On March 15 the Election Commission held a public hearing to address residency issues regarding Sankey after receiving a notation statement from an A4 constituent stating Sankey no longer resided within his district.

For the tribal 2006 Constitution pg. 9, Section 4 Qualifications, subsection (c), it reads, "it is time of filing a nomination petition a candidate for District Legislative shall physically reside in each district. Each District Legislative shall reside in the District from which they are elected for the duration of their term. Each District Legislative shall be a registered voter in the District from which they are elected."

It was determined by the Election Commission Sankey did not reside in the Arapaho District 4 area, nor was he a registered voter in his district due to losing his A4 removal petition.
Native regalia hits the runway at InterCultural Fashion Show

Latoya Lonelodge
Staff Reporter

In the fashion world, runway models and brand name designs paint an all too familiar picture filled with flashy outfits strutted down the runway at a typical fashion show. However, diversity and distinction among various rich cultures take on a whole new meaning in terms of fashion.

For the first time ever, Native American regalia and fashion hit the runway at the Intercultural Fashion Showcase that was held April 21, 2018 at the South Congress Hotel in Austin, Texas. Having fulfilled their fifth season, the fashion show aimed to feature talented designers from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

For Cheyenne and Arapaho tribal citizen, Nan Blassingame, who has been making her own regalia ever since she was 14 years old, experienced the thrill of showcasing native designs on the fashion show’s runway. Blassingame, who has never been in the fashion show before, was not hesitant in seizing the opportunity.

“I was just jazzed about it, about the fashion show on Facebook, it was an event coming up so she tagged me in it and I immediately emailed them because it was an intercultural show, they always back up with that and said ‘we have never had a Native American designer, we want to see what your culture wears.’ They were pretty much like, ‘you need to do it, you’re going to be in our show, so I said okay,’ Blassingame said.

In rush of excitement, Blassingame was also told she only had three weeks to prepare her wardrobe and designs that would be featured in the fashion show.

“There was no way I was going to have enough time to do it, but I did. I made outfits and some of my friends already had their jingle dresses and the dancers chanted. I made his shirt and the hat for the show, but he did all his beadwork, his family’s beadwork and such. I went through all my stuff and I had only the red jacket that I got to find something quick,” Blassingame explained.

With little time to prepare, Blassingame agreed that being given such short notice was the push she needed to brainstorm new ideas and try something different.

“We had never seen aserging as much and I could not believe I made them in three weeks and three days and my husband was like ‘how many days you got’ and I’m like stop saying that, leave me alone, don’t remind me. I had just barely made my dress that I wore the morning of the show: I was just going to have to leave to go down there,” Blassingame chuckled.

Blassingame’s skills were put to the test as she quickly organized various design pieces to be featured in the show. Some pieces, were a first of many designs that Blassingame tried to create.

“I’ve never made a corset before, I made two corsets, a black one that Ellen Sutton was wearing and I made a skirt so he wore it in the show, but I did all his beadwork, so I made a skirt and a shirt so he wore it in the show, but he did all his beadwork, his family’s beadwork and such. I went through all my stuff and the ticket sales went through the roof as various supporters attended. A non-profit native group society, Native American Nations, held a fundraiser for Blassingame within the three short weeks to help her prepare for the show. With various support and fueling her spirit, Blassingame was overwhelmed with the excitement of witnessing her designs walk the fashion runway.

Blassingame said she had a vision of how she wanted to present her pieces on the runway.

“When we viewed the second walk through, the first two wore the ribbon skirt and the cloth dress, they carried the Cheyenne and Arapaho flag when they brought her fashion pieces. However she was set on having her own models for her fashion pieces. With little time to prepare, Blassingame was able to take the challenge of pencing her designs together just in time for the show.

“Everyone pitched in and helped, my friends that came from Houston, they spent the night, they helped me poke the holes in the corset and take all the beadwork off the front and if it wasn’t for my team of friends, we would not have been finished in time because I was saving these little details for last,” Blassingame said.

With help from various friends, Blassingame was able to tackle the challenge of pencing her designs together just in time for the show. Blassingame said she had a vision of how she wanted to present her pieces on the runway.

