Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes

Governor addresses House Appropriations Subcommittee

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WRITTEN BY: Rosemary Stephens

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Cecil Gray gives a performance during the Red Earth Press Conference showcasing the Fancy Shawl Dance, another of the many dances performed during the annual Red Earth Festival.

Courtney Reeder gives a performance during the Red Earth Press Conference showcasing the Fancy Shawl Dance, another of the many dances performed during the annual Red Earth Festival.

New event launches in October 2020 to include parade and powwow in OKC

34th annual Red Earth Festival moves to Shawnee, OK

The festival will also include our other popular events including, “Ask the Expert” youth art show, Native dancing, storytelling and music performances,” Norick said.

The festival’s most used term, the Cox Convention Center, will no longer be op-

The event will include an arts and crafts market, children’s activities, storytelling and social dances both inside the museum and on the lawn overlooking Claremore and Rogers State University,” Barby Myers, Red Earth board member and president and CEO of the Claremore Area Chamber of Commerce said. The Red Earth Youth Art Show Competition is scheduled for May 2-3 at the Okla-

Holt told the audience Oklahoma is home to 39 Tribal nations, more than any other state in America, and Oklahoma City is proud the city’s history is preceded by many centuries of Indigenous history.

Other events announced throughout the state in 2020 is a collaborative art show with the Seminole Nation Museum in We-

Thirty-four years ago a dream was born when local businessmen, civic leaders, government officials and leaders of Oklahoma Tribes conceived the Red Earth Festival as a way to showcase Oklahoma’s outstanding Native talent. These goals and dreams continue today with the help of the Tribal communities, numerous volunteer planning committees, and hundreds of volunteers who devote their knowledge and time throughout the year.” Shane Leff, member of the Red Earth Board of Directors, and a citizen of the Citizen Potawatomie Nation said.

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Serving as the opening of the $300 million MAPS3 convention cen-

The Red Earth Festival will feature America’s best and most accomplished artists, guests and speakers to the Red Earth Press Conference Feb. 17 at the Petroleum Club in Oklahoma City.

The annual parade associated with the Red Earth Festi-

In recent years, the Red Earth Festival has had an economic impact to the state of Oklahoma of over $4 million. The Red Earth Festival, scheduled for June 13-14, will be held at the Grand Event Center, owned by the Citizen Potawatomie Nation in Shawnee, OK.

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...pointed Oil and Gas officer
...vice Agreement.
...and Gas Consultation Ser-
...do that for the tribe,” Phillips
...look forward to being able to
...understand that that would be
...cases were for the tribe, got
...done a lot of work with chil-
...throughout that whole time, 
...out of Clinton, Okla., said he
...voted on:
...items were discussed and
...Byron Byrd.

Darrell Flyingman and C4 
Candy, C1 Bruce Whiteman 
A3 Travis Ruiz, A4 Rector 
ton, A2 Kendricks Sleeper, 
session voting, A1 Billie Sut-
public hearing and special 

By these means, this is the only way to ensure that the text is accurately represented. The text is not altered in any way, and the content is presented as clearly and accurately as possible. Please note that this is a natural language representation of the text, and it may not exactly match the original formatting or layout of the document.
Arapaho Tribes announce the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Fonda Community Center. The new community center has been under construction for the past several years and is owned and operated by Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes. The building is 6,000 square feet, with a small kitchen, restrooms, and conference rooms. The parking lot can currently accommodate 16 vehicles, giving the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes an opportunity to keep our traditions and culture alive and prosper. Wassana said. “We are proud to build a new facility at Fonda and that it will be a center for the future generation to keep our traditions and culture alive and prosper.”

Stitt’s plan would implement Medicaid expansion as early as July

By Tye Brown

The 14th annual Native American Development Conference kicks off March 4, 2020, at the Sohoba Casino Resort in San Bernardino, Calif. For more information or to register visit www.naadv.org.

By Brooklynn Westlund, Gaylord News

For more information or to register visit www.nativeamericantribaltribe.com.

