Camping with spirit

Thirty-one year old Kateri Fletcher isn’t done yet.

With three degrees under her belt, a Bachelor’s in Psychology, a Master’s in Community Counseling and a Master’s in Native American Studies, Fletcher says there is one more step … her doctorate’s in clinical psychology.

“I’m not finished … my mentor asked me, ‘why do you want to get your doctorate?’ I looked at him and said, ‘well the farther I go the more I think I know I realize I don’t know enough.’ He said that was the best answer he had ever heard. As long as we have a passion and a desire to continue learning and to grow with it … that’s what this is all about.”

By Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

Camp Spirit broke records this year. No record breaking temperatures, but a record number of campers who all showed the camping spirit. And to think it almost didn’t happen.

“We went from an average of 60 campers the past few years to 165 campers this year, it was incredible,” Greg Spottedbird, Culture & Heritage camp coordinator said.

The camp, held July 17-20, hosted by the Culture & Heritage Program and Tradition Not Addiction program, had been slated for cancellation due to funding, but when the word got out about the cancellation, the motivation kicked-in for donations, fundraisers and volunteers.

“I was worried it wasn’t going to happen. Coming to this camp for eight years talking to the kids, seeing them grow up and knowing for some of these kids it was the highlight of their summer, it really bothered me,” Spottedbird said.

So a plan was put into action. Max Bear, Culture & Heritage Director presented a fundraiser proposal to Lucky Star Casino-Consino and got it approved. Word spread about the need for funding and the donations started to pour in.

“The fundraiser at Lucky Star brought in over $21,000 and with all the donations from all of the people who came together we ended up with enough to ensure we host this camp again next year. It was a huge blessing. We had so many difficulties putting this all together and didn’t know if we could do any of it without the funding … then they came out to present us with a check from the Lucky Star fundraiser and I was speechless.” Spottedbird said.

And it was the 165 tribal youth who became the winners. They enjoyed learning Cheyenne & Arapaho culture, history, there were songs at the drum, a visit to White Water Bay, painting and games like ‘high on musical chairs.’

“I was around 10 years old when I first came to this camp, but this year was a lot bigger than any other camps I’ve ever seen. I am now 21 and a volunteer counselor this year. I tell the kids here to learn everything they can from their counselors, to do what’s right and to always pay attention,” Sampson Woods said.

On their last day, with bags packed, cabins cleaned and breakfast ate, the 10-15 year olds gathered one last time to receive t-shirts, gifts, accept awards for things like ‘best campers’, ‘best counselor’ and to give thanks and recognition to the many staff members who volunteered their time to make the 2017 Camp Spirit one for the record books.

“Had a phenomenal turn out … we didn’t turn anyone away and made room for all those who came in late. All the kids had great attitudes and great behavior. We had great singing sessions, a drum group that Tradition Not Addiction have been working with, and it was all the kids leading the songs this year, not us adults,” Bear said. “We will do this camp next year for the kids, that’s what we came here for. The staff, I am so proud of them, they put in these long hours, volunteered their time and it was all about the kids, after all that’s where our future lies … our kids.”

One on One with Kateri Fletcher

“I think for me I always knew I wanted to work in this field. When I graduated with my bachelor’s my mom gave me a present and it was a book that I had written when I was in the first or second grade. I was going back reading it and I had written how I wanted to work with children when I grew up. I wanted to help them with their needs and be there for them when they are sad. Here I was in the first grade writing this stuff, so looking back I guess I just kind of always knew it was my calling,” she said.

And her mom agreed, reminding her of the time she was a school mediator in the fifth grade where they would walk around on the playground and worked out conflicts with the kids.

“There was training, we had clipboards, if we had a fire we would go mediate the evacuation for them, and if something got bigger than us than we knew who to go to. So my mom was like, ‘you were always meant to be a counselor,’” Fletcher said as she laughed.

Moving, in her freshman year of high school wasn’t an easy transition for Fletcher. She came from Gallup where there were an abundance of Natives and people who looked like her, she said, to an all white school in Albuquerque.

