VOLUME 25 EDITION 1

BIA Secretarial Election Passes; **Tribal Administrator** Position a 3-Year Term



By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

A Secretarial Election took place on Dec. 9, 2023 to make an amendment to the Comanche Nation Constitution's Article V Tribal Council/Powers Clause Section 8. The amendment would expand the term of office for the Tribal Administrator from one year to three years and run consecutively with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comanche Nation.

The election was conducted through the Bureau of Indian Affairs, under a Secretarial election authorized by R. Gabriel Morgan, Acting Regional Director, on September 15, 2023, the attached Amendment A to the Constitution of the Comanche Nation was submitted to the registered voters of the Comanche Nation and duly ratified by a vote of 491 for and 160 against, with two cast ballots found spoiled in an election.

The Amendment, having been ratified and approved, proposed Amendment A is hereby designated as Amendment No. LXXI to the Constitution of the Comanche Nation.

"To hire an Administrator/ Manager to administrate the tribal government who has a Bachelor's Degree with a minimum of three years' experience in high-level budgeting, and management of government programs. The term of office for the Tribal Administrator is (3) three years and runs consecutively with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Comanche Nation. Anyone who has been convicted of a felony, a misdemeanor involving dishonesty, bribery, embezzlement, or has been determined by a court of competent jurisdiction to have committed any improper appropriation or obligation of tribal assets, any improper addition or removal from tribal rolls, any indebtedness to the Comanche Nation, or fails a drug test shall not be eligible to hold the position. The administrator/Manager shall be under the direction of business committee. Members of the business committee shall not be an employee of the tribal government."

Registration for the Secretarial Election had a deadline of Nov. 9, 2023, with a deadline for the Secretarial Election Board to receive the mail-in votes by Dec. 9, 2023.

Special General Council Meeting Elects a New Secretary/Treasurer

By Paula Karty/News Staff

On Dec. 17, 2023, a Special General Council meeting was call by Comanche Nation Chairman, Mark Woommavovah. The meeting was to nominate and elect a Secretary/Treasurer which was vacant due to the passing of the current Secretary/Treasurer, the late John David Wahnee.

According to the Comanche Nation Constitution a quorum of 150 eligible voters of 18 years and older must be established. At 1:30 p.m., the count was 203 eligible voters registered.

Chairman Woommavovah called the meeting to order, requesting a moment of silence in honor of the late John David Wahnee.

Tribal elder, Rita Coosewoon opened the meeting with a prayer.

Comanche Business Committeewoman #3 (CBC), Alice Kassanavoid, read Article #9, Sections 1-3, of the Comanche Nation Constitution which was about Vacancies and Removals from Offices.

The floor was then open for nominations.

Aaron Nevaquaya nominated Baliente Herrera. William Owens nominated Robert Tippeconnie.

Rita Coosewoon made a motion for nominations to cease, which was seconded by Verna Cable.

Chairman Woommavovah called for the vote. Tribal members with a wrist band indicating eligibility were given a ballot to cast they're

See ELECTION page 4







TOP: Tribal member turning in her ballot after placing her vote to be counted in the election for Secretary/Treasure for the CBC on December 16, 2023, at Watchetaker Hall. LEFT: Tribal Member registering to vote in the special meeting that took place in Watchetaker Hall. RIGHT: The CBC taking a moment of silence for John David Wahnee before the special meeting began on December 16, 2023.





RECOGNIZING OLDEST ELDERS. The oldest elders that attended the Elder's Day Celebration, held Dec. 1, 2023, were given Pendleton Blankets, delivered by the Comanche Nation Chairman, Mark Woommavovah. LEFT: Jimmy Caddo, 91-years-old, was recognized as the oldest Comanche man. RIGHT: Pauline Kowena, 99-years-old, was recognized as the oldest Comanche woman. See more photos of Comanche Elder Day on Page 11.

Happy New Year! Tsaa Manusu?itu Uku Tomop<u>u</u>

Comanche Nation News PO Box 908 Lawton, OK 73502

Pauline Kowena Turns 100 Years Old; Family **Celebration Set** for Jan. 20



Kowena

Story and Photos by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On January 17, Pauline Kowena will turn 100 years old and became the most senior elder in the Comanche Nation.

Kowena said her best memories include living with her grandparents and her aunt.

"I loved living with them, and that's where I picked up my Indian language from because they didn't speak English, so I spoke with them all the time," she said. "And then I'd get tired of staying with them, and I'd go and visit my other aunt, and then when I'd get tired there, I'd go up and back to our house. We lived in a triangle. We lived up on the hill. And then I'd go down to the creek there to stay with my grandmother and my aunt, and then I'd go up the hill again to my other aunt and just made a triangle there."

Kowena also loved going to school, which was close to home and had a lot of friends there.

"That was the most thing I loved about growing up, and I was about 15 when we moved to Indiahoma, went to school at Indiahoma and then I got married," she said. "And I went back to Walters, and then I'd come back to Indiahoma. And from there, well, I got married again, and I lived there on that same property, I guess, at least 75 years on the same property. And my son inherited the land where I'm at now."

Kowena said she worked a lot, but her favorite occupation was working for Parker Aircraft, issuing parts for aircraft.

"Well, that was working, all the time, and I worked 21 years at Frederick, and then we went to California on relocation, and I worked there for five years in numerous places in the Parker Aircraft," she said. "And that was the one I loved the most, was working in the aircraft, and then they moved the kids and I back home. That was one night, I was sitting there writing a letter to my mother, and my bed shook. I told the boys, I said, 'What are y'all doing? Y'all trying to scare me?' They said, 'No, that was an earthquake.' I said, 'Okay, tomorrow we're getting out of here.' So, we loaded up the next day, and we moved home."

Kowena said they used to go to camp meetings when growing

"Going to church, and then after church, we'd go home, and we'd go to our camp and have lunch, and then we'd rest up that afternoon," she

See KOWENA, Page 6



FINANCIAL SUCCESS

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THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS Uku Tooma Mua (January) 2024 Beginning of a new year

The award-winning Comanche Nation News, the official communication of the Comanche Nation, is available at no charge upon request. The deadline to submit information for the February edition is 5 p.m., January 15. Contact:

The Comanche Nation News P.O. Box 908 Lawton, Okla. 73502-0908 Telephone: (580) 492-3381 Fax: (580) 492-3709 Email: pio@comanchenation.com **PIO/TCNN Staff**

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- News items of interest to the local and American Indian community are welcome
- Photographs will be copied and will become the property of TCNN. To return original photographs, send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not send faxed photographs or newspaper copies of photographs.
- The Milestones Page (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Engagements, Memorial Pictures, Weddings, Births) are by submission only. Please submit a first and last name. The Passings/ Obituaries are submitted by the Comanche Nation Funeral Home or by tribal members on a funeral home letterhead. The Milestones Page is for tribal members only. TCNN publishes all services conducted by The Comanche Nation Funeral Home without discretion. The Obituaries Page is for tribal members only.
- TCNN will print a Comanche organization's annual event flyer once free of charge as a courtesy to our tribal organizations. The guidelines for flyer submission are: Pow-wow flyers have to be from an established Comanche organization. There has to be contact person and number on the organization's annual flyer
- We reserve the right to edit all material. Letters or articles that contain libelous information, slander, or personal attacks will not be printed. Letters to the Editor must be signed with a legible name, and have an 500 word limit. The letters to the editor or articles contained in The Comanche Nation News does not reflect the views or opinions of the PIO staff.

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Government

A Total of Seven Resolutions are Presented at the November **CBC** Meeting

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the December 2, 2023, Comanche Business Committee Monthly Meeting, and not the official minutes. To obtain a copy of the official minutes, please contact the Office of the Chairman, (580) 492-3251.

The Comanche Nation Chairman, Mark Woommavovah, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.,m. After conducting roll call, a quorum of Comanche Business Committee members is established.

Resolutions

Resolution No. 116-2023- Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1313 Minors – Motion to approve the resolution carries 4/0/0.

Resolution No. 117-2023- Transit Resolution to Purchase (2) E-Transits with Wheelchair Accessibility - Motion to approve the resolution carries 4/0/0.

Resolution No. 118-2023- Entertainment Resolution to Renew Lease with CN Housing - Motion to approve the resolution carries 4/0/0.

Resolution No. 119-2023- THPO Intertribal Buffalo Council Amendment -Motion to approve the resolution carries 4/0/0.