Tribal Jurisdiction on Supreme Court docket again with McGirt v. Oklahoma

By Carroll Celeste, Gaylord News

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Message From Your District Legislator

Editor’s Note: “Message From Your District Legislator” is a new column being published in the first issue of every month.

Legislators have been invited to submit an article for this column. Those who submit articles will appear under this column.

From: katy shawnee-community health nurse, gloria bellmule-zuniga-diabetes wellness director and charlene wassana, dept. of health executive director. (Submitted photos)

Twenty-five year old Marissa Sue Roman Nose Jones (c) was tragically killed at the Intersection of U.S. Highway 66 and Banner Road on May 1, 2003. Pictured with her two children, Amir and Amya Jones, who were also in the vehicle at the time of the accident, survived the crash, sustaining several injuries and requiring hospitalization.

Where to begin … I am now two months into my office and the Constitution is still the same, only the faces of our constituents have changed since I was in office in 2015.

Getting settled back into Oklahoma has been a transition coming from Washington where I worked 10 years ago. I have been working here in Oklahoma for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes including increasing Indian Health Services' CEO Gloria Bellymule-Zuniga-Diabetes Wellness director and Charlone Wassana, Dept. of Health executive director. (Submitted photos) education, training, workshops and screenings. The training reinforces the CHR scope of diabetes management by providing opportunities to discuss issues of concern and strategies for access as well as provided training and education on diabetes treatment and prevention and other diabetes-related issues such as cardiovascular conditions, obesity, nutrition, physical activity and kidney disease.

Gloria Bellmule-Zuniga, Katy Shawnee RN and Tia Connsy RDN (Diabetes Wellness Department) are members of the OIDC role is to be support and assist diabetes programs in maintaining sustainability and look for ways the OIDC group can positively effect tribal and other communities through education, training, workshops and screenings. The training reinforces the CHR scope of diabetes management by providing opportunities to discuss issues of concern and strategies for access as well as provided training and education on diabetes treatment and prevention and other diabetes-related issues such as cardiovascular conditions, obesity, nutrition, physical activity and kidney disease.

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Meet The Head Start Program Staff Members

**Administrative Staff**

**Clinton Head Start**

Kristy Fisher, Center Supervisor; Cassandra Cleveland, Family Service Coordinator; Jessica Sh behaviours, Jennifer Parker, Teacher Classroom 2, Amanda Canaday, Teacher Aide Classroom 2, Brittany Whitmer, Teacher Classroom 2, Rebecca Martin, Teacher Aide Classroom 2, Regan Owen, Teacher Classroom 3, Magaret Geary, Teacher Classroom 3,(timeout(Joe Jones)\), Jennifer Parker, Teacher Classroom 3, Whitney, Teacher Aide Classroom 1, Jennifer Parker, Teacher Classroom 1, Whitney, Teacher Aide Classroom 1, Brittney Tapaha, Cook and Sarah Shindler, Cook Aide. (Pictured in no particular order.)

**Concho Head Start**

Misty Corwin, Education Manager; Jeniece Hill, Cook, Joy Hernandez, Cook Aide and Bethany Corwin, Teacher Aide Classroom 2, Amanda Canaday, Teacher Aide Classroom 2, Brittney Tapaha, Cook and Sarah Shindler, Cook Aide. (Pictured in no particular order.)

**Centennial Head Start**

Kristy Fisher, Center Supervisor; Cassandra Cleveland, Family Service Coordinator; Jessica Shbehaviours, Jennifer Parker, Teacher Classroom 2, Amanda Canaday, Teacher Aide Classroom 2, Brittney Tapaha, Cook and Sarah Shindler, Cook Aide. (Pictured in no particular order.)

The families will be informed after acceptance letter they, along with the enrolled child, have to attend a mandatory Health Fair.

If the parent/guardian questions the decision of the committee concerning the admission of their child, they may send their concerns to the Head Start Director in writing.

Families will be informed after the initial and final selection.

