefit, it is important for everyone to rise. This is because when one person succeeds, everyone succeeds. The same logic applies to our economy.

By Arielle Orsuto

Many of our enrolled tribal citizens living out of district feel that we have been left out of the benefits and services that should be offered to us all. Out of District citizens are counted in order for the Tribes to receive grants and funds and yet we hear too often we do not qualify since we live out of district.

We have a choice to make. What kind of Nation do we wish to be. Do we want to be a Nation in which only certain ones receive the benefits and services that the Tribes offer. Or do we want to be a Nation that works for everyone and provides opportunity for all?

Are you an enrolled tribal citizen living out of district and feel you are not represented and left out of tribal services? If you are, then please consider joining the Cheyenne-Arapaho Out of District Facebook Group. We are organizing, and preparing for the 2021 Tribal Elections. We need your support candidates who will support us, the Out of District tribal citizens.

Search for us via Facebook and request to join by searching: Cheyenne-Arapaho Out of District Tribal Citizens. To receive a voter registration form you can email, okiendnd43@yahoo.com. Together we can be the change that lifts all boats.

Paul Advertising
Dear Santa,

CANTON HEAD START
I would like for Christmas:
A Paw Patrol book hop to tower
Love, Weston
A princess stuff
Love, Caylee
A toy pony Santa
Love, Jada
I don't want anything
Love, Adam
Paw Patrol toys
Love, Brodie
A Paw Patrol book hop to tower
Love, Henson
Spider Man toys
Love, Wyatt
A scooter and finger monkey
Love, Leah
Paint and art stuff
Love, Kaytie
Building blocks
Love, Janen
Pizza toys
Love, Talghain
A choo choo train and jump rope
Love, Victoria
A baby shark toy
Love, Jaxon
All the toys
Love, Ryder
Mickey toys and Blippi toys
Love, Asher
Shine and Play Dob
Love, Sophia

CLINTON HEAD START
I would like a Dream Life doll
Love, Avery Brooks
I would like a LOL doll
Love, De'ayana Griffin
I would like a play kitchen
Love, Harmoni Jones
I would like a PJ mask toy
Love, Adrianna Lopez
I would like a little boy kitchen
Love, Jaryn Moore

CONCHO HEAD START
I would like cars for Christmas.
Love, Bence
I would like a baby doll for Christmas.
Love, Yvela
I would like to have dolls and blocks for Christmas.
Love, Elisha R.

CONCHO CHILD DEVELOPMENT
I would like Blue’s Clues toys and toy trucks.
Love, Chris
I would like teddy toys and light up toys.
Love, Sovilah
I would like big trucks and truck books.
Love, Londin
I would like baby dolls and pretty dresses.
Love, Ha’iti
I would like a Coconel toys and punches.
Love, Attanio
I would like toys, animals and trolls.
Love, William
I would like cars, trucks, and art supplies.
Love, Antonio
I would like toy cars, trucks, play dough, and art supplies.
Love, Navas
I would like a pretty dress, pretty shoes, iPhone and Halloween.
Love, Skyynn
I would like baby dolls.
Love, Baylen
I would like puzzles, potato head set, and race car track.
Love, Nolan
I would like a nail set, make up, and baby dolls.
Love, Chloe
I would like a Ken doll, baby stroller, and a Barbie.
Love, RaeLynn
I would like a pretty dress, princess legos.
Love Aniah
I would like make up and princess legos.
Love, Aizen

Dear Santa,

CLINTON HEAD START
I would like a Toy Story toys
Love, Josiah Baut
I would like a Lightning McQueen with Jackson Storm and Cruz Ramirez.
Love, K’Deon Vincent
I would like a monster truck
Love, Grayson Wynn
I would like a Barbie
Love, Joanna Bradley
I would like a Lego set
Love, Alkiah Ford
I would like a robot
Love, Satoria Lalibidas
I would like a Batman toy
Love, Jeremiah Lopez
I would like a car
Love, Armando Martinez.
I would like a Dead Pool toy
Love, Jordan Mendoza
I would like a Spiderman
Love, Matthew Ortiz.
I would like a car
Love, Santiago Tapias.
I would like a Hot Wheels set
Love, Blane Ayers.
I would like a dinosaur set
Love, Devonte Bradley.
I would like a play kitchen
Love, Kayleigh Fletcher.
I would like a baby doll
Love, Ryan Tapaha.
I would like a tool box
Love, Arrow Warden.
I would like a Baby Alive
Love, Mercy Wusann.
I would like a video game
Love, Shayla Whitseloffs.
I would like a toddler scooter
Love, Paisley Wampie.