Resolution No. 120-2023- CBC Resolution to Appoint School Board Members – the motion was tabled Resolution No. 121-2023- CBC KCAILUC Amendment - Motion to approve

the resolution carries 4/0/0. Resolution No. 122-2023- Realty Resolution to Acquire 807 SW F. Ave. - Mo-

Chairman Woommavovah Attends Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) Meeting

Submitted by Comanche Nation Chairman/Mark Woommavovah

tion to approved the resolution carries 4/0/0.



Chairman Mark Woommavovah with Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief Cherokee Nation, and Chickasaw Lieutenant Governor, Chris Anoatubby. The men were among other tribal leaders who attended the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting was held November 28-29, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

MEDICAID SERVICES. Pur-

pose: This session is designed to

provide an opportunity for the

STAC to engage with the CMS

Administrator, who will provide

an overall update on the work

of CMS as it relates to Indian

ADMINISTRATION for COM-

MUNITY LIVING. Purpose:

This session is designed to

provide an opportunity for the

STAC to engage with the ACL

Administrator, who will provide

an overall update on the work of

ACL as it relates to Indian Coun-

OFFICE of the ASSISTANT

SECRETARY for HEALTH.

Purpose: This session is de-

signed to provide an opportunity

for the STAC to engage with the

OASH Assistant Secretary, who

will provide an overall update on

the work of OASH as it relates

NATIONAL INSTITUTES of

HEALTH. Purpose: This session

is designed to provide an oppor-

tunity for the STAC to engage

with the NIH Acting Director,

who will provide an overall up-

date on the work of the NIH as it

CENTERS for DISEASE CON-

TROL and PREVENTION. Pur-

pose: This session is designed

to provide an opportunity for

the STAC to engage with the

CDC Director, who will provide

an overall update on the work

of CDC as it relates to Indian

relates to Indian Country.

to Indian Country.

Country.

The Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee (STAC) meeting was held November 28-29, 2023, in Washington, D.C., at the Hubert H. Humphrey Building.

The Oklahoma Delegates were: Chairman Mark Woommavovah, Comanche Nation, Chuck Hoskin Jr., Principal Chief Cherokee Nation, Chris Anoatubby, Lieutenant Governor Chickasaw Nation, President Wichita and Affiliated Tribes. Terri Parton. (DISCLAIMER: this meeting was funded by STAC)

"The goal as leaders is to build bridges and ensure we have a seat at the National Leadership Table...time for to pull up a chair!" said • Woommavovah.

Topics

The following topics were discussed during the meeting:

HEALTH AND HUMAN SER-VICES (HHS) NATIVE AMER-ICAN HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION AND DEDI-CATION - HHS Native Ameri- • can Heritage Month Celebration and Dedication was in the Great Hall of the Hubert H. Humphrey Building. The Celebration featured panelist discussions and addresses on hot topics in Indian health, as well as shine a spotlight on AI/AN heritage. • The event included a dedication of the HHS Hall of Tribal Nations, which honors the Nationto-Nation relationship through the prominent displaying of the STAC Delegates' Tribal Nation flags in the Great Hall above the portraits of the HHS Secretaries. HEALTH RESOURCES and **SERVICES** ADMINISTRA-TION. Purpose: This session is designed to provide an opportu-

sues in Indian Country.

SUBSTANCE ABUSE and MENTAL HEALTH SERVIC-ES ADMINISTRATION. Purpose: This session is designed to nity for the STAC to engage with provide an opportunity for the the HRSA Administrator, who STAC to engage with the SAMwill provide an overall update on the work of HRSA regarding is-CENTERS for MEDICARE and relates to Indian Country.

Country.

HSA Assistant Secretary, who will provide an overall update on the work of SAMHSA as it



The Chairman's Ses

ing to move us in another direction.

It doesn't matter how far you might rise. At some point, you are bound to stumble. If you're constantly pushing yourself higher and higher, the law of averages predicts that you will at some point fall. And when you do, I want you to remember this: in life there is no such thing as failure. Failure is just life trying to move us in another direction.

On Creating Your Own Life

You define your own life. Don't let other people write your script.

Living life on your own terms, rather than succumbing to pressure from those around you to live a certain way. These words resonate with us as Comanche People, as we are on a mission to help our people write their own life stories. We also believe that everyone has a unique story to tell, and that each one is worth writing down.

On Learning From Your Hardships

"Turn your wounds into wisdom."

A beacon of overcoming terrible circumstances and rising to brilliance, is want our Comanche People have done over the past decades. We were able to change our fate by working together for our people. We Comanches are champions of turning personal pain into fuel for growth, and embracing our pride, traditions, and culture heri-

On Gratitude

"If the only prayer you ever say is thank you, that will be enough."

The simple act of giving thanks can have a profound effect on our happiness, experience of life, and our Comanche Nation. We need to make gratitude a daily priority in our lives.

"I've learned from experience that if you pull the lever of gratitude every day, you'll be amazed at the results."

Proverbs 15:13-15

A glad heart makes a cheerful face, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is crushed. The heart of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly, SEP, All the days of the afflicted are evil, but the cheerful of heart has a continual feast.

These proverbs focus on the heart. A cheerful face indicates a positive attitude toward life; this comes about when the inner self is healthy. Such a person has inner joy all the time.

Comanche People, TOGETHER we are STRONGER; TO-GETHER we are unbroken; TOGETHER we can do anything and when we're TOGETHER, everything falls into place. "COMANCHE STRONG-STRONGER TOGETHER!"

URA Chairman W-

ADMINISTRATION for CHIL-DREN and FAMILIES. Purpose: This session is designed to provide an opportunity for the STAC to engage with the ACF Assistant Secretary, who will provide an overall update on the dian Country.

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE. Purpose: This session is de-

signed to provide an opportunity for the STAC to engage with IHS leadership who will provide an overall update on the work of IHS as it relates to Indian Coun-

"I am honored and proud work of ACF as it relates to In- to serve as your Chairman, Comanche Strong-Stronger Together!" said Woommavovah.

DIVORCE? WRITS? WILLS/CODICILS? **ATTESTATIONS?**

Notary Services

Packets/citations typed and prepared for Native Americans for issuance through BIA Court of Indian Offenses. (Additional BIA filing fees due at time of documentation)

> **REASONABLE PREP FEES Contact: Jewell Laurenzana Tieyah**

(580) 678-2052 or (580) 492-5455



COMANCHE NATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOTLINE (580) 492-3628

Programs

Child Support Services Announces Court Dates

In the Comanche Nation **Tribal Court**

- Frank Poafpybitty: CNC-SP-23-03; Application for Indirect Contempt
- Mariah Silverhorn: CNC-SP-23-38; Petition to Register Foreign Order

Under Title 3 of the Comanche Nation Child Support Codes Rule 4 (E (3) allows for service by publication in instances where the location of the subject is unknown, or when the subject of service has been unable to be served by traditional means. The CNCSP is needing the above name(s) to be placed in our upcoming Comanche Nation Newspaper.

Please take note that all Comanche Nation Tribal Court Child Support hearings will be conducted in person.

Please take note that all court of Indian Child Support hearing will be conducted in person.

January 2024 **Adult Education Student of the Month** Ashley Glancy



Glancy

This is Ashley Glancy, she is a descendant of Mow-way who was the leader of the "Buffalo-Eater" band of the Comanche tribe and Zepko-ette who was known as the "Terror of the Frontier" and part of the Kiowa tribe. Her great grandparents are Nelson and Joanne Bigbow and her grandparents are Clifford and Beverley Quoyah. Her mother is Kelly Banderas, who has been with the Comanche tribe for 16 years.

Glancy has recently graduated from the Higher Education GED program; the program has been very beneficial for her. Jackie Holder and Quanah Karty have been amazing teachers and have done more than enough to help her succeed.

Glancy's hobbies and interests mostly pertain to anything that involves computers and technology. Her grandfather was her inspiration for them; So as for her future goals, she hopes to pursue something that centers around computers

January 2024 **Higher Education** Student of the Month **Harlequin Ototivo**



Courtesy Photo

Ototivo

This is Harlequin Ototivo. She is a proud citizen of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. She is the daughter of the late Henson Ototivo and Pamela Pennington. Her paternal grandparents are the late Timothy Ototivo and Lola Nahquaddy-Ototivo of Walters, Okla. Her maternal grandparent is Nina Tabbytosavit of Walters, Okla.

Ototivo has been working for the Comanche Nation since 2017. She is graduating in May 2024 with her Master of Science in Behavioral Science as a Licensed Professional Counselor & Licensed Alcohol & Drug Counselor.