The Open Enrollment period for the 2020-2021 school year for the Concho Head Start will be held March 9-13. Applications can be submitted online at www.headstart-arapaho.org or can be picked up at any of the Head Start Centers at any time. For more information call 405-422-7635.
Marissa Roman Nose (Jones), above center, graduated from El Reno High School in 1996. She is pictured with her father, Merton Roman Nose and her mother Phyllis Naranjo.

May 1, 2003 was like May Day in Oklahoma, the birthday of our Cheyenne tribe and having Dr. Henrietta Mann being an elder of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and our state's Tax Commission and having a number of situations where she spoke about her people’s story. This is a very wonderful and important day for us all that she’s given,” Wright said.

“Do how do I start? Remembering my daughter Marissa Suzan Roman Nose Jones. My whole life changed on the morning of May 1, 2000 when my daughter was killed in that car accident, so fatal of her own. She never knew that this day was to be her last as she crossed the road to turn to take her children to daycare,” Phyllis Naranjo, Marissa’s mother said.

Jones was the youngest of five siblings, Biblical, the oldest, Truman, Anthony and Vanessa (triplets) were the next oldest, Melissa Pe-dro Hamilton and last to be born, Marissa. In a later interview, Marissa’s mother adopted a second child, Kevin Naranjo.

from Southwestern Oklahoma State University and became the first Cheyenne woman to earn a college degree. Mann then received her master’s degree from Oklahoma State University and while working for the University of Montana for 28 years as a professor, she showed that she had an extensive degree in philosophy.

Mann said the name Oklahoma Territory in the year of 1867. Today I would like to acknowledge the Treaty with the United States that governed our last and fifth treaty with the United States. It was a great relationship of the Indian nations that reside in the boundaries of the state of Oklahoma.

“Today I am greeting you as a self determining Tsistsistas Nation woman,” Mann said. “We were moved into this place that we all call home today, that was after negotiating our last and fifth treaty with the United States Government at Medicine Lodge Creek in Kansas Terri-

“Being the baby of the family her brothers and sis-
ters were very protective over her. Life wasn’t nice to us back in those days when my children were growing up without both my heart and my spirit for the honor of today.”

“Marissa Roman Nose Jones was killed at the intersection of U.S. Highway 66 (Route 66) and Banner Road on her way to work in El Reno. It has taken 17 years in bringing about substantial changes to the intersection to ensure the safety of those who travel these roads on a daily basis.

“Dr. Mann is an elder of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes and is currently involved with the state of Oklahoma on the issue of tribal gaming,” Mann said. “As a tribal elder, among the oldest of the Cheyenne people and as an Oklahoma citizen it is my hope that the state lead-

Following the ceremony Oklahoma House Rep. Harold Wright honors Dr. Henrietta Mann on the floor of the Oklahoma House of Representatives in the Oklahoma State Capitol for decades of dedicating for education across the U.S. (Photo by Jackie Whitman)

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“It’s important that you understand that this is our capitol seat of government for Oklahoma, we’re really proud of that and proud to have you here today. We hope that when you’re in offices and you’re lobbying for bills that you go in and vis- it your legislator because that’s the way you get things done in the process,” Wright said.

Wright also announced that he would be co-sponsoring HB3345, Ida’s Bill.

“I’m co-sponsoring the bill and Rep. Kannady (Chris Kannady) has agreed to hear the bill in committee, so we’ll see what happens with the bill from there,” Wright said.

“Let’s take the podium was Cheyenne and Arapaho Reg. Gov. Wassana.

“Let’s see this right today this morning in the people in the community of El Reno, Geary, Clinton and two tracts in the northeastern portion of their reservation in Woodward, Okla., just name a few.

“Although our tribe has been unsuccessful at placing any land into trust, the Dept. of Interior recently allowed the Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma to place a 103 acre parcel of offreservation land into trust that is contiguous to our original reservation boundaries and the land is 400 miles away from their actual homeland, Wassana said.

