



THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

VOLUME 21 EDITION 3

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

TahpookꞮ Mra (March) 2020

Transportation Department's Elgin Road Project Passes State Inspection

Story and Photo Stacey Heminokky/News Staff



Nate Maraz, far right, Elgin Superintendent, thanks the Comanche Nation Transportation, T&G Construction and everyone involved for all their help on the road project at the Feb. 20 meeting with the State.

On February 20, the Comanche Nation Transportation Department held a meeting inside the Elgin High School Gymnasium, located in Elgin, Okla., for their final inspection for the road project they have been working on the last couple of months. T&G Construction, Nate Maraz, Elgin Superintendent, County Commissioner, and the State Representatives were all in attendance.

"It's an enormous impact. Just like every other growing community, the roads were struggling. We knew that, the city knew that, but money is always an issue but here comes the Comanche Nation with this idea. We're talking about half a million dollars' worth of work out here that we don't have to pay on as a gift to us. Once again, I just want to thank the Comanche Nation," said Maraz, Elgin Superintendent.

Adrian Tehauno, Transportation Director said, "The Comanche Nation has done work on roads and bridges across southwest Oklahoma in the past, but never at a school. Safety first for the students. I've been on this campus before we did the work and it was pretty rough. It just makes it safer for the students, emergency vehicles might have to come in here. It's just better for everybody."

For more information call the Transportation office (580) 492-3269.



Photo by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

PILOT PROGRAM. Comanche Nation Transit driver, Daniel Ray, assists Elizabeth Knight onto the handicap accessible transit van on February 25. The Comanche Nation Transit is starting a Pilot program that will travel to Anadarko and Oklahoma City, once a month, to aid in the transportation needs of the public. They will begin scheduling on March 25. Beginning April, they will run once a month for each city. The Oklahoma City route will run on, or around, the 3rd of each month and Anadarko will run the following day. Transit will pick up, or drop off, once in the morning and once in the afternoon for clients who need to go from Lawton area. Lawton residents will meet at a pick up location (to be determined) and dropped off in each city at a dedicated point where another form of transportation can be received. No bus tickets will be used, Cash Only. To Oklahoma City, one-way, is \$10. To Anadarko, one-way, is \$8. For more information, contact Transit at (580) 492-3389.

Comanche Nation Joins Eight Other Tribes in the Lawsuit Against Governor Stitt

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

On February 14, the Comanche Nation filed a motion to intervene in the law suit filed December 31, 2019, by the Choctaw, Cherokee and Chickasaw tribes, and has joined eight other Oklahoma Tribes in a Mediation third party review of Oklahoma Governor Kevin Stitt's proposal of not recognizing the auto renewal of gaming compacts.

"We have intervened with other tribes, and we are quite clear we need to state something in this suit. We do not want to sit back and let the bigger tribes dictate what they want for all of us. We have to be at the table," said Nelson, who says indisputably that the gaming compacts renewed automatically.

The governor's office filed a countersuit on Jan. 22, seeking a declaratory judgment that the compact expired on New Year's Eve and that all Class III gaming is illegal until a new compact is in place.

"We have a document that says we are auto-renewed. The wording is there, and it says it," said Nelson.

He added Governor Stitt is comparing Oklahoma gaming tribes to other states where there are only one tribe.

"For example, Hartford Connecticut gets at least one million visitors from upstate New York. We do not have that population in Oklahoma. Oklahoma's total population is just under four million. Our numbers are correct for our population," said Nelson.

Robert Rosette, of the law firm, Rosette, LLP, attorney for the Comanche Nation, listed the reasons why the Comanche Nation became a part of the lawsuit.

"First and foremost, the nation unequivocally believes that the compacts automatically renewed on January 1. The Nation has been asking Governor Stitt to act with integrity and to be respectful to Oklahoma tribes, and the legal terms of the compact. This is the most important reason why they intervened," explained Rosette.

"Second, the Nation intervened to remain privy of the discus-

sions of the gaming compacts. The court ordered confidentiality, and there is no other way to ensure the protection of the Nation's interest other than to be at that table and to hear the states positions directly."