Ototivo's plan after graduation is to pass the NCE exam so she can start her counseling supervision to help guide the Native population through their healing journey.

January 2024 Job Placement and Training Student of the **Month Angelique** Frenco-Colbert



Courtesy Photo Colbert

Angelique is and Esthetician student at Eite Academy of Cosmetology.

It's having motion. Colbert's goal is to serve the communities around the world with top tier beauty service.

Colbert plans to open a travel salon on wheels and work on more sets, music, entertainment, resorts, fashion shows, etc.

SNAPSHOTS

from the Dec. 4, 2023 Elder's Council Christmas Party held at Watchetaker Hall





Photos by Natascha Mercadar

ELECTION Continued from Page 1

COMANCHE NATION OF OKLAHOMA SPECIAL MEETING Saturday, December 16, 2023 SECRETARY / TREASURER MACHINE T MACHINE 2 NOMINATIONS 1 BALIENTE HERRERA 77 83 39.90% ROBERT 2 TIPPECONNIE 110 15 125 60.10% 100.00% TOTALS 208 187 21 OPPICIAL RESULTS

Voting results of the Dec, 16, 2023 Special Meeting election results.

The ballot read:

- 1. Baliente Herrera
- 2. Robert Tippeconnie

At 2:14 p.m., Chairman Woommavovah announced that there were 212 registered voters and only 169 votes cast.

At 2:29 p.m., Chairman Woommavovah read the results, which were: Candidate 1. Baliente Herrera - 39%

Candidate 2. Robert Tippeconnie- 60%.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

There was confusion about the official voting results so the PIO Officer, Jolene Schonchin, reached out to Terry Rainey, President of AES for clarification.

On Dec. 18, a statement was received by Terry Rainey, President of Automated Elections Service (AES) The statement read:

"Dear Ms. Schonchin,

Per our discussion today, please be advised that the AES reporting system used for election results automatically produces a number indicating the candidate receiving the highest of voted and then sequentially after that, the candidate receiving ranking #1 so that the leader can be identified without reordering candidate names, resulting in the report provided. That number is for ranking candidates by votes only.

Apparently, that caused some confusion or concern. We sent a revised version of that report to Ms. Daukei.

Respectfully, President"

Tippeconnie was sworn in as the Secretary/Treasurer on Dec. 26, 2023.

Terry Rainey



Birthday Downon for Haralyn Chazenah

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14, 2024 WATCHETAKER HALL COMANCHE NATION COMPLEX LAWTON, OK

MC KEVIN "BUBBA SOVO

HEAD SINGER LARRY MONOESSEY

HOST GOURD DANCE SOCIETY COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES

HEAD LADY DANCER JULIE RIVAS

AD'S TRAVIS CODYNAH CHARES TAHAH



GOURD DANCING 1 PM - 5 PM

SUPPER BREAK GOURD DANCING

6 PM - 8 PM ROUND DANCING

CONCESSION PROVIDED BY: MMIW A WALK TO REMEMBER

SPECIAL INVITATION

2023 - 2024 COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS MCKENZI SOVO

2023-2024 COMANCHE NATION JR. PRINCESS VIVIEN PARKER

CHASENAH FAMILY PRINCESS MERCEDEZ BANDERAS

CONTESTS

- . HAND DRUM - \$100, HAND DRUM/STICK
- · BACKUP SINGER
- \$100, RIBBON SKIRT
- · PRETTIEST RIBBON SKIRT
- . KEENEST APPLIQUE MENS SHIRT
- \$50, RIBBON SHIRT

\$50, RIBBON SKIRT

Programs

Prevention and Recovery's IAMNDN Schedule is Filled with Activities



IAMNDN sings Christmas carols in the Comanche langauge Dec. 1, 2023, during the Elder's Day celebration at the Great Plains Colliseum in Lawton, Okla.

Submitted by Comanche Nation Prevention and Recovery Staff

Prevention & Recovery stayed busy in November providing numerous cultural activities and demonstrations across Southwest Oklahoma for Native American Heritage month. Tipis were set-up at Ft. Sill, Cache Public Schools, Indiahoma Public Schools, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, and the Aquarium at Medicine Park among others. Dance exhibitions and hand game demonstrations took place during November as well. IAMNDN was also very active with their youth council during this time. They celebrated Indian Education Student Day along with Native American Heritage Night at the Paycom Center where Oklahoma students received a ticket to the OKC Thunder game that night and visited booths from a variety of vendors. The IAMNDN Youth Council involvement did not stop in November. The group provided a segment of entertainment at the Comanche Nation Elder's Day event and sang Christmas Carols in Comanche for the audience.

The Native Spirit Project hosted CNP&R's 3rd Annual Mental Health Seminar Friday, December 8 at Cameron University. Native Spirit Project hosted the seminar which of Oklahoma's Social Work program, showcased her academic research about students of Indian Boarding Schools and how it related to cultural humility with Indigenous peoples.

Dr. Byers also shared a wealth of personal stories discussing ethical dilemmas within her personal and professional work to bring her presentation home. Shailah Red Elk- Ramos, Licensed Professional Counselor Candidate at the Lawton Indian Hospital, discussed why cultural humility in a therapeutic setting is imperative, especially while working with clients who may express a variety of customs, beliefs, and values different from your own.

Red Elk-Ramos acknowledged the importance of having the willingness to learn from others without imposing our own beliefs onto the client. Jason Hall, Prevention/Harm Reduction Program Manager for the Oklahoma Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services, spoke about overdose/harm reduction initiatives in Indigenous communities and the barriers people meet when seeking help. Hall also led a brief NARCAN training for those in the in attendance. Brittiany Kaywaykla, esteemed Edufeatured four Indigenous speakers cational Assistance at the Comanche out on the biggest safe and sober acwho each had unique presentations. Academy Charter School, led a guid- tivity of the year. The event will be-



Youth from IAMNDN cheer for the Oklahoma City Thunders November 6, 2023, at the Native American **Student Day and Native American** Student Night.



IAMNDN participates in Native American Heritage Day at the Medicine Park Aquarium Nov. 4, 2023, by performing dance demonstrations and put up a tipi for

touching on self-care and self-love as a professional in the helping fields. Project Staff also handed out mental health resource notebooks and items presenting the 988-call line.

If you're looking for something to do with the family for New Year's Eve, look no further! CNP&R will be hosting their annual NYE Bash at the Comanche County Fairgrounds, with this year's theme being Glow in the Dark! Don't miss Dr. Lisa Byers, from the University ed meditation to close out the event, gin at 7 p.m. on December 31, 2023.

Comanche Nation Elder Council Dec. 4, 2023 Christmas Event

Submitted by Comanche Nation Elder Council

The Comanche Nation Elder Council held a Christmas event for Comanche Nation Elders, age 62 and over on December 4, 2023 at Watchetaker Hall.

The Christmas Event served 189 Comanche Elders for luncheon catered by Golden Corral. The Elders were given candy, fruit and nut bags, many door prizes, music by Richelle Garcia and her band, and the Lords' Prayer was presented by our Comanche Nation Junior Princess, Vivian Parker.

The tables were decorated beautifully by Ardith Lemming and Donzetta Ikner. Door prizes were donated by Executive Committee members, Comanche Nation Gaming, Rita Heath, and Comanche Nation Chairman Mark Woommavovah. Brenda Soliz and her son Joseph maintained the coffee station.

The Comanche Nation Elder Council Executive Committee would like to thank all the volunteers who helped serve the meal, assisted in giving out the goody bags, manning the coffee station, and decorating the room. Thank you to Hoss and his crew for almost continual setting up tables and chairs and generally being there for anything we needed.

There was an excellent turn out and many expressions of gratitude from our Comanche Elders. The atmosphere was festive and relaxed and everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves.

The next Comanche Nation Elder Council meeting will be held Monday, January 8, at Watchetaker Hall, beginning at 10 a.m., Lunch will be served. All Comanche Elders

62 and over are welcome to attend.

The Comanche Nation Executive Committee officers are, Rosalind Asetamy, Chairperson, (580) 583-8686, LaNora Parker, Vice Chairperson, (580) 350-7933, Elizabeth Williams, Treasurer, (405) 693-2722, and Adele Mihesuah, Secretary, (580) 606-7519.

Please contact us if you have any suggestions for speakers or events for the Elder Council Monthly meetings.

Comanche Nation Elder Council Meeting Dates - 2024

ALL MEETINGS ARE HELD AT WATCHETAKER HALL BEGINNING AT 10:00 A.M.