By Rosemary Stephens, Editor-in-Chief

Culture & Heritage Program Director Max Bear congratulations Minnie Tallbear for winning ‘Best Counselor’ during the 2017 Camp Spirit. (Photo / Rosemary Stephens)
From Weatherford, Okla. where I grew up on grandparents allotment land.  
Parents: Truman and Rose (Yellow Eagle) Wassana.  
Grandparents: Susie (Pratt) and Chester Wassana, Leonard and Lena Abbie (Big Bear) Yellow Eagle.  
I have one son Christian Wassana.  
Graduated from Weatherford High School and graduated from Southwestern Oklahoma State University with a Degree in Business Administration.  

Professional Experience  
Executive Director of Housing Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.  
(April of 1996 – June 2011)  
Casino Manager (MOD) for Casino Oklahoma Delaware Tribe.  
(August of 2012 – Feb. 2013)  
Executive Director of Housing Caddo Nation  
(Oct. of 2013 – Jan 2014)  
Executive Director of Housing Comanche Nation  
(June of 2014 – Dec. 2015)  
Cheyenne District 3 Legislator  
Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes  
(Jun. of 2016 – present)  

Community Campaign Meetings  
6-8 p.m. Aug. 1 Weatherford Pioneer Center in Weatherford, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. Aug. 3 Northwest Inn / Gallery Room in Woodward, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. Aug. 8 Oklahoma Blood Institute, 211 SW ’A’ Ave. in Lawton, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. Aug. 10 Hammon Community Center in Hammon, Okla.  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Aug. 12 Senior Citizen Community Center, 201 S Sixth Avenue in Kingfisher, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. Aug. 15 Fair Barn, N. Country Club Drive in El Reno, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. Aug. 17 Embassy Suites, 1815 S. Meridian in Oklahoma City  
11 a.m. – 1 p.m. Aug. 19 Clinton Community Center in Clinton, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. – Aug. 22 Elk City Carnegie Hall, 216 Broadway in Elk City, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. – Aug. 23 at the Geary Community Center in Geary, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. – Aug. 24 Canton Gym in Canton, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. – Aug. 29 Watonga Community Center in Watonga, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. – Aug. 31 Seiling Community Center in Seiling, Okla.  
6-8 p.m. – Sept. 7 Senior Citizens Building, 101 N. Missouri in Thomas, Okla.  

Economic development  
Purchasing land in development rich sites:  
El Reno  
Clinton  
Canton  
Weatherford  
Seiling  
Woodward  
Developing Tribal land  
Elk City-casino, hotel, truck stop, strip mall  
El Reno-casino/hotel and resort (property behind Denny’s)  
Canton-develop marina, cabins and conference center  
Watonga-build permanent brick and mortar casino and truckstop  
Maintaining and renovating existing casinos  
Trading post for tribal merchandise  
Additional information at community campaign meetings.  
Elderly Services  
Increase elderly utility payment for elders 60 and over  
Purchase 2 tour buses for elderly events and trips  

From Yukon, Okla. where I grew up on grandparents allotment land.  
Parents: Leroy LaMott Miles 3/4 Southern Arapaho & Melba Sharp Miles Duncan.  
I have four daughters: Mahgan Miles Muskett, Mallory Miles Cooper, Mariel Miles and Mariah Miles.  
Graduated from Yukon High School and graduated from Bethany Nazarene College (now named Southern Nazarene University).  

Professional Experience  
Executive Director of Housing Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.  
(June of 1996 – June 2011)  
Casino Manager (MOD) for Casino Oklahoma Delaware Tribe.  
(August of 2012 – Feb. 2013)  
Executive Director of Housing Caddo Nation  
(Oct. of 2013 – Jan 2014)  
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FOR THE PEOPLE  
Come Visit Us During the Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow Aug. 4-6
Charles Pratt (1) with his brother Harvey Pratt. (Photo courtesy)

Ike was a really big city, my dad told me, and we had 1200 kids so I think they pressure us to do drugs and alcohol until you're 18 and it took off from there.

Fletcher: ‘Whatever pressure in high school’

When I was little, my dad was very active in the Native community and I was always his advocate for Native American people, and when I was younger I didn’t really understand it till I got older and I thought I was doing something better and that Fletcher was just rubbing off on me.

Both brothers were schooled at St. Patrick’s Indian Mission in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and attended schools in Shawnee and Oklahoma City.

When asked if the rates are doing this and having discussions about this? That pushed me further and I think it’s not just exactly IS being done about this. Doing more and more research about this kind of shook me how bad it was and how little was being done and not many resources reaching Native Americas.

We had a whole slew of red stories and tales, and so that’s kind of what we developed into the art.’