Wassana detailed the plans to place properties for located in Elk City, El Reno and Geary before giving his final conclusions.

“The Trump administration has gone through great lengths for deregulation ef- forts to roll back red tape that has burdened Ameri- cans and stilled economic growth. I am asking that this same effort of de- regulation also be geared towards the land-into-trust process. By making the land-into-trust process burden- some for Indigenous tribes, it is stifling our econom- ic growth,” Wassana said.

“Many of our Tribal Na- tions are in rural parts of the country losing 90 million acres of land along Interstate 40 in El Reno, Geary, Clinton and two tracts in the northeastern portion of their reservation in Woodward, Okla., just name a few.

“Over the years the Chey- enne and Arapaho Tribes have purchased and/or ac- quired several properties located in El Reno, Geary, Clinton and two tracts in the northeastern portion of their reservation boundaries. The tribes own tracts of land along Interstate 40 in El Reno, Geary, Clinton and two tracts in the northeastern portion of their reservation in Woodward, Okla., just name a few.

“It’s one of two still living, what happens to most people is they get taken by in, they get induced into the military, their whole life changes, they go away, they give up a lot of freedom of their own basically to fight for the freedom so that you can do what you’ve been doing for the last 70 years,” Sykes said.

Wassana and Miles gifted Seger with a Pendleton blanket and a plaque in honor of his service.


“I think it’s important for me to acknowledge that the root causes of missing and murdered Indigenous people go back to over 100 years ago passed through federal legislation that was designed to undermine and erode tribal sovereignty, es- pecially the matrilineal and as a non-typical citizen I believe it’s important to acknowledge that so we can start building bridg- es and moving on a path forward,” Dollens said.

“As a legislator I ran for mental health issues, education and the economy and three years later after taking office I’ve gotten into issues that have become so important to my life that I wasn’t aware about. It’s thanks to you and people like LaRenda (Morgan) that I’m now available and aware of is- sues like this many other legislators in this capitol,” he said.

Overlooking the crowd, Dollens continued, “It’s because of you, you go to make a difference for families and people who have been impacted for hundreds of years.” Dollens told the audience, Ida’s Law, HB3345 creates a position within OSIHB that specializes in Missing and Mur- dered Indigenous People, specifically missing people, with the jurisdictional boundaries and the different levels of law enforcement, “we believe it’s workable while we have a liaison.”

HIPP has 22 tribal communities that have a liaison, according to Mr. Trump’s administration in 2017 went against the in- tent of the Indian Reorganiza- tion Act,” Gov. Wassana stated.

The Indian Reorganiza- tion Act passed Congress in 1934 was meant to re- verse the disastrous effects of the allotment era that re- sulted in tribes across all the country losing 90 million acres of land within reservations.

Today, I am asking all this static is important it is that we as Oklahomans, not just as tribal cit - yens, to go forward, let’s get this done,” Wassana said.

Adopting Homeland Security’s mission to protect and serve the American people, Homeland Security in 2017 went against the in- tent of the Indian Reorganiza- tion Act, Wassana told the sub- committee members he was happy for all of the tribes across the country who have been successful in navi- gating the land-into-trust process and getting part of their original ancestral homelands restored, but he was speaking before them because the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes have been far less fortunate.

Today, I am asking that our legislation, Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867, the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes were assigned a total of 4,300,000 acres of land.

“We stand here today this morning before the people in the state of Oklahoma who makes the rules and the laws for the tribes and all the people in the state of Oklahoma,” Wassana said in addressing the crowd.

“Because the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Tribal Liaison presents Dollens with a Pendleton blanket. Dollens introduced HB3345 entitled Ida’s Law, named after tribal citizen Ida Beard who went missing in 2015 from El Reno, Okla.

With the presentation of honorariums gifted to WWII Vet- eran Frank Seger by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Tribal Liaison presents Dollens with a Pendleton blanket. Dollens introduced HB3345 entitled Ida’s Law, named after tribal citizen Ida Beard who went missing in 2015 from El Reno, Okla.