JANUARY 8

FEBRUARY 4

MARCH 4

APRIL 1

MAY 6 JUNE 3

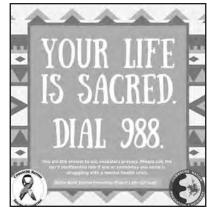
JULY 1

AUGUST 5 SEPTEMBER 9

OCTOBER 7

NOVEMBER 4

DECEMBER 2





January 15 **HAPPY**

Comanche Constitution Day! How Well Do YOU Know the **Comanche Constitution?**

Test yourself to see how well you know the fundamental laws and rights of the Comanche Nation and it's members. Answer the below questions with or without the Comanche Constitution. The Answers are on Page 6.

- 1. What date and year was the Comanche Constitution ratified?
- 2. How many Articles does the Comanche Constitution have?
- Which Article in the Comanche Constitution covers Mem-3. bership into the tribe?
- Which Article and Section defines the Supreme Governing 4. **Body of the Comanche Nation?**
- Which Article and Section defines a quorum in the Comanche Constitution?
- How old does one have to be to run for a position of Comanche Business Committee? Where is it found in the Comanche **Constitution?**
- Which Article and Section clarifies how many of the Comanche Business Committee have to be present to conduct business?
- Where would you find the Bill of Rights to all members of 8. the Comanche Nation in the Comanche Constitution?
- Where in the Comanche Constitution would you find the responsibilities of the Chairman, Vice Chairman and Secretary **Treasurer?**
- **10.** What does Article XIV cover in the Comanche Constitution?







CHEER. **IAMNDN** sung Christmas songs in the Comanche language and Comanche hymns to the residents of the Edith Gordon Assisted **Living Center** on Dec. 20, **2023. LEFT:** LeAnn Tahsequah and Hayden Cable, help hand out Christmas gifts to the elders. RIGHT: The assistant living residents open their gifts.

SPREADING

CHRISTMAS

Uku Tooma Mua (January) 2024 The Comanche Nation News

Tribal Elders Visit Ft. Sill in **Inaugural Project Called the Acts of Healing Project**

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



Courtesy Photos/ Christine Gardner -Garrison Public Affairs Officer

Tribal elders and soldiers visit Medicine Bluff on Ft. Sill Nov. 15, 2023 at the Act of Healing Project culture tour that included visiting sites such as the Apache Cemetery, Otipoby Cemetery, Chiefs Knoll, and Medicine Bluff, to name a few.



Comanche elder, Brenda Soliz, places a wreath at one of the cemeteries the Elder center visited Nov. 15, 2023 during the Acts of Healing Project on Ft. Sill.

On Nov. 15, 2023, Comanche Nation Elders visited Fort Sill for a tour of ancestral grounds from not only Comanche, but of Kiowa and Apache tribes. The tour included the Indian Agency, Chief's Knoll cemeteries, where the elders laid wreaths on the former chiefs, and Medicine Bluff. The tribal members also had an opportunity to view artifacts for the tribes that are preserved at the museum.

The elder visitors were warmly welcomed by members of the Ft. Sill. This first step of the Acts of Healing Project set a precedence of hospitality and understanding the historical relationship between the military and tribal nations, and to provide a foundation of coalition and reconcilement.

Tina Parker Emhoolah, a Fort Sill Museum volunteer and direct descendant of Comanche leader Quanah Parker, said in an interview with US Army Website Reporter, Chris Gardner, "This Tour is a bridge, reconnecting us with our history and allowing the military community to understand our rich cultural legacy."

The tour was organized by Emhoolah and the director of the Comanche Nation Elder Center, Renea Toahty.

Toahty said, "It's about bringing our elders closer to their roots and sharing our traditions with others. This Tour is not just a visit to historical sites; it's a journey

back to our ancestors."

"To do my part and be proactive for Fort Sill is my hope for a better relationship and better conversations for the future." Emhoolah said, "Though the past is often painful, we continue to grow and become better in the right moments with the right leaders. The perseverance, fortitude, and resilient spirit of the Native Americans with those who braved a new land to create the greatest country in the world, America," explained Emhoolah in an interview with the Ft. Sill Website re- me as a chaplain is to conporter, Gardner.

The Comanche Nation's Prevention and Recov- force whether it be National ery Counselor, Edmond Nevaquaya, shared the history of Comanche Chiefs and the historical locations throughout the tour, and cedared the elders and soldiers to conclude the tour to end it spiritually and positively.

In addition, a video about the tour, from Chaplain Captain Karen Moore, who is from the 304th, and her battalion is from Ft. Huachuca, Arizona, was shared on social media and it went viral. The video was viewed over 5,000

times and shared over 200 times.

She had the opportunity to go to Ft. Sill and learn about the connections of their native people and how it applies at Ft. Sill. She went on the tour and said it was amazing because FM7 - 22 affords every soldier and family member the right to support spiritual fitness. She added being on the tour made her see the spiritual connection to the burial sites was very intense and she said

"What it will do for tinue to afford that opportunity to all soldiers across the Guard, reserves, or active duty, to have that connection to be spiritually fit because that is how they are going to fight soldier suicide is through spiritual connections," said Moore. "This tour was 100% that spiritual connection support, family, nature, everything all in one."

She recommends the tour of Ft. Sill and she wishes that anybody who comes here gets as much out of it as she

KOWENA Continued from Page 1

said. "And then we'd go back to church at 7 o'clock in the evening. That was the best part of it, that we all went to church together, the kids and us."

Kowena said being Comanche means a whole lot to her, and tribal members should be proud of who they are.

She said her family will celebrate the day on January 20 at the Cahoma Building starting at 2 p.m. Family and friends were invited.











ELDER CENTER HAPPENINGS. The Comanche Nation Elder Center has been busy to ensure the 2023 year ends with great memories. Top Left: The Elder Center had a Christmas Meal on Dec. 15, 2023. Amy Wermy, Carlita Couch and Tina Red Elk serve a delicious meal to Donald Chasenah and other elders. TOP Center: Francine Monenerkit wins one of several door prizes during the Christmas Meal. TOP RIGHT: Elizabeth Williams wins the grand prize of a 50" Smart TV, which was donated by Amber Woommavovah. BOTTOM LEFT: On Nov. 9, 2023, The Elder Center participants traveled to Carnegie, Okla. to watch the movie "Killers of the Flower Moon" and get a famous Show Dog and other goodies at Liberty Theatre. BOTTOM **RIGHT: Elders Mack Mahsetky and Rose Nauni** enjoyed the afternoon movie in Carnegie, Okla.

ANSWERS to the Comanche Constitution Quiz on Page 5

- The Comanche Constitution was ratified November 19, 1966. 1.
- 2. The Comanche Constitution has 16 Articles.

3.

- Article III of the Comanche Constitution covers membership in to the tribe.
- 4. Article IV, Section 1 defines the Supreme Governing Body of the Comanche Nation.
- 5. Article V, Section 6, defines a quorum in the Comanche Constitution.
- Article VI, Section 1, states one has to be 21 years of age to run for the position of Comanche Business Committee. Article IX, Section 1, also defines the age to run for the Comanche Business Committee .
- Article VI, Section 4, clarifies there shall be five Comanche Business Committee present to conduct business. 7.
- 8. The Bill of Rights is covered in Article X of the Comanche Constitution.
- 9. Article XII defines the responsibilities of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary Treasurer of the Comanche Nation.
- 10. Article XIV covers the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Intertribal Land Use Committee.
 - 10 8 correct: You know the Comanche Constitution! Congratulations!

Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

JANUARY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	CLOSED 1 Happy New Year	Frederick 1st Day	Frederick ³ 2nd Day	Walters 1st Day	Walters 2nd Day	
7	Cache 1st Day	Cache 2nd Day	Cache 3rd Day	Cache 4th Day	TRUCK DAY	13
14	CLOSED 15 Comanche Constitution Day	Lawton 1st Day	Lawton 2nd Day	Lawton 3rd Day	Lawton 4th Day	20
21	Lawton 5th Day	Make-Up Day	Make-Up Day	Make-Up Day	Make-Up Day	2
. 28	Inventory					







We want to see what you are cooking! Send a picture of any of the recipes you try on the "culinary corner" page, and it will be in an issue of TCNN, and TCNN will mail you a gift of thanks. Email your name, picture, and which recipe you used to Heaven.Williams@Comanchenation.com.