CONCHO HEAD START
I would like cars for Christmas.
Love, Bence
I would like a baby doll for Christmas.
Love, Yvela
I would like to have dolls and blocks for Christmas.
Love, Elisha R.

CONCHO HEAD DEVELOPMENT
I have been a very sweet girl this year. I would like dolls and animals for Christmas.
Love, Zaneta T.
I have been a nice and helpful boy at school. For Christmas, I would like blocks and cars.
Love, Wesley H.
I have been a very kind in school. I would like monster trucks and cars for Christmas.
Love, Martin T.
I would like to have dolls, a Barbie and a Barbie house.
Love, Taliah
I would like mouse toys, blocks and a Barbie tree house.
Love, Analia
I would like blocks, trucks and cars.
Love, Nakoche.
I would like trucks, blocks and legos.
Love, Anthony
I would like cars, blocks and books.
Love, Edwin
I would like a laser gun airplane and books.
Love, Jackson
I would like dolls, books and a Barbie house.
Love, Zory
I would like slime, candy and dolls.
Love, Selah

Dear Santa,

CLINTON HEAD START
I would like PJ Mask toys
Love, Jordan Mendoza

CONCHO HEAD START
I would like to have a toy pony and a horse for Christmas.
Love, Ethan
I would like makeup toys for Christmas.
Love, Madison
I would like toys for Christmas.
Love, Destyni
I would like cars for Christmas.
Love, Steele
I would like PJ Mask toys or cars for Christmas.
Love, Ethan
I have been kind to my friends and family. I would like robots and Spider-Man for Christmas.
Love, Trevor H.
I have been a very kind to my friends and family. I would like dolls and blocks for Christmas.
Love, Elisha R.
I have been a great friend and helper at school. For Christmas, I would like blocks and cars.
Love, Elisha R.
Mary Elizabeth Hawk Horn was born April 25, 1945 and departed on Dec. 2, 2020 at Baptist Memorial Hospital in Concho, Okla. to Jesse Horn and Isela Horn of El Reno, Okla. She was the youngest of eight children. Mary was raised by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, home improvement program, tribal and community development, and natural resource maintenance. She lived most of her life in Kingfisher, Okla.

Along with her parents, she was preceded in death by her siblings, Clarence Tallbuff, George Tallbuff, Dean Tallbuff, Bernadette Tallbuff, Gerald Tallbuff,4 Ella Kathryn Horn.

A memorial service was held Dec. 6 at the Kiesau Lee Funeral Home. Gracelands were held Nov. 27 at the Clinton Indian Cemetery in Clinton, Okla.

Juanita Maye Curtis Harrison was born April 26, 1969 in Clinton, Okla. to Jesse Horn and Isela Horn of Oklahoma City. She was the youngest of eight children. Juanita was raised by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, home education, fishing, and music. She was also preceded in death by her father Doug, A. Whiteplume and dad Robert P. C’Hair (Bob), brother Jerome C’Hair, sister Marlene C’Hair, great-grandfather goter Dresen, James Whiteplume, Pauline Bittinette and Ella Kathryn Horn. She was also preceded in death by her aunt, sisters and nieces/nephews (grandchildren) too numerous to mention.

A viewing and funeral services were held Dec. 9 in the Rock On Reservation Church in Geary, Okla., followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery in Concho, Okla.

Juanita was an avid golfer and volunteered at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Health Center. She was an avid golfer and volunteered at the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Health Center.

She was married to and raised with the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, home education, fishing, and music. She was also preceded in death by her father Doug, A. Whiteplume and dad Robert P. C’Hair (Bob), brother Jerome C’Hair, sister Marlene C’Hair, great-grandfather goter Dresen, James Whiteplume, Pauline Bittinette and Ella Kathryn Horn. She was also preceded in death by her aunt, sisters and nieces/nephews (grandchildren) too numerous to mention.

A viewing and funeral services were held Dec. 9 in the Rock On Reservation Church in Geary, Okla., followed by an interment at the Concho Indian Cemetery in Concho, Okla.

Juanita was born on Nov. 17, 1961 in Linder, Wyo., to Ernest and Effie (Lindley) C’Hair and Douglass A. Harrison. She was one of eight children. Juanita was raised by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, home education, fishing, and music. She was also preceded in death by her father Doug, A. Whiteplume and dad Robert P. C’Hair (Bob), brother Jerome C’Hair, sister Marlene C’Hair, great-grandfather goter Dresen, James Whiteplume, Pauline Bittinette and Ella Kathryn Horn. She was also preceded in death by her aunt, sisters and nieces/nephews (grandchildren) too numerous to mention.