“For the first time ever, Native American regalia and fashion hit the runway at the Intercultural Fashion Showcase that was held April 21, 2018 at the South Congress Hotel in Austin, Texas. Having fulfilled their fifth season, the fashion show aimed to feature talented designers from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

From over 12 centuries, in the early days of village farming, the Wichita people, who were present in what is now present-day Oklahoma. Today, the history and culture surrounding the Wichita is accessible for the public and community to educate one another. Just off the to side of Hwy. 81 in Anadarko, Oklahoma, behind the Wichita Museum and the replica grass lodge and sumac, a sign in the grounds are a spot of the newly established Wichita Tribal History Center.

On April 21, 2018 the Wichita Tribal Historical Center held the official grand opening.

With years of experience inside the powwow arena as a jingle dress dancer, Blassingame had quite the idea on what and how she was going to feature her models in the show.

“In 2016 I made 18 jingle dresses, that’s my personal record along with other things, I was originally going to enter this fashion show with powwow outfits only and I said, you know, I got to push myself to try to make a formal. They always have a formal dress, the grand final formal and that’s where I came up with the red corset, I beaded butterflies across the top and put the ribbons all underneath, I still want to incorporate a native twist to it. I already had earrings and so I made a headband to match the earrings for her to wear, just to give it a little more native touch that was my favorite,” Blassingame said.

Blassingame admitted the fashion show had models ready for her, however she was set on having her own models for her fashion pieces.

“The fashion show, they provided models but I said no, my models have to be Native American, so they trusted me to get my own models and I ended up with 11 friends, one girl from Houston. The rest were just locally here, I really enjoyed that they were Native American models that I picked to walk for me in the show, I was really grateful that I did that,” Blassingame said.

With help from various friends, Blassingame was able to tackle the challenge of pencing her designs together just in time for the show.

“Everyone pitched in and helped, my friends that came from Houston, they spent the night, they helped me poke the holes in the corset and take all the beadwork off the front and if it wasn’t for my team of friends, we would not have been finished in time because I was saving these little details for last,” Blassingame said.

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A removal proceedings continued from pg. 1

At the March 15 hearing the Election Commission voted to declare a vacancy in the position of chairman. It had heard testimony and evidence that the incumbent, Dale Hamilton, had been absent too many meetings to be able to serve in that capacity.

Chairman Hamilton stated that he had missed a few meetings because he was involved in a personal matter. However, the commission declared the vacancy and filed a complaint against Hamilton.

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Oklahoma’s earthquakes strongly linked to wastewater injection depth

Protestors are lining up in an effort to stop a proposed saltwater injection well from being created north of El Reno. H2OK, LLC, Facility Plans is seeking permission from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission to build what it describes as a “commercial non-hazardous oil and gas waste receiving and disposal facility.”

The well would be established at the “northeast corner of [U.S. Highway 81 and Britton Road],” a letter outlining the plans to the city of El Reno states. H2OK, LLC is based in Marble, Texas, documents from the Corporation Commission show. The well would open to the public.

Mayor Matt White said the protest was expected to be conducted at all of the process leading up to the decision on the proposal. Protestors including the El Reno Rod and Gun Club and Development Company, The Ronald Greer Family Trust, ZumMallen Ranches, The Millwood Ranch and Joe Weaver, El Reno attorney, are representing a number of those protesting the disposal well. He said a hearing before the Corporation Commission will take place in June.

In its June 3 proposal to the city, H2OK lists six steps it plans to take to “protect the city of El Reno’s fresh water supply” should the Corporation Commission approve its request.

Oklahoma’s well operators have increased on average 2.3 billion barrels of fluids per year into the ground since 2011. Wastewater is routinely disposed of typically at depths one to two km below the ground surface, well below the level of fresh ground water supplies. Also, saltwater is injected deep underground to enable commercial recovery of oil and gas. Typically, commonly known as saltwater injection wells has been attributed to 90 percent of the recent increase in earthquakes throughout Oklahoma. According to the study, “Our analysis allows regulatory actions to be evaluated on a rational, quantitative basis in terms of seismic effects.”

“Thanks to an innovative model capable of analyzing large and complex data sets, our study establishes for the first time the clear link between seismicity and fluid injection depth.”