Minestrone Soup

Ingredients

- 2 Tablespoons of extra virgin olive oil
- 1 Medium yellow onion
- diced • 2 Medium carrots
- 2 Celery ribs thinly sliced
- 1 Teaspoon sea salt
- Freshly ground pepper • 3 Garlic cloves grated
- 1 Can of diced tomatoes
- 1 ½ Cups of white beans or kidney beans, cooked, drained, and rinsed
- 1 Cup of chopped green beans
- 4 Cups of vegetable broth
- 1 Teaspoon of dried thyme
- ³/₄ Cups of small pasta,
- elbows,or orecchiette shells

• 1 ½ Cups of powdered sugar,

• 1 Cup of salted butter

divided, plus more for dusting Teaspoons of vanilla extract

Mexican Wedding Cookies

Ingredients

- 1 Teaspoon of orange zest, finely chopped
- \bullet ½ Teaspoon of ground carda-
- 2 Cups of all-purpose flour • 1 Cup of pecans, very finely
- chopped

Directions

- 1. Add the softened butter, ³/₄ cup powdered sugar, vanilla, orange zest, and cardamom in a large bowl. Using an electric mixer, beat on medium speed, until light and fluffy, 2 to 3 minutes. Add the flour and mix on low speed just until combined.
- 2. Preheat the oven to 325. Position one oven rack in the top third of the oven, and the other rack in the bottom third. Scoop mounded tablespoonfuls of dough and roll each into a ball. Place about 2 inches apart on a baking sheet.
- 3. Bake just until the bottom of the cookie is lightly golden, 20 to 22 minutes, rotating the baking sheet from the upper to lower rack halfway through. Let cool on the baking sheet for 10 minutes before transferring a few at a time to a bowl with the remaining 3/4 cup of powdered sugar. Dredge the cookies while they are warm, then transfer them to a cooling rack set over a baking sheet to cool completely.
- 4. Once cool, sprinkle with additional powdered sugar, if desired.

- 2 Bay leaves
- 1 Teaspoon of dried oregano

- ½ Cup of chopped parsley
- A pinch of red pepper flakes • Grated Parmesan cheese

about 4 minutes per side. Transfer skillet to oven and roast beef until an instant-read thermometer registers 120 to

Directions

1. Place a rack in the middle

of the oven and preheat to 325

degrees. Coarsely grind fennel

seeds, garlic powder, caraway

seeds, thyme, paprika, and

peppercorns in a spice mill or

with a mortar and pestle. Place

roast on a rimmed baking

sheet. Rub with oil and sea-

son all over with salt. Sprinkle

spice rub over, ensuring all

sides of beef are coated. Chill

2. Heat a dry large cast-iron

skillet over medium-high;

cook beef until browned,

125, about 2 hours. Transfer to

a cutting board and let rest for

roast, uncovered for 8 hours.

- 20 minutes. 3. Transfer roast to a platter;
- tuck bay leaves around if desired. Serve sliced with habanero crema.

Military News Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/CIVA

Holiday message from the Comanche Indian **Veterans Association**



With 2023 coming to an end, the CIVA is reminded of the important work they've accomplished over the past year for tribal VETER-

But, let us not forget the troops who are deployed as they continue their difficult and lonely mission of protecting the country. This Holiday Season, the Comanche Indian Veterans Association honors, remembers and thanks the men and women of the Armed Forces and their families, who are serving this holiday season around the world.

CIVA Activities

Benefit Bingo Fund Raiser

On November 17, 2023, CIVA Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko with Nona Gail Mihecoby were interviewed by KSWO News Anchor, Avery Okeda during the morning broadcast. Topics discussed was the 80th D-Day Anniversary Bingo Fund raiser, Comanche Code Talkers contributions.

On November 17, 2023, at 5 p.m., the Comanche Indian Veterans France Delegation held it's 2nd Benefit Fund Raiser at the Dorothy Lorentino Educational Building in Lawton, Oklahoma. The Benefit Bingo Fund raiser was a Big Success as money raised to off set the cost to the 80th D-DAY Anniversary and to honor our Comanche Code Talkers on Omaha Beach.



CIVA Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko with Nona Gail Mihecoby with KSWO News Anchor, Avery.

Kiowa Blacklegging **Christmas Dinner**

On December 3, 2023, CIVA Officer's were invited to attend the Kiowa Black Leggings Annual Christmas Party at the Saint Patrick's Catholic Church in Anadarko, Oklahoma. CIVA was recognized for being a brother organization to the Kiowa Black Leggings. After the meal was served Kiowa War Songs were sung and afterwards Christmas presents were distributed.

Color Guard Detail



Color Guard in position from Left: John McClung, Roger Tehauno and John McClung Jr. behind was **CIVA Princess and Auxiliary**

CIVA Monthly Meeting

On December 7, 2023, CIVA held it's monthly meeting in the Code Talker Room. A call to order was conducted by CIVA Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko. A prayer was given by CIVA Co-Chaplain Monah Davis followed by a Pledge of Allegiance by the CIVA Princess Arlene Schonchin.

Before the serving of the meal, a birthday recognition was given to Mark Davis. After the evening meal, CIVA Veterans conducted

their monthly meeting as Old and New Business was conducted. Final preparations for the 46th Annual Veterans Day Celebration and Powwow was discussed and finalized.

After all business was conducted, CIVA Commander, Kevin Pohawpatchoko, announced elections were going to be conducted per CIVA Constitution. The floor was open for nominations for Commander, Vice-Commander, Secretary, Treasure and Sargent of Arms by CIVA Secretary Dominic Pawlowski.

CIVA newly elected Officer's for CY 24-25 are:

Commander-Roger Tehauno, USAF Veteran

Vice- Commander - Frankie Patterson, US Army Veteran

Secretary - Dominic Pawlowski, USMC & US Army Veteran

Treasure - Thomas Boyt, USAF Academy Graduate & USAF Veteran Sgt. of Arms - Stefano Ruiz, USMC Veteran



New CIVA Officers, pictured are: Roger Tehauno, Frankie Patterson, Dominic Pawlowski, Stefano Ruiz,

48th Annual Veterans Day Celebration and Powwow

Thomas Boyt.

On December 9, 2023, the CIVA conducted their re-scheduled 48th Annual Veterans Day Celebration and Powwow at the Comanche Community Center in Apache, Okla-

A opening prayer was provided by CIVA Chaplain Jimmy Caddo as the Colors were posted by Veterans of CIVA. Kevin "Bubba" Sovo opened with scalp and victory songs along with War Mothers Songs followed Gourd Dancing.

Three Comanche Veterans were honored by CIVA as they were presented a Grateful Nations blanket and a plaque. During the evening session, CIVA Veterans paraded in the Colors followed by Inter-Tribal Dancing, War Mothers Songs, and

The 48th Annual Veterans Day Celebration and Powwow was a great success thanks to a lot of hard work by the Officer's, Veterans, Princess, and Auxiliary.

CIVA would like thank the Comanche Little Ponies, VFW Post 1015, Cache JOM, Eugene Blackbear, Kevin "Bubba" Sovo, Travis Codynah, Modesto Schonchin and Lynn Schonchin for all of your hard work and a job well done.

CIVA would like to thank our Comanche Nation Princess, McKenzie Denese Sovo and Comanche Nation Jr., Princess, Vivien Michelle Parker for attending CIVA's 48th Annual Veterans Day Celebration and Powwow.

CIVA Honorees Presented in Honor of Lance Corporal Stefano Ruiz By the CIVA



Lance Corporal Stefano Ruiz LCPL Stefano Ruiz, served in the United States Marine Corps from January 4, 2014, to July 23,

2020, earning the rank of Lance Corporal. He taken his Marine Corps Recruit Training at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego, California. After graduation he reported to Infantry Training Battalion and reported for Machine Gunner Weapons School. Lance Corporal Ruiz, deployed with Weapons Platoon, 78th Company Battalion Landing Team 2/6, 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit in Support of Operations with the Fifth Fleet and later with Task Force Spartan in Support of Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq. Lance Corporal Ruiz, after returning home from deployment served as a Combat Instructor where he trained fellow Marines on the Machine Gun and Machine Gun Gunnery Systems.