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Wassana referred to re- garding the land-into-trust process.

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With the presentation of honorariums gifted to WWII Vet- eran Frank Seger by the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes Office of Veteran Affairs, Director George Sykes thanked Seger for his service.
There's one thing we as Indian people love to do and that's share a meal …" Gib Miles

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Legislative Lobby Day held at the Oklahoma State Capitol, hosted many guest speakers addressing the Missing and Murdered Indigenous People’s (MMIW) issue.

Pictured l-r: Kiowa Tribe Legislator Jessie Svitak, Government Affairs Officer LaRenda Wassana, Okemah, N.C., for over 15 years, we are cold cases that have been impacted, every person that was taken from us," Svitak said. "we’re trying to get this Ida’s Law, that I can be amongst other leaders, I feel honored and respected that I can be amongst other tribes and other Indians.”

In closing, a remembrance for it. Charlie’s run over the finish line,” Dollens said. "In closing, a remembrance for it. Charlie’s run over the finish line,” Dollens said. 
INTERSECTION

Faren Gene Old Crow was born May 9, 1954 to Virgin- fred ‘Bunny’ White Crow and Carolyn Mag Pie, and passed away Feb. 13, 2020 in the Heritage Bran- newton, Okla. He was preceded in death by his beloved sister and daughter’s life was taken, they can’t help but wonder “what if.” What if the state had taken the right to fix that “death trap” intersection prior to 2019’s death? “My family misses our daughter. She was tak- en at 25 years old when most young adults start building their lives. She adored her children and she would now be a grandmother,” Hamil- ton said. “Her children are now in their 20s. Amya, her daughter enlisted in the U.S. Army. Their father lived with Amya and her son, Jordan, and attended school with them. The family of Malisha Raye Medicine Bear was very close-knit and loved spending time together. Malisha was the oldest of three children and was known for her kind and loving nature. She was always ready to help others and extend her hand when needed.

Marvin Ray Black was born in 2020 in the Heritage Branc- newton, Okla. He was preceded in death by his beloved sister and daughter’s life was taken, they can’t help but wonder “what if.” What if the state had taken the right to fix that “death trap” intersection prior to 2019’s death? “My family misses our daughter. She was tak- en at 25 years old when most young adults start building their lives. She adored her children and she would now be a grandmother,” Hamil- ton said. “Her children are now in their 20s. Amya, her daughter enlisted in the U.S. Army. Their father lived with Amya and her son, Jordan, and attended school with them. The family of Malisha Raye Medicine Bear was very close-knit and loved spending time together. Malisha was the oldest of three children and was known for her kind and loving nature. She was always ready to help others and extend her hand when needed.

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Chase the Shawnee store where I originally started from.

Dibler said he believes trust is the most important aspect of his relationship with the tribes and with all his clientele... and the driving force in his life.

"The whole quality of my life has changed since being saved and with all the success I have had with the tribes I feel full of that was given by God and that continues to be my driving force," Dibler said.

From large parties to private events, Dibler said he hopes other tribes and businesses will hear about their amazing catering team and give them a chance to cater their next event.

"Jason always sends more than enough food, and he understands Indians. He learned the most important part of catering for us is having enough food for the food boxes," Lt. Gov. Miles laughingly said. "If I ever have to have a conversation with other tribal leaders, it wouldn't be a typical conversation with leaders, it would be conversations with Indians."

Dibler said he would always want to create a relationship with other tribes and Indian nations and he would say, "You know what Jason knows about people and he knows how to treat Indian people."

One thing is crystal clear when talking with Dibler, he loves what he does and with 10 and 25 year employees behind him, his restaurant is sure to continue to be successful.

If you have an upcoming catering event please call Dibler at 405-673-8600 to experience first hand their delicious menu items and amazing catering team.