Both brothers were schooled at St. Patrick’s Indian Mission in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and attended schools in Shawnee and Oklahoma City.

He truly was a treasure for Native American arts. He inspired a lot of people, trained a lot of people in the techniques.

Inspirational artist Charles Pratt’s daughter, Latika Pratt, is one of the artists he trained and inspired. In the 1980s, when she was in her 20s, she had a studio in Oklahoma City where she was able to learn and create alongside others.

What I learned about stone carving is that for quite a while. Then he started sniffing, recalled his brother Otto. ‘Booth things that kids would see and it want to ride with him,’ Harvey Pratt recalled.

Both brothers were schooled at St. Patrick’s Indian Mission in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and attended schools in Shawnee and Oklahoma City.

‘I’m pretty sure I am. I like to draw.’ That’s kind of how they said I was talented, he smiled. ‘So he really inspired me in a lot of ways.’

Taylor: ‘That’s a very distinguished family, the Bent-Guerrier family, and Anna Guerrier Osborne, the daughter of Charles Pratt’s mother and even his dad. ‘He is my grandfather and his stories. We had a whole lot of red stories and tales, and so that’s kind of what we developed into the art.’

Booth things that kids would see and it want to ride with him, recalled his brother Otto. ‘Booth things that kids would see and it want to ride with him,’ Harvey Pratt recalled.

Both brothers were schooled at St. Patrick’s Indian Mission in Anadarko, Oklahoma, and attended schools in Shawnee and Oklahoma City.

Fletcher: ‘I think in general it’s a scary topic. It makes them feel uncomfortable, it’s a scary topic. It makes them feel uncomfortable, it’s a scary topic. It makes them feel uncomfortable, it’s a scary topic. It makes them feel uncomfortable, it’s a scary topic.

But I think even more than that is Native communities is taking this and suicide because that’s where they’re getting the worst of everything.

The last couple of months, in his 20s, he was in bad shape. He was suffering physically and mentally. When you ask what the way he was, and he couldn’t do anything by that than anything because he couldn’t create,’ his brother said.

In the early 1980s, when he was in his 20s, he had a studio in Oklahoma City where he was able to learn and create alongside others.

Taylor: ‘That’s a very distinguished family, the Bent-Guerrier family, and Anna Guerrier Osborne, the daughter of Charles Pratt’s mother and even his dad. ‘He is my grandfather and his stories. We had a whole lot of red stories and tales, and so that’s kind of what we developed into the art.’

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El Reno, Okla. — Located in the heart of the Midwest, the Oklahoma Indian Nations Committee for Native American Art, Culture and Heritage and THPO employs the talents of Native American artists to ensure the success of the Native American art project. The OIN project has been very successful and some of the participants have been selected as finalists in the National Indian Arts & Crafts Fair.

The most recent participant in the 2017-2018 OIN Junior Miss Oklahoma Indian Nation Pageant was Kirsten Coppage of Geary, Okla. Kirsten developed an interest in Native American art projects while attending powwow, and powwow dancing, as well as empowering those whom she has come in contact with. Kirsten is currently attending Putnam City North High School and plans to attend Oklahoma State University and pursue a career in art.

Kirsten Coppage, Oklahoma Indian Nations Junior Miss 2017, is the daughter of Mark and Andrea Coppage of Geary, Okla. Okra Arapaho tribe member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, and a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. Kirsten is a second grade student at the Great Explorers Elementary School. She spends a lot of her free time and energy learning and growing into a young woman who is passionate about the arts and culture of her people. She is a very talented artist and is often seen dancing and singing in traditional clothing.

Kirsten has been involved with Native American art projects for many years. She started dancing and singing in traditional clothing when she was very young. She has participated in many powwow, powwow dancing, and art projects over the years. She has been very successful in these endeavors and has been selected as a finalist in the National Indian Arts & Crafts Fair.

Kirsten's passion for Native American art projects is driven by her love for her culture and her desire to preserve and promote it. She has been involved in many powwow, powwow dancing, and art projects over the years. She has been very successful in these endeavors and has been selected as a finalist in the National Indian Arts & Crafts Fair.