Presented in Honor of Petty Officer 2nd Class Jarred Lee



Jarred Lee

Electrician Mate Petty Officer 2nd Class, Jarred Lee, served in the United States Navy from April 24, 1990, to April 23 1996. He completed Boot Training at U.S. Navy Recruit Training Command, Orlando, Florida and graduated from the Electricians Mate Nuclear Field "A" School, at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command located at Naval Training Center Orlando, Florida at the rank of Fireman. Fireman Lee, then entered Nuclear Power School where he was promoted to the rank of Electricians Mate 3rd Class. Petty Officer Lee, graduated from the Nuclear Power School and received advanced training at the Naval Reactors Facility. in Idaho Falls, Idaho. Petty Officer Lee, reported and served onboard the Los Angeles class attack submarine USS Salt Lake City, SSN 716 at Mare Island Naval Shipyard, Vallejo, California until being Honorably Discharged and earning the rank of Electricians Mate, Petty Officer 2nd

Presented in Honor of 1st Lieutenant



Thomas Boyt

First Lieutenant Thomas Boyt, attended the United States Air Force Academy from 1969 to 1973.

As a Cadet in the United States Air Force Academy, he completed Survival Training and earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Life Science. After graduation from the United States Air Force Academy, Boyt was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Air Force and designated as a Missile Launch Officer. He completed Missile Launch Officer and Strategic Air Command Missile Courses. From 1973 to 1974, he served as a Deputy Missile Combat Crew Commander at Vandenberg Air Force Base, Santa Barbra County, California and from 1974-1976, 1st Lieutenant Boyt served as Deputy Flight Commander, with the United States Air Force 341st Missile Wing headquartered at Malmstrom Air Force Base, Montana. After a wonderful Air Force career, 1st Lieutenant Boyt retired from the United States Air Force in 1976.

The Comanche Indian Veterans Association would like to thank 1st Lieutenant Boyt for his dedicated service to God and Country.

Comanche Nation Veteran Information is Needed

The Comanche Indian Veterans Association are updating the Comanche Veterans Master List. If you are a Honorably Discharged Veteran and you would like your military

service updated and documented, please email Kevin Pohawpatchoko at k pohawpatchoko@yahoo.com . Your military service history, documents, records, photographs and your DD-214 will be forwarded to Dr. Bill Meadows, Missouri State University, Department of Sociology-Anthropology/Native American Studies. He and his staff will digitize your military documents and update our Comanche Veterans Master List. Our Comanche Veterans military history and documents received will also help in the event of a Veterans passing. In closing, this is voluntary for the Comanche Nation Veterans and their families. Thank you!

Outgoing CIVA Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko **Farewell Note**

It has been an honor to serve as the CIVA Commander for the from 2007-2008 and 2017-2023. During my tenure, I have experienced many good things. It was rewarding to see CIVA participation and involvement in various events throughout my time of command. I am speechless when it comes to our CIVA Color Guard and Auxiliary. They have shown pride and dedication to this organization.

As I leave and step aside, please support our incoming CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno as I am confident of his capabilities and his military and civilian background will help CIVA to continue as a vibrant Veterans Organization. I wish him well as our new CIVA Commander.

This does not mean the end of my involvement with CIVA. There are many things yet to accomplish as I will continue to be in the background and supportive of this great Veterans Organization with my new collateral duties.

It has been an honor to serve as the CIVA Commander. Thank you for this wonderful and fulfilling opportunity.

> Respectfully, Kevin Pohawpatchoko



The CIVA Princess, Arlene Schonchin and tribal member, Barbra Monoessy, round dance to beautiful songs at the CIVA Veterans Day Pow-wow.



Mona Davis and Lyman Guy post the colors to start the CIVA Annual Veterans Day Pow-wow.



The CIVA Princess, Arlene Schonchin, honors her parents, Lynn and Jolene, at the Annual CIVA Veterans Day Pow-wow.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Members of the CIVA along with other dancers honor CIVA Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko during the Annual CIVA Veterans Day Pow-wow on Dec. 9, 2023, at Apache, Okla.

People, Places, & Things Happening

Tribal Member Has Scholarship Named In His Honor



Mr. & Mrs. Tippeconnic

inducted into the Alumni Hall of Christian University baseball team. Fame, Northern Arizona University The team is 5-1 in the NCCAA College of Education, Flagstaff, Arizona, on October 27, 2023, for his the National Championship back in educational achievements. His legacy August 2023. continues through annual scholarships granted to American Indian students of federally recognized Indian tribes in the College of Education at NAU."

Follow the Comanche **Nation Public Information Office on** Social Media:



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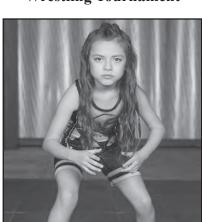
Perez Receives National Championship Ring



Perez

Tribal member Cruz Perez "John W. Tippeconnic was is a pitcher for the Mid-America World Series in Kansas City and won

Wrestling Tournament



Tribal member, Kinsley Kaulaity is 10 years old and attends Grand Ave Elementary in Chickasha, Okla.

Kaulaity

On November 4, 2023, Kaulaity placed second in the Blanchard Youth Tournament and at Clash and this is only the second year of her wrestling.

Walt Disney World



Woods

Tribal member Ava Woods is a Sophomore at Walters High School and has been cheering for Walters since she was in 7 grade.

Over the Thanksgiving break, Woods performed at Walt Disney World and made the All-American cheer at cheer camp over the summer to be able to attend this

Tribal Member Places in Woods Takes Her Talent to Yazzie Selected for OKDCA Jr. All State Choir



Yazzie

Congratulations to Tribal Member, Clara Tee-Ohms Yazzie, for being selected for the OKDCA Junior All-State Choir.

Yazzie will perform in Oklahoma City at the Cox Convention Center on January 13.

Yazzie also plays the clarinet and was selected for the SWOB-DA All-Region Honor Band this fall.

Yazzie is 12-years-old and in grade 7 at Elgin Middle School. In addition to Choir and band, Yazzie also plays tennis and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society, STEM team, and Builder's Club.

Follow the Comanche **Nation Public** Information Office on **Social Media:**



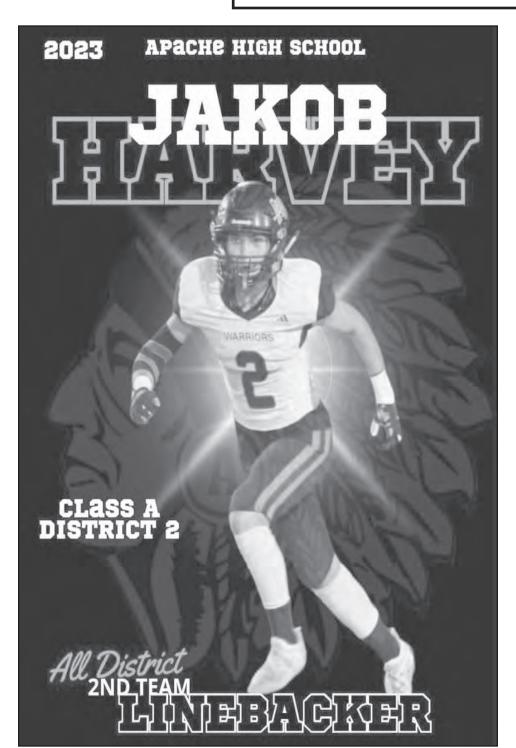
Nation News

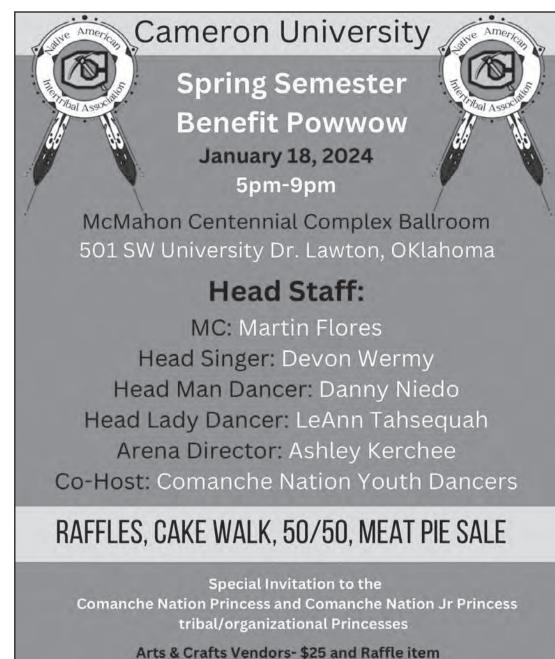






COMANCHE NATION JR. PRINCESS SHOWS ASSISTED LIVING CENTER THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT. On December 18, 2023, at the Edith Kassanavoid Gordon Assisted Living Center, Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, Vivien Parker, handed out residents and staff Christmas gifts. The gifts included hot chocolate bags, a goodie bag filled with different types of fruit, and she also gave the residents a Christmas wreath to hang on their door. After passing out all the gifts, Parker sat and visited with the residents. LEFT: Comanche Jr. Princess, Vivien Parker talks about the history of the family to the residents. MIDDLE: Comanche elder, Gerald Burton, is happy to receive a Christmas wreath from the Comanche Nation Jr. Princess. RIGHT: Vivien Parker hands out the gifts she brought for all the residents at the Assisted Living Center on December 18, 2023.