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Sexual Assault Advocate
Domestic Violence Program
Closing Date: Until Filled
Qualifications:
- Prefer a master’s level/LPC or at least four years of experience working with victims of sexual assault.
- Able to work flexible hours and outside normal work hours including after 5 p.m.
- Be willing to attend training relevant to position.
- Must possess a current Oklahoma driver’s license, OSBI and criminal background check required.
- Prefer knowledge of Cheyenne and Arapaho/Native American cultures and values.
- Cheyenne and Arapaho preference.
SALARY: Negotiable

Lead Equipment Operator
Road Maint. Program
Closing Date: Until Filled
Qualifications:
- Must be able to perform with little supervision and work independently.
- Basic equipment operation/crew certification is preferred and must have high school diploma or GED certification.
- Must have acceptable driving record and provide a current Motor Vehicle Report from the Oklahoma State Dept. of Public Safety, and possess a current (OKlahoma driver’s license and pass a pre-hire drug screen and background check. One year of experience working with victims of sexual assault.
- Must possess a valid Oklahoma driver’s license and a copy of CDIB (if applicable) to the Personnel Department, PO Box 38, Concho, OK 73022 or call 405-422-7498 or email atisdale@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov. Or download application by visiting http://cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov.

FILE CLERK
AZ Legislative Office
Closing Date: March 5
Qualifications:
- High school diploma or G.E.D. certification required.
- Must have working knowledge of computer software programs such as Microsoft Office tools, knowledge of computer systems and communication systems. Excellent verbal and written communication skills and ability to build strong relationships through interpersonal skills.
- Cheyenne and Arapaho preference.
SALARY: Negotiable

Environmental Specialist II
EPA
Closing Date: Until Filled
Qualifications:
- High school graduate or G.E.D. certification required, with a minimum of one year work related experience or successful completion of one year vocational technical certification. Possess computer skills, writing and communication skills with strict attention to details and accuracy. Must be familiar with Cheyenne and Arapaho service areas, and ability to relate to Indian and non-Indian communities. Oklahoma driver’s license required. Cheyenne and Arapaho preference.
SALARY: Negotiable

Receptionist
Indian Child Welfare
Closing Date: Until Filled
Qualifications:
- Must possess a high school diploma or G.E.D. certification. Ability to work flexible hours and willing to work beyond normal 8-5 work hours when needed. Possess communication skills, written and oral to relate to Indian and non-Indian communities and other agencies. Must maintain a high level of confidentiality by all matters, OSBI and criminal background check required. Must possess a valid Oklahoma driver’s license. Prefer someone with knowledge of Cheyenne and Arapaho/Native American cultures and values. Strong ability to work with difficult clientele with various social problems and needs.
SALARY: Negotiable

Executive Assistant
Dept. of Health
Closing Date: March 5
Qualifications:
- Excellent customer service skills and must be able to pass OSBI background check. Maintain high level of confidentiality and be willing to attend any training related to position. Must have knowledge of principles and practices related to budgeting processes. Must possess a valid Oklahoma driver’s license and have dependable transportation. Must be computer literate, possess good writing skills and be able to communicate effectively. Must be willing to work beyond normal 8-5 working hours as needed.
- Must be alcohol and drug free. Cheyenne and Arapaho preference.
SALARY: Negotiable

Certification Clerk FT
Food Distribution Program
Closing Date: Until Filled
Qualifications:
- High school graduate or G.E.D. certification required. Must have valid OKlahoma driver’s license and possess a minimum two years previous clerical duty experience. Good communication skills and capable of meeting deadlines in a timely fashion. Must be in good physical condition and be able to obtain, Forklift Safety Certification, Food Handler’s Card, CPR/Fist Aid/AED Certification, OSHA Training Course, Microsoft Training Courses and CDL license, if required. Must possess a pre-hire drug screen and background check.
SALARY: Negotiable

To apply please submit a tribal application, resume, diploma(s), transcripts, valid copy of driver's license and a copy of CDIB (if applicable) to the Personnel Department, PO Box 38, Concho, OK 73022 or call 405-422-7498 or email atisdale@cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov. Or download application by visiting http://cheyenneandarapaho-nsn.gov.
As a point guard for the Calumet Chieftains Basketball team, standing 6’1, Ryan Island, 17, prioritizes his team on and off the court. Being introduced to the game at an early age, Island said he doesn’t remember exactly why he started playing, but what he loves most about basketball is playing with friends.