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Marie Whiteman is a member of the Cheyenne Tribe from Watonga, Okla. She is the daughter of the late Daves White Bird and Laura Hamilton. She started working for the Watonga Hospital in 1967 then went on to mar- ry Frederick and started a nursing school. Marie went to work for Opportunities Inc. for 31 and a half years, retiring from there. After three months of retirement she went back to work at the Gary Nursing Home for five years. Marie also worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Elder Care program for C-1 District. Altogether put- ting in 46 years of working, Marie has served on many powwow organizations and is a welder. I enjoy spending time with my family and en- joy fishing and hunting. I am very thankful to the commit- tee for asking me to be this year’s Head Gourd Dance. I am the best to oblige Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow 2017. My name is Kendall Kau- ley from Hammon, Okla.

Hello, my name is Anna Helen Spottedwolf. I am currently a member of the Chey- enne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma. I am also a member of the world to him. They are Albert, Brandon, Baylee and Tori Fasthorse. Marie also worked for Opportunities Inc. for 31 and a half years, retiring from there. After three months of retirement she went back to work at the Gary Nursing Home for five years. Marie also worked for the Cheyenne and Arapaho Elder Care program for C-1 District. Altogether put- ting in 46 years of working, Marie has served on many powwow organizations and is a welder. I enjoy spending time with my family and en- joy fishing and hunting. I am very thankful to the commit- tee for asking me to be this year’s Head Gourd Dance. I am the best to oblige Oklahoma Indian Nations Powwow 2017. My name is Kendall Kau- ley from Hammon, Okla.

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Suicide lives in secrets...
Happy Birthday to my
sisters Tonya Jean Moore, Aug 9, and Adina Jay Reays, Aug 10. They are so much, you see in 21 months!
Miss you both. Love, your brother Jay Allen

Happy birthday to my
loved one. Love you,
Malaki, Dr. Mom and Cee

Proud of the young man
Walker Arlas graduated from
Universities. Happy 18th birthday
love you very much.

On behalf of our late son Patrick Emhoolah II we would
like to say thank you to the burial assistance program
for our son. The two ladies in the department were
gracious, helpful and most of all, caring.

We are here to help.
The OV A office needs
and bring your dd-214 if we
ask that patience be a virtue.

The Cheyene & Arap-
ho veteran's office would
like to remind our tribal
veterans and their families
if they would like their
customers to be added to the
morial wall to please
send in their DD214 with
the memorial wall to please
and provide a copy to us.

It's not every day that people bury their children. The pain
and heartache will always be there but not forever. Your love
for them is immeasurable.

We are in Loving Memory
Betty Retroat Sept. 24, 1911
Feb. 23, 2017

She married Clarence
and the Hennessey Care Cen-
ter until she passed away on
and the Hennessey Care Cen-
ter.

The OV A office will verify
and provide a copy to us.

If you need assistance with ordering a DDS-214
give us a call or come by.

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Employment: Submit a tribal application, resume, diploma(s), transcripts, valid copy of Oklahoma state driver’s license and a copy of CDL (if applicable) to Personnel Department, PO Box 38, Concho, OK 73022 or email atisdale@c-a-tribes.org.

ETF Administration: Submit a tribal application, resume, diploma(s), transcripts, valid copy of Oklahoma state driver’s license and a copy of CDL (if applicable) to Personnel Department, PO Box 38, Concho, OK 73022 or email atisdale@c-a-tribes.org.

Headstart Transportation: Submit a tribal application, resume, diploma(s), transcripts, valid copy of Oklahoma state driver’s license and a copy of CDL (if applicable) to Personnel Department, PO Box 38, Concho, OK 73022 or email atisdale@c-a-tribes.org.

Legal Notices:

All Nations Baptist Chapel August Schedule: Beginning in August every Thursday Aug. 3, 17, 24 and 31 Dinner 6:30 p.m. at 3 p.m. every 8th and 23rd of the month. Unless the 8th or 23rd falls on a weekend, it will be the Friday preceding.

Native Ministries of Oklahoma City every Sunday morning (10:30 a.m.) at the Ranch Village Baptist Church 1413 SW 35th St., in Oklahoma City.

We offer great hymns singing, Native American spiritual songs and tremendous Bible study. We meet at the one story brown brick building north of the main sanctuary. Need a ride or for more information contact Pastor Ron Starr at 405-317-8736 or by email at Ronaldstarr@hotmail.com.

Tsistsistas & Hinonoei Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribal Tribune

Pictured is Jeff Carter, who carved the surprise cross. Aug. 3, 17, 24 and 31 Dinner 6:30 p.m. at 3 p.m. every 8th and 23rd of the month. Unless the 8th or 23rd falls on a weekend, it will be the Friday preceding.