For more info, please contact Kasey Atauvich (580) 291-3090 Cameron University is not responsible for any accidents, injuries, or theft, no drugs or

OMEPLAY WITHUS!























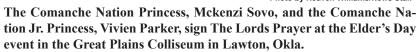
Comanche Nation Celebrates Annual Elder's Day Dec. 1, 2023

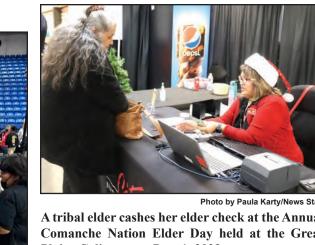


Elders make their way into the Great Plains Colliseum for all of the festivities. For many elders, this is an opportunity to catch up with family and friends, as many of them travel from out-of-state for this annual celebration.



The CIVA Princess, Arlene Schonchin, performs the Hail Mary prayer during the Elder Day Celebration in Lawton, Okla.





A tribal elder cashes her elder check at the Annual Comanche Nation Elder Day held at the Great Plains Coliseum on Dec. 1, 2023.



Sisters Val Wahkinney and Anita Daukei enjoy the Comanche Nation Elder Day at the Great Plains Coliseum.



A tribal elder receives her check during the Annual Comanche Nation Elder Day held at the Great Plains Coliseum.



Chairman Mark Woommavovah fist bumps the students of the Comanche Academy Charter School after singing hymns and Christmas songs

Tribal elder, John Parker, proudly shows his elder check before he heads to cash it at the Annual Comanche Nation Elder Day held Dec. 1,2023, at the **Great Plains Coliseum.**



Tribal elder Delbert Karty spends his 85th birthday at the Annual Comanche Nation Elder Day held at the Great Plains Coliseum.



Tribal elder Rose Nauni attends the Annual Comanche Nation Elder Day on Dec. 1, 2023, held at the Great Plains Coliseum.





Bubba Sovo leads the drum in song to honor all the elders in the Expo Center on December 1, 2023, for Elder's Day.

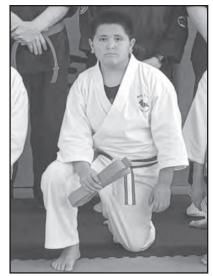


All the elders savor the afternoon meal December 1, 2023, during the Elder Day celebration.

Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday!

December 10 - Aaliyah Gilliam



Mason James
January 30
~ Love, NaNa and PaPa



Happy Birthday Benny Toahty January 26



Happy 7th Birthday
Jace Rodriquez
January 12
~ Love, your family!



Happy Belated Birthday
Aaliyah Gilliam
December 10
~ Happy Belated Birthday to our
sweet little angel! Love, Kakoo,
Ariane, Rachel and family!

Happy Birthday!



January 5 - Victoria Dutton January 10 - Ruth Toahty January 12 - Jace Rodriquez January 22 - Trysten Medina January 26 - Benny Toahty January 30 - Mason James January 30 - David Ridgeway Jr. "Happy 43rd Birthday Brother, Love you, Mom and Dad."

The Comanche Nation
News
February Edition
Deadline:
January 15
Email:
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comanchenation.com
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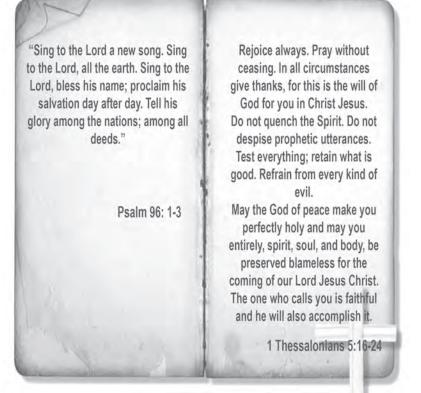
In Loving Memory



Madeline Pewo Soontay May 2, 1937- January 15, 2018 ~ Missed by all.

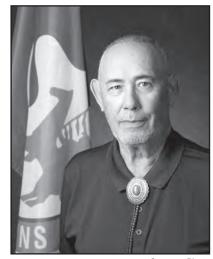


December 31st~ Happy belated anniversary to my wonderful husband of 33 years!



Obituaries

Honorable Secretary
Treasure of the Comanche
Nation



Courtesy Photo

Wahnee

John David Wahnee, 76, passed away on November 8, 2023.

Born to Ralph and Bessie (Garvin) Wahnee on December 9, 1946. He married Lenora Tolino in Gallup, N.M., on August 23, 2003.

He served in the National Guard for 12 years, holding the rank of SFC, OK ARNG with the 179th TAC Group-Tow, 45th Infantry, stationed in Walters, Okla. He earned the OK ARNG Service Badge, Expert Qualification Badge with Rifle Bar, Vietnam Era Citation, Distinctive Unit Insignia, and the Governors Meritorious Citation.

A proud Walters High School graduate (Class of 1965), Wahnee earned his Bachelors of Science in Education and Masters Degree in School Administration from Southwestern Oklahoma State University. He completed the coursework for a PhD (all but dissertation) in Education Administration from the University of Oklahoma. He later became a prominent figure in education, serving as Principal and Super-

intendent for the Department of the Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs retiring as a GS-14 after 32 years.

A dedicated advocate and professional educator for Indian Education, he played a pivotal role in the passage of Public Law 100-297, Tribally Controlled Schools Act of 1988.

His impact extended to the Comanche Nation, where he served as Tribal Administrator and Secretary Treasurer. He took great pride in serving the Comanche people always looking for ways to assist in various capacities. He served as a Master of Ceremonies and Head Singer at numerous Comanche Nation powwows and composed several songs for family, friends, and tribes. He was a leader, mentor, and friend.

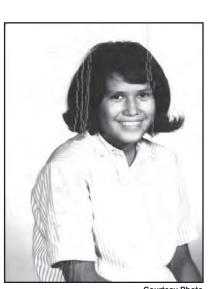
He is survived by his wife Lenora, sister Dr. Robbie Wahnee, sons Mycol, Gregory, Shawn, daughters Rayne Parsley and Robin Espinosa, grandchildren Austin, Brayden, Darius, Madison, Lauren, Andrew, Gabriella, Nessa, Siah, Christian, Zeke, Sebastian and great-grandchildren Skylea and Jax.

He is preceded in death by his grandparents Shannon Wahnee and Blanche Tooahnipper Wahnee and parents Ralph and Bessie (Garvin) Wahnee.

Sharon Ahhaitty Lopez

Sharon Ahhaitty Lopez, the beloved mother, grandmother, G.G., sister and friend to many. Went to her eternal home on Nov. 11, in Lawton, surrounded by her family. She was born on May 24, 1949, to the late Walter Ahhaitty Sr. and Irene Yellow-Fish-Ahhaitty.

She grew up and attended schools in Lawton. She was a proud member of the Kiowa and Comanche Tribes of Oklahoma. She was a descendent of Red Tipi and Yellowfish.



Lopez

She was from the Quahadi (Antelope) Band and Pene-thukah (Honey Eaters) Band.

She leaves behind a loving family to cherish her memory. Her children: Angela (Mike), Janie (Nate), and Tony (Janel); grandchildren: Ashton, Alesha, Marcus, Mckayla, Mia, Rosie, Aiyanna, Tusi, Tasha, and Selena; great-grandchildren: Ezmariah, Dytwan, Itzayana, Azaylia, Fiamaua, and Laupama; sisters: Kay, Patti, and Mary; brothers: Walter Jr., and Andy; special daughters: Staci and Emma; special sisters: Durene, Phyllis, KK, and Carol.

She is preceded in death by her parents Walter Ahhaitty Sr. and Irene Yellowfish Ahhaitty: sisters: Shirley, Carol, Barbara, and Cynthia; brothers: Melvin, Clifton, Timothy, Robert, and Billy; nephews: Phillip, Eddie, Bill, Tracy, Ronnie, and Robert; nieces: Susan, Polly, and Alisha; grandchildren: Shandolin and Jerald; maternal grandparents: (Timothy) Penockquaddy (Yellowfish) (Emma) Jane Kakanusupini (Eckiwardy); maternal great-granparents: Paqueohaupith (Yellowfish) Tahwenkee (Monassey).