Rosette added that it is beneficial for the Nation to have a seat at the mediation table to ensure that the litigation is handled properly, to the benefit of the Comanche Nation.

"The issue that is being discussed as to whether or not the compacts expired on January 1, 2020 is among itself an important issue to the Nation," he said.

Former U.S. District Judge Layn R. Phillips has been selected to serve as the mediator for the lawsuit by Chief U.S. District Judge Timothy D. DeGiusti. He will try to negotiate a settlement.

The governor has stated that one of his primary goals is to get the tribes to pay the state higher exclusivity rates than the 4% to 6% rates that they have been paying on Las Vegas-style Class III gaming machines and the 10% rate they have been paying

on table games.

Nelson added he thinks the \$44 million the Comanche Nation paid to the state should go to the eight-county jurisdiction of the Comanche Nation, and the State should present an audit of how they use the Comanche Nation's gaming contributions.

"Just to even follow our Constitution, they (the State) have to show us an audit of the moneys that went to them. Where did it go? How did they spend it?" asks Nelson.

"This situation has created a working environment of the Oklahoma Indian nations. Hopefully, this is something that leads on to more fruitful profitable and beneficial results for future relationships and activity," said Robert Tippeconnie, secretary/treasurer for the Comanche Nation.

There is a total of 35 gaming tribes in Oklahoma. According to Wikipedia, Lawton, Oklahoma is sixth largest city in Oklahoma, and the Comanche Nation has a total of four casinos in the area.

HB 3-046 Native Regalia Bill Passes Unanimously in the Education Section of the State Legislation

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

House Bill (HB) 3046, also known as the Native Regalia Bill, passed the Education Committee unanimously on February 18, at the Oklahoma State capital, and is now on its way to the voting floor. Dr. Cornell Pewewardy, who helped write the bill, said there were some questions about the definition of "regalia," and clarity.

Representative Trey Caldwell, District 63, who introduced the bill, will be working with others to get the definition clarified before it moves to the floor, said Pewewardy. It was also co authored by Representative(s) Dustin Roberts, Jacob Rosecrants, Trish Ranson, and Kelly Albright.

Pewewardy said he has been working on the bill for two years.

"When I was the educational liaison for the Comanche Nation, I went out to about all the Comanche County public school systems and each one of them, including Lawton Public Schools, did not have a clear idea about how to honor the request for Native regalia being worn at graduations, but not only graduations, but at public spaces like a presentation at a school board or a presentation or a major event."

He said it was then that he approached the CBC and explained that a resolution from the Comanche Nation would help clarify and add support to other superintendents and school boards that are needing some kind of definition, some kind of language or template that they can use and present to their own respective school boards.

Resolution 06-19 was adopted on January 5, 2019, by the Comanche Nation, which supports wearing items of cultural significance for religious purposes at high school graduations and in public spaces.

He also received and added a statement of support from the Indian Psychologists of Oklahoma, the National Congress of American Indians, and the Oklahoma Council of Indian Education. Pewewardy said they know the impact of cultural regalia in schools and curriculum He added the bill also comes as a request from many Comanche parents from all over.

"I drew up experience with other states where I worked and had these laws and bills already in place and I called upon colleagues to send me samples, from Oregon, California, Washington, and Kansas, and then I contacted Trey Caldwell and explained to him the importance of the bill," explained Pewewardy.

If passed, the HB 3046 would help students in the Oklahoma School System by allowing them to wear an Eagle feather, a beaded stole or cap, or traditional attire under their gown during graduation.

"It would have a state-wide legislation that would help affirm

THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS
Tahpook Maa (March) 2020
"Cotton Wood Month"

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 April edition is 5 p.m., March 16. Donations to help cover the cost of printing and mailing are welcome.