ALL ELDERS: PLEASE WATCH FOR THESE AUGUST FOOD CHECK DISTRIBUTION DEADLINES

At 3 p.m. every 8th and 23rd of the month. Unless the 8th or 23rd falls on a weekend, it will be the Friday preceding.

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**Fletcher continued from pg. 6**

Fletcher: The saddest for me, and probably my first experience of this kind. Last year right before summer ended, we had four suicides of our Riverside kids. Some of them were returning kids, some of them were first for the following week, some of them were seniors that had just graduated. One of those students, who committed suicide in May, was the first to graduate in his family from high school. I remember it was so sad for me because he worked so hard. This whole time, he said, you know, we could get that diploma and now he can’t even use it. And for me it hit me in a different place, because it was an important fact but our kids can’t use that diploma if they are not alive.

We have to do more, we have to be teaching them more, not just math and science, but how to teach them life skills. We have to teach them things that will help them survive what they came from, but also have a chance back to. Let’s give them an opportunity to learn not just with a diploma.

Riverside is unique. Some people say it’s a school, but when it becomes better, they do start doing other things. Riverside is a place because it gives us this opportunity to have these students come from where they came from and live with not only a diploma but the life skills, the strength and the courage to survive what they have come from and do better.

Our kids need more than diplomas; our kids need as much as just education. They need strength, support, life skills and all these other things because they have all these other factors that are dictating for them to fail. That was the saddest for me, that never get, that they never get and for him it saw nothing else to live for at that point. He just graduated and everything waiting for him, but what he saw there was nothing else left after that point and that is so sad and what really hit me. We’re going to do more, do better.

In my profession you see more of the bad because they come to you in their worse times. But when it becomes better, they do start doing stuff. It’s what’s it’s time for them to go and you really don’t get to see the best parts doing great for themselves and that’s the way it’s supposed to be. It’s supposed to be that way because it’s for us as adults we forget how special we are. If we can just get the right help in the beginning it can change the course of a lifetime.

Katrel Fletcher is a member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes and program director for Fletcher from Clinton, Okla. and Sand Fletcher from Lagoa/Natalis from Albuquerque, N.M. Her paternal grandparents are Angeline Reynolds and Northwest Foss. Her mother and father and maternal grandparents are Santiago Lente and Mable.
The Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes Land Management Office will be hosting the Land Owner Workshop for all landowners to attend. 

-2012 Community Center Hall 10:00am-12:00pm
-2012 Cheyenne Community Hall 10:00am-12:00pm
-89/Hammon Community Hall 10:00am-12:00pm
-816-Watonga Community Hall 10:00am-12:00pm

Info booths and on site consultations will be available to all landowners. Presentations will begin at 10:30, 11:00, 12:30 & 1:00

Lunch will be provided to all landowners attending.

Please contact the LMO at 405-422-7483 or email palofice@cro.
tribes.org to RSVP and for more information.

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**SUMMERFEST 2017**

**AUGUST 4, 5 & 6, 2017**

**CONCHO, OKLAHOMA**

**FRIDAY, AUGUST 4**

3 ON 3 YOUTH BASKETBALL - 7:00 P.M.

TINY TOT CONTEST & ON NOW WOW - AWARD GRAND ENTRY

FASpitch SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT (MEN'S ONLY) - 7:00 P.M. - $100

**SATURDAY, AUGUST 5**

12TH ANNUAL 5K BUFFALO RUN & WALK - 8:00 A.M. - $5 FOR NON TRIBAL MEMBERS

FASpitch SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT (MEN'S ONLY) - 9:00 A.M. - $200

CO-ED VOLLEYBALL - 10:00 A.M.

WATER SLIDES & GAMES - 10:00 A.M. - $50 PER FAMILY

ADULT 5 ON 5 BASKETBALL - 7:00 P.M. - $10

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 6**

CO-ED 5 ON 5 VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT - 12:00 A.M. - $150 FOR NON TRIBAL TEAMS

FEVER RAY CONCERT - NOON A.M.

HORSESHOE TOURNAMENT - 6:00 A.M.

JOIN US FOR A WEEKEND OF FAMILY FUN AND STAY FOR THE 12TH ANNUAL OKLAHOMA INDIAN NATIONS POW WOW!