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Swing and Sway the Pow-wow Way

CIVA Annual Veterans Day Pow-wow, held Dec. 9, 2023 in Apache, Okla.



CIVA Princess, Arlene Schonchin, begins the session of Scalp Dance at the CIVA Veterans Day Pow-wow held in Apache,



CIVA Honored Veterans Thomas Boyt, Stefano Ruiz and Jarred Lee receiving special recognition during the CIVA Veterans Day Pow-wow held in Apache, Okla.



CIVA Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko and tribal elder, Adria Suina, from New Mexico, participate in the Scalp Dance during the CIVA Veterans Day Pow-wow.



CIVA Commander, Kevin Pohawpatchoko, welcomes the people who gathered to attend the Annual CIVA Veterans Day Pow-wow held on Dec. 9, 2023, at Apache, Okla.



Nona Gail Mihecoby, daughter of Comanche Code Talker, Wellington Mihecoby, is honored during the CIVA Veteran's Day **Powwow**

Chasenah Family Pow-wow Celebrates Dec. 17, 2023 in Apache, Okla.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff Comanche Nation Princess, Mckenzi Sovo and Apache Princess, Amaya Bonilla-Harris gourd dance at the 2nd Annual Chasenah Family Pow-wow.

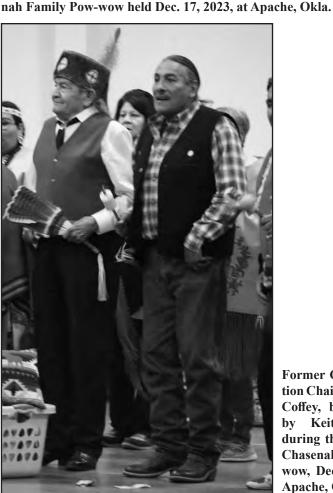


enjoys the gourd dance at the 2nd Annual Chasenah Family Powwow held in Apache, Okla.





Head Man Dancer, Morgan Tosee



wow, Dec. 17, 2023, at Apache, Okla.

Former Comanche Nation Chairman, Wallace

Coffey, being honored

by Keith Wetselline

during the 2nd Annual

Chasenah Family Pow-



Benjamin Chasenah enjoys the good singing and dancing during the 2nd Annual Chasenah Family Pow-wow.



Seirrea Silverhorn serving as Arena Director during the 2nd Annual Chasenah Family Pow-wow, held in Apache, Okla.

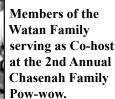
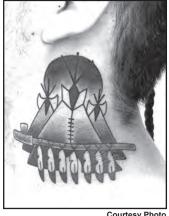


Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Comanche Owned Businesses



Tipi Tattoo

Beasley

the CIVA.

styles of tattooing.

By Paula Karty/News Staff

cated in Norman, Okla.

Lawton, Okla.

Anthony

a.k.a. TonyB, is the owner of

Introspect Tattoo Studio lo-

shop is February of 2022. He

started tattooing in 2005 while

he was in the Army at Ft. Cam-

bell, Ky., after returning from

his tour in Iraq. Beasley is a

Iraq War veteran serving from

2000-2006 and a member of

Beasley was born in

Beasley opened this



Beasley specializes

Most of his work can

Beasley is currently

Introspect Tattoo Studio

in black and grey realism style

tattooing, but he enjoys all

be seen on the shops Facebook

page, "Introspect Tattoo Stu-

the only artist in the shop and

is by appointment only. He

does most of his scheduling

thru the shop Facebook page.





Bersley charges a

If anyone is interest-

minium of \$100, \$125 and

hour. For the holidays he

charges \$500 for the whole

day until Jan. 31, then the fee

goes to \$700 for the whole

ed in getting a tattoo his shop

is Introspect Tattoo Studio, located at 1811 Industrial Blvd.

#115, Norman, Okla.

Nikki's Bougie Boutique LLC

By Paula Karty/News Staff









owner of Nikki's Bougie Boutique. Reyna is an enrolled Comanche and also of Kiowa and Choctaw decent.

Reyna works full time in nursing serving vetercountry.

Reyna makes a wide variety of items ranging from clothing such as: custom tshirts, sweatshirts, and sweat-Reyna also makes

Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff **Custom Holiday T-shirts**

Nicole Reyna is the windspinners, memorial oranments, and graduation tassels. Reyna can also make business logos, business stickers and much more, to help promote your business.

You can find Reyna ans who once served for their on Facebook at NIKKISBOU-GIEBOUTIQUEVIP, she also has a Shopify website at www. nikkibougieboutique.com. Her email is nikkisbougieboutique@gmail.com.

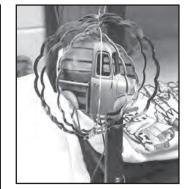


Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff **Custom made wind spinner**

Custom Car Coasters

Dear TCNN



I am a Comanche and I appreciate my ability to use our Watchetaker Hall to celebrate my husband's 92nd birthday; he loves his Comanche in-laws. It makes me so proud of Comanche military history when the Marines get to see it in person. The picture with them and our tribal flag and American flag makes me so proud of our tribe and our warrior legacy.

Students with the Marine Detachment, Fort Sill, Okla., got a little tour of the Comanche Nation's Tahsequah Garden Memorial from Kiowa Comanche & Apache Veterans while attending retired Marine, Staff Sergeant Parker Emhoolah's 92nd Birthday Pow-wow.

> Tina Emhoolah Comanche tribal member



Happy 90th Belated Birthday Parker Emhoolah **November 23, 2023**

Comanche Nation Sports and Wellness Camp Provides Athletic Conditioning for Youth



Courtesy Photo





Comanche Nation Chairman Mark Woommavovah enjoying in with the exercises at the Sports and Wellness Camp.

Participants warming up before starting activities at the Comanche Na- Lucky winners show off their door prizes won at the tion Sports and Wellness Camp held at the Comanche Nation Complex Comanche Nation Sports and Wellness Camp on Dec. on Dec. 18, 2023.

18, 2023, held at the Comanche Nation Complex.



COMANCHE NATION ADDRESS UPDATES

- Did You Receive Your 2023 Per Capita Payment?
- Is Your Address Current To Receive Your Tax Form?

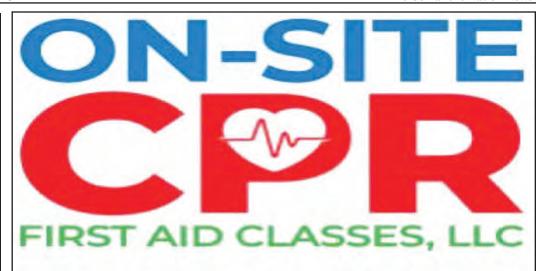
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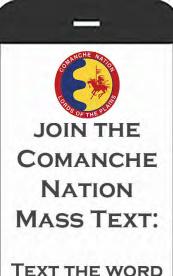
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Director Of Community Outreach Instructor

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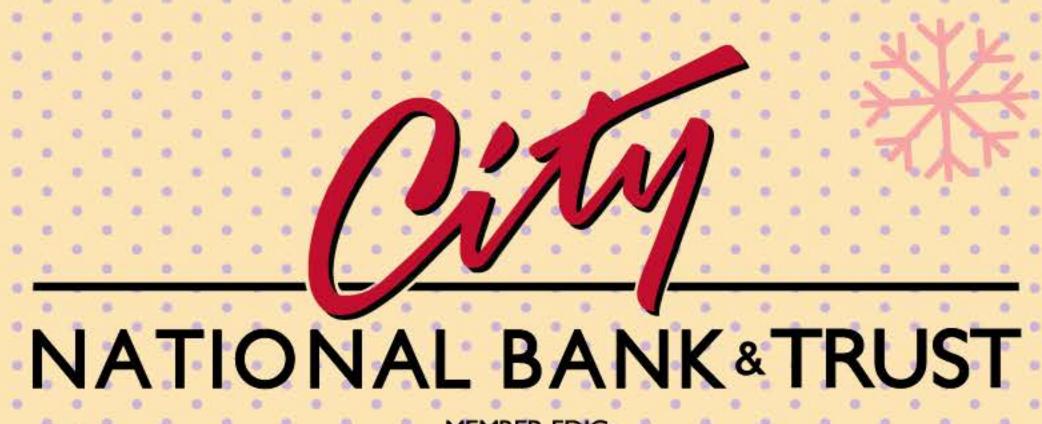
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