The study on how raising injection well depths to above the base-ment rocks in key areas could significantly reduce the annual energy released by earthquakes—thereby reducing the relative likelihoods of larger, damaging earthquakes. Current regulatory interventions including requiring operators to either reduce injection depths above the basement, often by an unspecified amount. The professor Willy Aspinall, of the University of Bristol and Aspinall & Associates, who conceived the study, added: “This new diagnostic finding has potential implications for scientists, regulators and civil authorities concerned about induced seismicity, both in the US and internationally. The research addresses a growing need for a broader understanding of how operation- al, spatial and geologic parameters combine to influence induced seismic risk. Our analysis allows regulatory actions to be evaluated on a rational, quantitative basis in terms of seismic effects.”
Elderly Nutrition Program assists elders with transportation needs

Rosemary Stephens
Editor-in-Chief

One of the biggest challenges for elders is mobility—especially if they are wheel chair bound. Their freedom to jump into a vehicle and just go as they once did is taken away, not by choice.

But that’s about to change. The Cheyenne and Arapaho Elderly Nutrition Program in Clinton, Okla., has just received a 2017 Dodge Caravan, a wheel chair accessible vehicle specifically for transporting elders to doctor appointments, the movies, the grocery store, just to name a few.

“A lot of our elders are wheel chair bound and now we are able to transport them. If anything we can make the elder’s life much easier. Instead of me not being able to get a ride to be a certain place or not being able to enjoy things, they should be. Let’s say for instance, going to the movies, going to the grocery store, doing life successfully as we were before they were wheel chair bound,” Vanessa Martinez, Elderly Nutrition Program director said.

She said, for her what’s amazing is they are now able to help tribal elders not only in the Clinton community, but several other tribal communities as well.

Transportation services will be provided for tribal elders in the communities of Elk City, Clinton, Arapaho, Weatherford, Enid, Watonga and Seiling, to begin with. Other communities will be added as the program grows and another vehicle is obtained.

Martinez put in hundreds of hours filing paperwork, writing policies to apply for the vehicle through the Oklahoma Dept. of Human Services (DHS) 5310 Transportation Program.

“We are going to start with this vehicle and then hopefully within the next one to three years we will add another vehicle and have much more assistance with our elders,” Martinez said.

The program used to have two vehicles, both of which were wreaked in accidents on the same day in 2015 prior to Martinez’s becoming director. The 2017 Dodge Caravan is the replacement for both of those vehicles.

“Almost two years we have been waiting. Elder Care had transferred an old vehicle over to us but couldn’t use it for transporting and that kind of put a halt to our program. But now we are good to go.”

The tribes had to contribute five percent totaling $3,867 towards the total cost of the van which was $75,614,” Martinez said.

Martinez said some policies will be revisited for the transporting specifically, but she would like to receive a few days advance notice to ensure they can accommodate the elder’s request and get them to their appointments or any other place they might need to go.

For more information on transporting contact Martinez at 580-331-2311.

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We enjoy the warmer weather as it is a time to get together with family and friends cooking backyard barbecues or having family picnics. When it comes to food we need to take extra precautions to not contract a food borne illness. Certain populations are at a higher risk than others such as seniors over 65, or persons under 5 years of age, persons with diabetes, HIV/AIDS patients, older adults, children with Asthma or with Autoimmune diseases, and pregnant women.

The recent legionella outbreak is really concerning. The recent outbreak in Boston is concerning because it is contaminated by Legionnaires disease. All Romare lettuce has been recalled. If you bought romaine lettuce in the last 7 days, it’s a good idea to check your fridge and give your grocery store a refund.

Here are some tips to keep you and your family safe.

- Clean and wash hands and surfaces often, separate raw meat and poultry from ready-to-eat foods. Cook foods to the right temperatures.
- Chill raw meat and poultry as well as cooked leftovers promptly (within two hours).
- Become a safe shopper by checking the sell by or use by dates, do not buy products that are out of date. Do not buy cans that are swollen, dented, or rusted and do not choose bruised fruits and vegetables. Do not eat self-serve foods, free sample foods or buy or use cracked or deteriorated wood chips. When shopping pick up frozen and refrigerated items last, right before you check out and refrigerate foods immediately when you get home.
- Never purchase items out more than two years. Serve raw meat, poultry and seafood from other items in your shopping cart and grocery bag.

When eating out, go to well reviewed restaurants and get advice from your families or friends. If you happen to get food poisoning, you can report it to the FDA and call 1-800-FD-MORE.

There are many options to help you quit smoking, including nicotine patches, gum or lozenges. You can also talk to your health care provider about other options. The Clinton and Apache Housing Authority can provide assistance to anyone who needs help quitting.