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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. 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. Obituaries are written 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 a 1,500 word limit. The letters to the editor or articles contained in the *The Comanche Nation News* does not reflect the views or opinions of the PIO staff.**

Comanche Nation Officials

- Chairman**
William Nelson
- Vice Chairman**
Lanora Parker
- Secretary/Treasurer**
Robert Tippeconnie
- Committeeman No. 1**
June Sovo
- Committeeman No. 2**
Diana Doyebi
- Committeeman No. 3**
Ronald Red Elk
- Committeeman No. 4**
Clyde Narcomey
- Tribal Administrator**
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2020 Comanche Nation Princess & Jr. Princess Candidates

Submitted by Candidates of the Comanche Nation Princess and Junior Comanche Nation Princesses

Candidates for Comanche Nation Princess



Long

Maruaweka. Nahniasta "Weh Wah No Eet Tah tse Nu Pe" (shining star) Kasey Marie Long. I am 18 years old, and a Senior at Cache High School. I am 3/4 Comanche.

I am the daughter of Gary and Tonyelle Atauvich-Unah and Michael Long. My Maternal Grandparents are Carl and the late Carla Tahah-Atauvich. My Paternal Grandparents are the Late Woody Waqua and the Late Lavada Valdez-Waqua. My great grandparents on my mother's side is the Late Owen Tahah and the Late Sarah Tahchawwickah and the Late Lee Atauvich and the Late Rose Yokesuite. My Great Grandparents on my Father's side is the Late Ida Tabbytosavit and the Late Willington Valdez.

I am a descendant of Chief Wildhorse, Chief Whitewolf and Chief Iron Mountain. I am also a descendant of Chief Little Raven of the Arapaho Nation. I have many Medicine Women in my family history. Mary Poafpybitty, who was an Eagle Doctor, Chappy, who used bear medicine, and Sanapia, who was an Eagle Doctor. I am also a descendant of a Comanche Code Talker for World War I, Private Samuel Tabbytosavit.

My hobbies include: sewing, cooking, singing, and dancing. I play hand game with Camp 7. I am part of Native Generation and Comanche Nation Youth Dancers. I can sign the Lord's Prayer and National Anthem and other songs. I was taught to sign by my Aunt Lanette Tahchawwickah (Comanche Nation Princess 2001).

I have been dancing ever since I can walk. At the age of 4, I was brought into the arena, to Jingle, for my Grandma Bobby Tahchawwickah (Comanche Nation Princess 1985).

I would appreciate your vote as the 2020-2021 Comanche Nation Sr. Princess. I will represent the Comanche Nation in a respectful manner in and out of the arena. I will also do my best to set an example and be a positive role model for young children.

Ura,
Thank you.



Monoessy

Hello. My name is Rita Florence Monoessy. I am the daughter of Melinda Alcalá and Larry Monoessy Sr. I am the granddaughter of Lisa Longhat, Collette Dupoint, and Neal Monoessy.

I am the great granddaughter of the late Rita Wauahdooh Mountain, the late Carl Tahah, and Patsy Wockmetooh, the late Elrod "Crutch" Monoessy and Barbara Ah-haitty Monoessy.

Uhdah
Rita Monoessy



Burgess

My name is *Weya?koro* Rebecca Angelina Burgess and I am 13 years old and in the 8th grade at Cache Middle School. My first name means Butterfly in Comanche, and my dad named me after his late mother, Rebecca Burgess. I live in Cache, Oklahoma with my parents, Kenny & Tanisha Burgess, and my two (2) brothers and one (1) sister. I am an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation and also of Otoe Missouri and Kiowa descent.

My maternal grandparents are Retired U.S. Army SFC Richard & Norma (Cable) Adame of Mayetta, Kansas and the Late Robert "Pogo" Koomsa of Carnegie, Oklahoma. My Great- Grandparents are Lavera Belle of Mayetta, Kansas and the late Vernon Cable Sr. & Gloria (Wermey) Cable. My Great-great Grandparents are the late Bert Sr. & Josie (Gray) and the late John D. Wermey & Agnes (Atauvich) Wermey.

My paternal grandparents are Retired U.S. Air Force SSG Donald & Roberta (Kerchee) Burgess of Lawton, Oklahoma and the late Rebecca (Boydiddle) Burgess of Carnegie, Oklahoma. My great grandparents are the late Earl Sr. & Daisy (Perdasofpy) Burgess, the late Rev. Melvin and Mary Boydiddle and the late Melvin Sr. and Nettie Kerchee.