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COVID FRONTLINES

VICTOR ROBERT ORANGE

Victor Robert Orange (White Bird-Vigil Woo-go-Miz)

May was born June 5, 1945 to Joseph Orange Jr. and Neda

(Fingerlings) Orange in Clinton, Okla.

He passed away Dec. 3, 2020 at the 2020 DHS Hospital Medical Center in Tulsa, Okla.

In my world, we are deeply dis -

trusted by our leaders and when you have to go out, wear

your mask everywhere. I ask you to do this for your family.

and your grandchildren and extended fami-

ly and friends.

Grave services were held Dec. 3 at the Canton Indian Mennonite Cemetery in Canton, Okla., with Rev.

Waylon Upchego officiating.

Carol Ruth Standinger

Carol Ruth Standinger was born July 2, 1961 to Joseph Orange Jr. and Neda (Bird) Standinger in Clinton, Okla., and graduated from Weatherford High School in 1980. She worked for Rogor Mills County driving a truck and heavy equipment.

Then, no one knew how long the war

would last or if they would survive. Peo-

ple were8 months into COVID. World

War II lasted six years and a day. The Great

Depression lasted 10 years. The 1918 flu lasted two years and two months.

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Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

(YUKON, OK) Christmas is a time of giving, and it’s always been said there is more joy in giving than in receiving.

When most 12-year-olds are anticipating what gifts they will receive, Jaidyn Railey, a Yukon resident, is more focused on what she can give.

For the past seven years, Jaidyn has not asked for Christmas gifts but, instead, asked for donations to pets and People in Need.

She seems to get the most joy in helping and assisting animals than any material gift she could receive.

This year marked the 10th donation drive, and was extra special to Jaidyn because she dedicated it to her grandmother, the late Darlington Public School teacher Ms. Terry Davis.

"They were happy we still came."

The 700 Cheyenne and Arapaho participated in the massacre of 1864, most Cheyenne and Arapaho, mostly women, elderly and children, were slaughtered when volunters from the First and Third Colorado Regiments ambushed them at sand. The massacre protested a treaty with the U.S. Army and the Native American tribes.

The tribes recognize the tragedy at Sand Creek, but this time they had to keep a low profile due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The final decision on whether or not to re-name Mt. Evans is likely months away and rests with the U.S. Park Service.

The Board of Geographic Names, but only after hearing from the State Geographic naming Advisory Board, which is scheduled for some time in January 2022.

When most 12 year olds are having an affair.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho are an epidemic of murder and abuse faced by Native American women. The year marks the 30th year the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have found a unique way to develop resources for their tribal members while at the same time they are helping restore and protect natural resources that keep Oklahoma beautiful. That is keeping the KOB mission garnering public attention and receiving a positive impact, Henry stated.

The Bison Program falls under the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes’ Dept. of Business, Farm & Ranch Programs, headed up by Nathan Hart as executive director and area wildlife manager.

"The Cheyenne and Arapaho Bison Program has been growing and expanding over the past few years. We want to build our herd because we’ve always been connected to the buffalo,” Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribal Governing Board Regent Wassana said.

The livestock program began in the 1990s with a donation from Roy Oliver, receiving assistance from the Inter Tribal Buffalo Council, which we receive animals from different national parks once a year and we have grown out our herd to approximately 500 animals right now,” Hart said.

"When you go back to your roots and to the history of Oklahoma, we’re always considered the buffalo to the tribes’ life source, as the buffalo progress so has the tribes,” Gov. Wassana said.

Hart said the tribes’ are in the process of restoring old clones out of national grasses, which will help sustain the herd in the future.

"Some of our population struggles with diabetes and the lean meat is a healthy food source for our people,” Hart said. “Our primary goal is to take care of elders, take care of those with diabetes and we’ve been fortunate that we have learned a lot of different places, and we are given that knowledge by them.”

The year marks the 30th year KOB has recognized individuals, businesses and organizations that uphold environmental best practices in order to Keep Oklahoma Beautiful. This will be the first year the event awarded any awards because it was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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"Some of our population struggles with diabetes and the lean meat is a healthy food source for our people,” Hart said. “Our primary goal is to take care of elders, take care of those with diabetes and we’ve been fortunate that we have learned a lot of different places, and we are given that knowledge by them.”