The Clinton Parkway was started as a volunteer project that was completed in 2014. Since that time many local citizens living in the area have expressed nighttime lighting. And the playground used engineered wood turf that is used for the fall protection. And the wood chips, over the last four years, have deteriorated with expression nighttime lighting. And the tribal citizens living in the area have" 

The Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes’ Health Education team partnered with the Clinton Service Unit (CSU) in Clinton and at the tribes’ headquarters in Concho, reaching 175 participants at the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. (Courtesy photo)

The Cheyenne and Arapaho tribes’ Health Education team partnered with the Clinton Service Unit (CSU) in Clinton and at the tribes’ headquarters in Concho, reaching 175 participants during the Great Smoky Mountain National Park. (Courtesy photo)
May 6th

Happy 5th Birthday to our Cheyenne Rose! I have been blessed to watch you grow into the genuine, kind hearted, and amazing little girl that you are. I am so very proud of you and your beautiful momma! We love you no matter what size, shape, color, Dreylan, Abrom, and Noyel.

Dad & Mom
May 21st

You’re a generous and loving Cheyenne girl. Enjoy your trip to Las Vegas that you provided for my birthday. Congratulations on the purchase of your new dream house. We would be honored to present you with the Comanche Award of Distinction. Your new promotion is available. Great professional role model for your aspiring young men and young women and girls.

Big bro & sis

Yvonne S. Starwoman
Wilson was born Dec. 13, 1940. She passed away May 10, 2017 at the age of 77. She was raised in the direction of Huber-Ben Pedro; sisters, Toni Kay Cowden, Okla. and Yvonne S. 'Starwoman'\n
Dee Ann Alexander

Marlena not a day goes by that we think of you and miss you. For me, it's as if no time has passed. Marlena, Yolanda, Franklin, Maria and Monte

Yvonne S. ‘Starwoman’ Wilson

Yvonne S. Starwoman was born on Dec. 13, 1940. She passed away May 10, 2017 at the age of 77. She was raised in the direction of Huber-Ben Pedro; sisters, Toni Kay Cowden, Okla. and Yvonne S. ‘Starwoman’.

Dee Ann Alexander

History center continued from pg. 2

The WTHC project involved with a museum in Austin, Texas, because the Wichita were also in Texas, they want to tell our story down there, we don’t really have anything to donate for an exhibit down there, but they want to the Chicago Field Museum and they are going to borrow some objects from them to represent the Wichita, so I’m hoping that, I don’t know if I might as well if we can be very expensive transporting stuff from Austin to Houston to Chicago, but what we’d like to do is bring those objects here because it’s some of the most important objects that helped so much in the past, because we took photos of those objects, bringing the objects here today is a way that I think it will happen as it and it will keep the interest of the community up.

Other activities for the center are anticipated and being planned to public interest...’

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Construction Worker I
Department of Housing
Qualifications:
Must have demonstrated concrete, masonry, and landscaping work experience. Must be able to lift at least 75 lbs and be physically fit to withstand manual labor. Must have a High School Diploma or GED. Must be willing to submit to a background check and be willing to pass OSBI background checks required. Must possess a current Oklahoma Driver’s License and be able to pass a pre-hire drug screening. SALARY: Negotiable

Adult Education Counselor
Closing: Until Filled
Qualifications:
Bachelor’s degree in education or related field preferred or an equivalent of combination of education and experience; substituting one year of experience in teaching experience for each year of the required education. Ability to pass OSBI background check. Must have the ability to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Must have valid Oklahoma driver’s license. Prefer knowledge of Cheyenne and Arapaho/Native American cultures and values. Ability to work with deficient clientele. Must complete OKDHSS Criminal History Review and Supplementation Action. SALARY: Negotiable

Health Promotion Specialist (Seasonal)
Closing: May 8, 2018
Qualifications:
High school diploma or G.E.D. required. Prior experience in health related field. Must have driver’s license and be able to drive a clean driving record for insurance purposes. Cheyenne Arapaho preference. SALARY: Negotiable

Caseworker Aide
Tribal Social Services
Closing: Until Filled
Qualifications:
Must possess CPR and First Aid Certification. Must have strong listening and communication skills. Must have the ability to convey expectations and be able to pass a pre-hire drug screening. Ability to work extended hours at certain key times of the year. Must have a valid Oklahoma Driver’s License and be willing to work evenings and weekends. Must be able to pass a pre-hire drug screening. Native American preference. SALARY: Negotiable