My hobbies include playing volleyball and basketball, listening to music, singing hand drum songs, dancing, and spending time with my family. Our favorite family past time is traveling to different powwows all over Indian Country. I am Big Fan of all sports, especially KU Sports, Rock Chalk Jayhawk! I am part of a Comanche Dance Troupe taught by Teresa Lopez, known as the Comanche Nation Youth Dancers. We travel throughout Oklahoma, Texas and New Mexico show casing our Comanche Culture as well as other tribal dances and songs. I really enjoy dancing in the arena and learning my language and the songs. I have competed in the Language Fair with the Comanche Nation Youth Program for last 4 years.

I am currently seeking the title of Jr. Comanche Nation Princess because I want to be a positive role model for my peers. It is important that we as young Comanche Ladies support and respect each other. Encourage each other to do better. I am very proud of who I am and where I come from. I would proudly represent the Comanche Nation.

Ura,
Weya?koro R. A. Burgess



Steinmeyer

Maruaweka relatives! *Tsaanu nu u sukatu punitsi! Nu nahnia tsa Angelina Steinmeyer. Nuse Numunu, nu na Numunuu tsa Ticeahkie.* I am the daughter of Ret. SFC. Kelly and Allison Steinmeyer, the granddaughter of Carlotta Harjo Nowell, and my great-grandparents are the late Gladys Ticeahkie, Comanche, and Benjamin D. Toahy, Kiowa and Pawnee. I am a proud member of the Comanche Nation and a descendant of Wis sis che, one of the last leaders of the Quahada band.

It is my honor to be a candidate for 2020-2021 Junior Comanche Nation Princess

To tell you a little about me, I love and am dedicated to my family, my Comanche culture and my Comanche language. I recently served as the 2018-19 Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma and I am an advocate for raising awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples. I am 16 years old, and I am in 11th grade. I am a homeschool student at Epic Charter Schools. In the future, I hope to attend the University of Oklahoma, like my mother and grandmother, or the University of Berkeley, California. I plan to major in Biological Anthropology specializing in paleopathology (pathological conditions found in ancient human bones). After I graduate, I want to work in the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) field. I have spent many long days in the Oklahoma University osteology lab learning & working with my mother, identifying artifacts and ancestral remains so they could be returned to their rightful place with dignity.

My Commitment to Family

I decided to run for Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma so that I could be a voice for my aunt Ci'lina Bell-De-loney, one of our beautiful Comanche angels that now watches over all of us. Ci'lina was taken suddenly from our family in January 2017 and I have been working to support the recognition of all Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples ever since. During my year representing all 39 tribal nations in Oklahoma, I was given the opportunity to grow as an activist and fearless ally while telling Ci'lina's story. I have been a guest speaker, panelist, and have carried my aunt's banner throughout Oklahoma at the Tulsa and Oklahoma City Women's Marches, the State Capital Climate Strike, National Unity Conference, schools and powwows. On Sept. 23, 2019, I stood with my family and other Comanche families, who told their stories and marched with Presidential candidate and Senator Bernie Sanders, MMIW, and Southwest AIM members into the arena. These were all incredible experiences because I strive to help educate non-Native people about these issues that we, as Indigenous people, face every day.

My Commitment to Community

Since passing on my title to the new Jr. Miss Indian Oklahoma, I have continued to speak about issues I hold so close to my heart with the new relatives I gained along my journey. I was able to share my message to members of Oklahoma House Representatives, to tell Ci'lina's story, and how we as Native American women are affected by the murder and kidnap-

See PRINCESS CANDIDATES, Page 8

VOTING FOR THE COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS & JR. PRINCESS CANDIDATES

FRIDAY - APRIL 10
Noon-6 p.m.
Watchetaker Hall

SATURDAY - APRIL 11
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Watchetaker Hall

The 2020 Comanche Nation Princesses will be announced & crowned at the Comanche Nation Princess Election Powwow, April 11, at Watchetaker Hall, Comanche Nation Complex

Government

A Total of 13 Resolutions Presented at the January CBC Monthly Meeting

Story by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the February 1, Comanche Business Committee Monthly Meeting, and not the official minutes. To obtain a copy of the official minutes, call the Office of the Chairman, (580) 492-3251.