The year marks the 30th year KOB has recognized individuals, businesses and organizations that uphold environmental best practices in order to Keep Oklahoma Beautiful. This will be the first year the event awarded any awards because it was held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Dorothea Innis, a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and a co-worker for the tribes’ Indian Child Welfare office was highlighted for the month of December by the Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association. (Photo via FaceBook)

Brent Learned, a native child welfare worker and artist from Oklahoma, was featured in Russia to gain a deeper understanding of the Buryat people. (Photo courtesy of OICWA)

Today, these effects are still apparent as American Indian children are 18 times more likely to experience out-of-home care compared to children of a similar age, according to a 2019 survey conducted by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. “There was no way to connect or rely upon,” Learned said. “I feel that we never had the opportunity to meet other children, particularly indigenous people here, and to hear their stories and see other children who are just like our children, that’s what we’re all here for, just for a little time in this world, to get the most out of it.”

This article first appeared in The Minneapolis Daily.
Happy Birthday Dec. 16 to our daddy, Angel Hernandez. We love you, mom, Zoey, Zeus and baby Cruz.

Happy Birthday to our big sister Zoey, we love you. Your little brothers Zeus and Cruz.

Happy Birthday Catalina turns UNO Dec. 15. Love your grandparents James & Denise Friday of Irvine, Calif.


Happy Birthday Zoey Hernandez Dec. 24. To my little angel and sidekick, I love you so much. You and the boys mean the world to me. Enjoy your day baby girl. Roy God bless you with many many more. Love, mom.

WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR SON, NEPHEW, BROTHER, LESTY YOUNG-BIRD PEDRO A HAPPY 10TH BIRTHDAY DECEMBER 23RD! LOVE YOU, BABY. CONTINUE TO MAKE US PROUD.

Our departments, Health Education & Traditions, would like to thank all the participants for their pictures. Our winner for the drawing was Winnie Whitehead! Everyone that participated will receive a mask.

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Government statistics are sobering. According to the Centers for Disease Control, Native women are murdered at a rate 10 times higher than other ethnicities. Figures of the National Institute of Justice suggest that 84 percent of Native women have experienced violence in their lifetime.

For her prom in 2018, Cornell, of Oklahoma City and a citizen of the Choctaw Nation, chose a custom-made dress by Crow designer Della Bighair-Stump of Hardin, Mont. The purpose was to bring attention to the peril faced by Indigenous women.

"The color red is symbolic of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s movement," said Cornell. "The bodice was made to incorporate a little bit of the (Choctaw) tribe by adding diamonds to the design."

Red is the official color of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women’s movement to symbolize a bold statement, Indigenous women’s issues will be seen and heard.

Aside from being a statement color, multiple native tribes also believe that red is the only color that spirits can see. The project believes that the color not only will help to bring awareness to the cause but also help guide back the spirits of the murdered women and children so that they can lay them to rest.

The prom dress choice ended up making national headlines and was featured in magazines across the country.

The popular magazine Teen Vogue in an article about Cornell’s dress wrote: "Native dresses, like the ones designed by Della, are highlighting the unique way Young Native people are incorporating their traditional heritage into contemporary spaces as a way to show off their ancestral pride."

"I am just so humbled and very happy that my dress will be getting a lot of coverage," said Cornell. "A lot of times the only people talking about MMIW are Native people."

A year after the magazines were sold, Cornell and her mother were contacted by the Smithsonian National Museum of American History about including the gown in a new exhibit called, Girlhood.

The Girlhood exhibit was created to commemorate the 100th anniversary of women’s suffrage by showcasing how women have changed history in five areas: politics, education, work, health and fashion.

Cornell’s dress sits in the center of the fashion section on display. From there, it will tour the country through the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service from 2023 through 2025.

"While I am a little bit sad that I don’t get to have it in my physical possession anymore. I’m more happy that a lot of other people will be able to learn something from it and for more awareness to be spread because that’s the whole mission behind it."

The student of Fort Lewis College, a former Indian boarding school turned public college, never expected to find her prom dress in the center of a Smithsonian museum exhibit, but says that it gave her a chance to educate others on the struggles that Indigenous women face.

"By having it in the museum that means that a lot of other people will be able to see it and understand what’s going on and that’s really just the whole goal behind all of this."
Be Wise as a Chief and
Make COVID as rare as Bigfoot:

Avoid indoor gatherings;
Wear a mask;
Keep your distance;
Protect Our Elders;

Stay home;
Wash your hands;
Get a COVID vaccine

A message from the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes:
COVID-19 Task Force, Department of Health & Tribal Health Board
Artwork by Cheyenne and Arapaho artists:
Harvey Pratt, Brent Learned, Gordon Yellowman, George Curtis Levi