“I like the competitiveness and winning, I just like winning,” Island said.

Describing himself as scorer on the court, Island said he looks forward to winning each game.

“Winning as a team and also talking with my teammates,” Island said.

With the Chieftains 21-3 in the season, Island said he believes his team is doing pretty well thus far in the season.

“We still have a lot more room to get better and we’re still doing pretty good,” Island said.

With Calumet making it to state each year that Island started playing at the high school level, he said he looks forward to winning the gold ball his junior year.

“We made it to state last year but lost in the finals,” Island said.

Island said the last time Calumet won the state championship was in 2017 when his older brother Riley Island was still playing in high school.

“My first experience at state was when I was a freshman, I was really nervous. I kind of have anxiety sometimes and it gets really loud especially in the big house and I get real nervous, last year it wasn’t as bad but it was still pretty intense. I feel like we’ll make it this year and it’ll be a lot better,” Island said.

In having the privilege of playing alongside his older brother during his freshmen year, Island said it was his most favorite time in playing basketball.

“It was really fun getting to play with him, it was probably one of my favorite things about him. It was kind of tough because I feel like he expected a lot more out of me but we still lost, it was kind of sad because it was his last year and in 2017 when they won it, he was on that team,” Island said.

Playing basketball at the state level with Calumet the past few years, Island said it’s also been somewhat frustrating.

“There’s a lot of teams that want to beat you and everyone’s against you. I don’t want to complain but sometimes the refs want you to lose too, everyone just wants to see you lose just because you’ve always been a top-tier team,” Island said.

Nevertheless, putting aside the frustration, Island said that when it’s game time, his mentality changes.

“Have you ever heard of the Kobe Bryant mentality, it’s something like that, just trying to be everyone, to just win and dominate the entire time,” Island said.

And with each game, Island credits his biggest supporter.

“My mom, she’s always there for me and she’s done a lot for me and I’m really grateful to have her and she’s definitely my biggest supporter. She’s just always been behind my back for everything,” Island said.

With support, Island said in growing as a player on the court, he looks forward to becoming a better teammate.

“Talking to my teammates and helping them and being a better teammate to all of them,” Island said.

Having been a long time player with the R.E.Sp.E.C.T. team, Island said he can’t wait to join again for the upcoming season.

“It’s been really fun. I can’t wait to do it again this year, especially like with last year, there was a lot of good Natives I played with and I just thought it was really fun, they helped me a lot,” Island said.

While constantly working through his position as point guard, Island said his main goal is leading his team.

“Having to direct my teammates where to go and what to do sometimes,” Island said.

And as point guard, Island said he’s trained himself for the most part.

“I’ve just been doing a lot of ball handling drills so I can take care of the ball more and being more careful with the ball,” Island said.

With brotherhood and having siblings who also play basketball, Island said he looks up to his older brother.

“My older brother Riley inspired me a lot when I was younger and I just kind of wanted to be like him,” Island said.

Island hopes one day basketball will take him to college. His advice to younger children coming up is, “to work hard at whatever you do and believe in yourself and you can do anything.”

Ryan’s parents are Rachel Island and Dallas Hicks. His grandparents are Renee and Reggie Island. Ryan has three siblings, Bradley, Riley and Jadyn.
Hundreds of Indigenous women either missing or murdered in Oklahoma

By Maureen Wurtz, KTUL

"This has consumed my life," said Pam Smith.

"How many times do you think you’ve walked this particular road since Aubrey went missing?" asked KTUL Reporter, Maureen Wurtz.

"Oh gosh, over a dozen times," said Pam. "It’s like getting your heart broken over and over," said Pam.

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