Chairman, William Nelson Sr, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Tippeconnie, conducted Roll Call. A quorum was established with all Comanche Business Committee (CBC) members present.

Chairman, William Nelson Sr., began the meeting with the invocation.

A motion made to approve the minutes of the January CBC meeting by Committeeman No. 1, Diana Gail Sovo-Doyebi. It was seconded by Committeeman No. 4, Clyde Narcomey. The motion carries 4/0/1.

Resolutions

No. 16-2020: Enrollment List No. 1145. The applicants have been verified and are eligible for membership with the Comanche Nation Tribe.

Narcomey, makes the motion to approve. Tippeconnie, seconds the motion. The motion carries 4/0/1.

No. 17-2020: Enrollment List No. 1146. The applicants have been verified and are eligible for membership with the Comanche Nation Tribe.

CBC No.2, Sovo-Doyebi, makes the motion to approve. Parker, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 4/0/1.

No. 18-2020: Comanche Language & Cultural Preservation-officers. Tabled.

Secretary-Treasurer, Robert Tippeconnie makes the motion to approve. Narcomey, seconds the motion. The motion carries 4/0/1.

No. 19-2020: Tribal Court accounts. Tabled.

Secretary-Treasurer, Tippeconnie, makes the motion to approve. CBC No.4, Narcomey, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 4/0/1.

No. 20-2020: Rescind Resolution No. 15-19. The CBC adopted a resolution to authorize the Comanche Nation to inquire additional land and facilities to provide additional services to the Nation, its members, and the community as the Comanche Nation activity center or the Elders center. The CBC now thinks it necessary and for the best interest of the Comanche Nation to Rescind Resolution No. 15-19, and will no longer pursue the acquisitions of the property.

CBC No. 2, Sovo-Doyebi makes the motion to approve. CBC No.4, Narcomey, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 4/0/1.

No. 21-2020: Tax Commission Monthly Bank Transfers. The CBC desires to authorize Liberty National Bank to make a monthly deposit in the Comanche Tax Commission Revenue account at City National Bank on the 1st day of each month.

Secretary-Treasurer, Tippeconnie, made the motion to approve. CBC No. 4, Narcomey, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 5/0/1.

No. 22-2020: Tax Commission Amend Article VIII of Comanche Nation Liquor Ordinance. The CBC desires to amend Article VIII of the ordinance to remove sales taxes imposed. The CBC desires to amend Article IV and Article VIII to remove the Liquor Control Board from having authority to collect sales taxes. The amended ordinances will need to be submitted to the BIA Anadarko Regional Office subsequently published in out Federal Registrar once approved.

CBC No. 2, Sovo-Doyebi, made the motion to approve. CBC No. 4, Narcomey, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 5/0/1.

No. 23-2020: Tax Commission Comanche Nation Employment Rights Ordinance. The CBC desires to amend the ordinance to vest all Comanche Nation employment rights ordinance duties and responsibilities in the Comanche Nation Tax Commission.

CBC No. 4, Narcomey, made the motion to approve. Vice-Chairlady, LaNora Parker, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 5/0/1.

No 24-2020: Tax Commission Amend Tribal Employment Preference Law for Enforcement Agent.

CBC No. 4, Narcomey, made the motion to approve. Vice-Chairlady, Parker, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 5/0/1.

No. 25-2020: Rosette Comanche Cannabis Control Act 2020. The 2018 Farm Bill removed hemp from the definition of marijuana as defined in the control substance act of 1970. Unlike Marijuana, a schedule one substance, hemp is a agriculture commodity and is regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The CBC has determined that sale of hemp derived product which does not contain Tetrahydrocannabinol (THC) is beneficial to the Nation. The CBC authorizes the enactment of the Comanche Cannabis Control Act.

Parker, made the motion to approve. Sovo-Doyebi, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 5/0/1.

No. 26-2020: Age Minimum of 21 to Purchase Tobacco.

Tippeconnie, made the motion to approve. CBC No.1, June Sovo, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 6/0/1.