Cheyenne Junior High Secretary
Language Department Closing: Until Filled
Qualifications:
High school diploma or G.E.D. required. Experience in learning Cheyenne, Arapaho, or another foreign language. Experience in working in a group of people. Ability to use language related technology such as recording devices, video conferencing and electronic dictionaries. Ability to track data, and monitor progress using simple spreadsheets. Ability to work a flexible schedule according to the availability of Native Speakers. Ability to work with children, adult learners and elders. Knowledge of communication and interpersonal skills needed. Must be able to pass background checks. Must have valid Oklahoma driver’s license and be able to pass a pre-hire drug screening. SALARY: Negotiable

Family Violence Advocate
Social Services Closing: Until Filled
Qualifications:
Bachelor’s degree in social work or human services with an understanding of mental health counseling, family therapy, social work or related field. Ability to work flexible hours and be willing to work either on normal working hours including weekends and holidays. Must have a high level of confidentiality on all client matters and other matters protected by the Privacy Act. OSBI and criminal background checks required. Must possess a current Oklahoma driver’s license. Prefer knowledge of Cheyenne and Arapaho/Native American cultures and values. Ability to work with deficient clientele. Must complete OKDHSS Criminal History Review and Supplementation Action. SALARY: Negotiable

Transit Driver II – FT
Tribal Transit Program Closing: Until Filled
Qualifications:
Must possess CPR and First Aid Certification or be willing to attend various training programs to obtain certification. Must pass pre-employment drug screening program and be subject to random drug testing. Should be able to lift, at a minimum, 50 lbs, with no physical barriers from doing so. Must possess the ability to communicate effectively to patrons and superiors any findings, incidents, activities and daily responsibilities. Must possess a high school diploma and possible completion of a commercial driving license training program and/or defensive driving program. Must have an acceptable driving record if selected for the position, must provide a current Motor Vehicle Report (MVR) from the State Department of Public Safety. SALARY: Negotiable

Project Inspector II
Dept. of Housing Closing: Until Filled
Qualifications:
Minimum of three (3) years of experience in inspection and/or housing construction work. Ability to read and interpret floor plans, blueprints and specifications in order to determine appropriate location for building construction. Must be familiar with federal and tribal procurement procedures, must have the ability to work independently with minimal supervision. Familiarize with the Freedom of Information Act & Privacy Act. Must have a good working knowledge of plans and specifications. Must be familiar with contract requirements. Ability to exercise sound judgment and arrive at valid conclusions. Must be well organized in record keeping. Must have the ability to convey expectations and be able to pass a pre-hire drug screening. Native American preference. SALARY: Negotiable
March 2018 Johnson O’Malley ~ Honor Club Recipients

Malaina Byam, Hampton
Galilea Iglesias, Weatherford
Jada Juneau, Del City
Ra-Kayah Davis-Pratt, Hampton
Ryan Hubbata, El Reno
Joni Wildcats, Thomas-Fay-Cutter
Leah Brewer, Watonga
Kiana Black, Watonga
Tucker Thunderbull, Watonga
Antonio Baxcajay, Darlington
Dorene Alyss Whitehorse, Riverside (rural)
Vicente Baxcajay, Darlington
Elizabeth YellowEagle, Thomas-Fay-Cutter
Alexander Cochran, OKC
Gianna Burns, Clinton
Solomon Vargas, Canton
Vicente Baxcajay, Darlington
Yareni Baxcajay, Darlington
Javier Baxcajay, Darlington
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2018 Oklahoma Native All State Games convene at Bacone College

The Board of Directors for the Oklahoma Native All State Association announces the implementation of the Annual Oklahoma All State Games—the largest gathering of Native American student athletes in the United States—scheduled for May 15-16 at Bacone College in Muskogee, Okla.

Senior high school American Indian boy and girl athletes in softball, baseball, basketball, golf and cross country from Oklahoma public schools, native American Indian public schools, and non-Native American Indian public schools will represent their respective high school and tribal affiliations in this popular gathering of sport competition and recognition.

The two day activity begins with a Friday check in and the All State Golf Tournament. A recognition/award banquet, featuring Cross Country and Track & Field Coach Rick Baker of Hopi High School, winner of 26 straight State Championships as keynote speaker, will be held on Friday evening. The following Saturday will feature competitive cross-country meet, softball, basketball and basketball-games, and more.