No. 27-2020: Rescind Resolution No. 148-19. The CBC did appoint a business development team to bring sound business to Comanche Nation. The intent was for profitable returns for new businesses for today, tomorrow, and the future. The CBC strongly wanted to ensure that Comanche first was to be followed in these new businesses. The business development team has not provided any new business opportunities and have not met these requirements from Resolution No. 148-19:

1. The Project
2. The Business Plan
3. SWOT Analyst
4. The review for CBC
5. The re-work of project
6. The second review for CBC
7. The CBC appropriation
8. Secretary-Treasurer bank opener
9. Timelines
10. The final CBC resolution

The Business Development team has not shown the CBC when requested where they are at in their expenditures. When confronted with a questionable purchase in Las Vegas no logical answer has been given today. Therefor Be It Resolved 148-19 will be rescinded. Therefore the Business Development team is disbanded without further pay. All material equipment, bank account information, credit cards, accounting information, cell phones, automobiles, and laptops are to be given to the Secretary-Treasurer immediately.

Narcomey, made the motion to approve. Parker, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 4/1/1.

No. 28-2020: Davidson Property.

Parker, made the motion to approve. Red Elk, seconds the motion. The motion carries. 5/1/1.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. and went in to Executive Session.



**Comanche Nation
Emergency Management
HOTLINE
NUMBER
(580) 492-3628**

Comanche Nation Tribal Court
District Court
FEB 19 2020
FILED 12
Court Clerk: _____

IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT
DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF
NAME OF: _____)
ALEXANDRIA KUSHMER)
An enrolled member of the Comanche)
Nation.)

Case No.: NC-2020-0001

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ALL CREDITORS or INTERESTED PARTIES

Take notice that Alexandria Kushmer has filed in the above Court a Petition to have the name changed as follows, to-wit from: Alexandria Kushmer to Alexandria Ryner.

The petition will be heard on 03/17/2020 at 11:00 AM located at the Comanche Nation Courthouse, 584 NW Bingo Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.
If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned Petition for Change of Name should not be granted by the Court you should file a written protest in the case prior to the date set for hearing or appear and present the same at the above time and place.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this 19th day of February, 2020.

By: *Vanessa Demahew*
Court Clerk/Deputy
Comanche Nation Tribal Court
584 NW Bingo Dr.
P.O. Box 646
Lawton, OK 73502
Ph: (580) 492-3822



NATIVE REGALIA BILL

Continued from Page 1

their Native regalia if they choose, and would stop the resistance in any local public schools, particularly at high school graduations. Its not just high school. Its any kind of event that provides our students and their families to present themselves in a good traditional way and not to just be show and tell, but to do it in a way that they feel proud of who they are when dressed in their regalia. It would be mandated. That way there would be no question that it is allowable," said Pewewardy.

He added HB 3046 is different than other bills on Native regalia because this one accents Freedom of Religion. He said that is the point that really made a difference than the other bills. There may have been

other attempts at Native regalia, but this one is leaning on the Freedom of Religion Act, so the Attorney General paid a lot of attention to that, particularly with the Eagle Feather.

He further added because the Sovereign Native nations in Oklahoma have different cultural and traditional ways of life, it will be up to the families if they want their family members to wear eagle feathers, beaded attire, or traditional clothes at school functions or graduations, but it gives them that option.

"It opens up the door of freedom. Not just the freedom of religion, but the freedom of fear, knowing that as the students approach graduation, they can do it in an honorable way with their families and

feel good about being liberated from being ostracized or being looked at because they are different than everybody else," he said.

There is set not timeline when HB 3046 will go to the floor for a vote. Pewewardy said he hopes it would be by May, when graduations occur.

Comanche Nation Law Enforcement Tactical Medic Training



Courtesy Photo



On February 18, Officer Lynch, explains during the Medic Training the importance of having a medical kit in the working area and what it should hold inside in order to save a life.



On February 18, Officer Lynch, explains to the casino staff how to properly fasten a Tourniquet during the Medic Training.

Story and Photos Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

On February 18, the Comanche Nation Law Enforcement (CNLE) held a Tactical Medic Training. The CNLE created a Basic Security Training that is a Five-Session program that includes 20-hours, and is being offered to all Comanche Nation Casino security staff. The program covers everything from laws that pertain to their job function and the responsibility and rights that they have and what they can work under, and also medical care.

"Today we are teaching Tactical Medicine. Any kind of mass casualty type such as major hemorrhaging, major injuries that involve blood loss. The staff will have some knowledge and skill set on how to treat different types of situations that will help them until first-responders arrive," said Officer, Matt Miles. The Training program will go through Mid-March. For more information contact Law Enforcement at (580) 492-3260.

Comanche Business Committee Releases 2019 Audit



Independent Auditors' Report

Comanche Business Committee
Comanche Nation
Lawton, Oklahoma

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the General Fund, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Comanche Nation Governmental Programs Department (the "Department"), as of and for the year ended September 30, 2019, and the related notes to the financial statements which collectively comprise the Department's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

The Department's management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditors' judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the Department's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the General Fund, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Department, as of September 30, 2019, and the respective changes in financial position thereof for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

1

COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

September 30, 2019

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS ("MD&A")

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) of the Comanche Nation Governmental Programs Department (the "Department"), located in Lawton, Oklahoma, provides an overview and overall review of the Department's financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2019. The intent of the MD&A is to look at the Department's financial performance as a whole. It should, therefore, be read in conjunction with the Department's financial statements and the notes thereto.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total governmental net position decreased by \$14.0 million, or 21% from the prior year. Net position classified as unrestricted represents \$13.5 million or 26% of the total governmental net position and may be used to meet the Department's ongoing obligations to its Tribal members and creditors.

Total governmental assets decreased by \$13.5 million, or 19% from the prior year.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The basic financial statements presented include the Department's government-wide and fund financial statements.

Government-Wide Financial Statements: The government-wide statement of net position and statement of activities present information about the Department as a whole, divided into the following activity:

- **Governmental activities:** Most of the Department's basic services are reported here, including the general government, public works, education, public safety, public health and welfare, culture and recreation, and environmental management. State and federal grants, gaming revenues, and taxes finance most of these activities.

The governmental programs wide financial statements are designed to provide a broad overview of the Department's Governmental Program finances, in a manner similar to a private-sector business. The statement of net position presents information on all of the Governmental Program's assets and liabilities, with the difference reported as net position.

The statement of activities depicts how net position changed during the fiscal year. All changes in net position are reported as soon as the underlying event giving rise to the change occurs, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Revenues and expenses are reported in this statement for some items that will only result in cash flows in the future fiscal periods.

Both of the governmental programs wide financial statements distinguish functions that are principally supported by intergovernmental revenues (governmental activities).

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

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Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the management’s discussion and analysis on pages i. through v. and budgetary comparison information on page 32 be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management’s responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming an opinion on the financial statements that collectively comprise the Department’s basic financial statements. The combining General Fund financial statements on pages 33 and 34 are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements. The combining General Fund financial statements are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the information is fairly stated in all material respects in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

As discussed in Note A, the financial statements of the Department are intended to present the financial position and the changes in financial position of only that portion of the governmental activities, the General Fund, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Comanche Nation that is attributable to the transactions of the Department. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the Comanche Nation as of September 30, 2019, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 11, 2020, on our consideration of the Department’s internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements, and other matters. The purpose of that report is to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Department’s internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rox Rock CPAs PLLC
Edmond, Oklahoma
February 11, 2020

COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

MANAGEMENT’S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

September 30, 2019

Fund Statements: The accounts of the Department are organized on the basis of funds, each of which is considered a separate accounting entity. The operations of each fund are accounted for with a separate set of self-balancing accounts that comprise its assets, liabilities, fund balance, net position, revenues, expenditures, or expenses, as appropriate.

The Department uses fund accounting to ensure and demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal requirements.

Governmental Funds: Governmental funds are used to account for the same functions reported as governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. Governmental fund financial statements help determine whether there are more or fewer financial resources that can be spent in the near future to finance the Department’s programs.