“This is our way of encouraging our American Indian student athletes to continue their dream of furthering their athletic positions in life and giving them recognition for their accomplishments in athletics and academic excellence. Tribal governments, Oklahoma public schools, parents, Bacone staff, and coaches have all been more than supportive and we are very appreciative of the good work of our Oklahoma public school American Indian students,” stated Dwight Pickering, chair of the association’s board of directors.

Oklahoma Native All State Association Planning committee members, coaches and tribal officials, have volunteered their time and energy in making this opportunity a unique experience for all involved. The Board of Directors for the Native American All State Games would like to thank the Oklahoman public school American Indian student athletes and the host institution for making this a success.

To see my grandma again.
Oh yeah, if someone's asking something and then doesn't try to win.
It's usually a granola bar or fruit, if not, a lot of water.
Since I started running.
What is your favorite goal?
What is your biggest accomplishment in the classroom so far?
It's mainly underground rap music.
What is it about the sport that you love the best?
What is your favorite saying or motto that you live your life by?
I've gotten since I started running.
What is your favorite class or subject?
Why do you love the best?
I've gotten since I started running.
What do you do when not playing sports?
It's usually a granola bar or fruit, if not, a lot of water.
Since I started running.
What is your favorite class or subject?
Why do you love the best?
I've gotten since I started running.
What is your favorite saying or motto that you live your life by?
I've gotten since I started running.
Trump challenges Native Americans’ historic standing

Native Americans say they should be exempt from Medicaid work requirements, which tribes say put their health at risk and threaten their centuries-old relationship with the U.S. government. The Trump administration disagrees. The dispute hangs on a question with ramifications far beyond health benefits. Are the tribes a race, a group seeking preferences, or special status as a separate government? Are they a racial preference, or do they have special status as a separate government with protections enshrined in the U.S. Constitution? “The United States has a legal responsibility to provide health care to Native Americans,” said Mary Smith, who was acting head of the Indian Health Service during the Obama administration and is a member of the Cherokee Nation. “It’s the largest prepaid health system in the world, they’ve paid through land and massacres, and now you’re going to take away health care and ask a work requirement?”

Tribe leaders cite precedents for federal health program exemptions. Native Americans don’t have to pay penalties for not having health coverage under Obama’s individual mandate, for instance. HHS confirmed it has rebuffed the tribes’ request on Medicaid work rules. “HHS further stressed that the administration’s policies,” the memo concludes. “CMS has a duty to ensure that Native Americans are not subject- ed to state-imposed work requirements that would present a barrier to their participation in the Medicaid program,” the memo concludes. “CMS not only has ample legal authority to make such accommodations, it has a duty to require them.” Meanwhile, tribal leaders say the Trump administration has signaled it may seek to renegotiate other aspects of the governor’s relationship with Native Americans, health care, pointing to federal civil rights law. “The Trump administration remains committed to Native Americans’ health care,” said D.C. last month. The secretary’s agenda prioritizes health care and job training, education and similar activities. The decision to reject the request was driven by political appointees in HHS’ general counsel and civil rights offices, say three individuals with knowledge of the decision. The Trump administration has concluded the tribes are a race and exempting them from Medicaid work rules, which have been approved in three states so far and are being sought by at least 10 others, would be illegal preferential treatment. “HHS believes that an exemption would constitute a violation of constitutional and federal civil rights law,” according to a review approved by administration lawyers. Instead, the Trump administration maintains that Native Americans should meet the same requirements as other able-bodied adults seeking to qualify for Medicaid in states that are imposing work rules. But the tribes say that any claim of “racial preference” is moot because they’re constitutionally protected as a separate government, dating back to treaties hammered out by President George Washington and reaffirmed in recent decades under Republican and Democrat presidents alike, including the Clinton, George W. Bush and Obama administrations. The Trump administration’s Medicaid work rule is just the start; just last month, President Donald Trump is eyeing similar changes across the nation’s welfare programs, which many of the 5.7 million Native Americans rely on. “It’s very troublesome,” said Caitlin McCarron Shuy of the National Indian Health Board. “This is a series of interactions that they say cannot be exempted from Medicaid work requirements.”

The agency’s official response was that they couldn’t provide that documentation because of ongoing, unspecified litigation. In a Washington state tribe was challenged by HHS in November, also on grounds that it would constitute an illegal preference for Native Americans. “It would be a major blow to Native Americans’ health if CMS’s decision were to be allowed,” according to the Indian Health Service’s director. “I don’t know how you would implement it. There are no jobs to be had on the reservation.”

By Dan Diamond

Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribal Tribune

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