Because the focus of governmental funds is narrower than that of the government-wide financial statements, it is useful to compare the information presented for governmental funds with similar information presented for governmental activities in the government-wide financial statements. By doing so, readers may better understand the governmental fund balance sheet and the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances. A reconciliation is presented to facilitate this comparison between governmental programs department funds and governmental activities.

The Department maintains individual governmental funds separately. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the major governmental programs department funds. The major governmental funds are the General Fund and the Highway Planning and Construction fund. Detail by general fund cost center is presented in the combining statements.

The Department adopts an annual budget for the General Fund.

**COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, CONTINUED**

September 30, 2019

GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net Position

Following is a comparative summary of net position as of September 30, 2019 and 2018:

	<u>Government Activities</u>	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
Current and other assets	\$ 25,806,713	\$ 41,660,989
Capital assets, net	<u>33,154,211</u>	<u>30,814,793</u>
Total assets	<u>\$ 58,960,924</u>	<u>\$ 72,475,782</u>
Current and other liabilities	\$ 6,925,710	\$ 6,416,249
Long-term liabilities	<u>478,758</u>	<u>470,322</u>
Total liabilities	<u>\$ 7,404,468</u>	<u>\$ 6,886,571</u>
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 33,154,211	\$ 30,814,793
Restricted	4,906,356	4,535,781
Unrestricted	<u>13,495,889</u>	<u>30,238,637</u>
Total net position	<u>\$ 51,556,456</u>	<u>\$ 65,589,211</u>

For the year ended September 30, 2019, net position for the governmental activities decreased by \$14.0 million. The decrease is primarily due to a Tribal member distribution of \$23.4 million.

The largest portion of the Department's net position reflects its net investment in capital assets, less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. As of September 30, 2019, the net investment in capital assets amounted to \$33.2 million.

The unrestricted net position of \$13.5 million at September 30, 2019 may be used to meet the Department's ongoing obligations to its Tribal members and creditors.

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

**COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, CONTINUED**

September 30, 2019

Change in Net Position

For the years ended September 30, 2019 and September 30, 2018 the net position of the Department's governmental programs department changed as follows:

	<u>Government Activities</u>	
	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
REVENUES		
Program Revenues:		
Charges for services	\$ 560,084	\$ 553,902
Operating grants and contributions	12,870,318	9,202,553
Investment income	428,504	125,876
Other	<u>873,871</u>	<u>1,711,907</u>
Total Revenues	<u>14,732,777</u>	<u>11,594,238</u>
EXPENSES		
General government	21,867,828	20,771,993
Public health and welfare	7,566,190	6,059,406
Culture and recreation	2,050,396	2,171,112
Environmental management	162,234	164,320
Public safety	1,797,829	1,572,661
Education	4,375,889	4,605,053
Public works	3,535,992	2,590,083
Distribution to Tribal members	<u>23,444,821</u>	<u>-</u>
Total Expenses	<u>64,801,179</u>	<u>37,934,628</u>
Decrease in net position before transfers	(50,068,402)	(26,340,390)
Net transfers	<u>36,035,647</u>	<u>40,653,227</u>
	<u>\$ (14,032,755)</u>	<u>\$ 14,312,837</u>

The Department's governmental activities include an increase of \$3.7 million, or 40%, in operating grants and contributions revenues. The Department's governmental activities other income decreased by \$0.8 million, or 49%, primarily due to a decrease in cell tower revenue. Distributions to Comanche Nation Tribal members increased by \$23.4 million as there was no similar distribution during the year ended September 30, 2018.

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the Department. For the year ended September 30, 2019, the General Fund's total fund balance decreased by \$16.4 million, or 46%, primarily due to a Tribal member distribution of \$23.4 million.

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS, CONTINUED

September 30, 2019

SECTION II--FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

Compliance Findings:

None

Internal Control Findings:

None

SECTION III--FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Compliance Findings:

None

Internal Control Findings:

None

Questioned Costs:

None

PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Compliance Findings:

None

Internal Control Findings:

None



Jesse Lorentz
Owner
Cell: 580-284-4259

Jake Lorentz
Manager
Cell: 580-280-1192

suenerimpressionz@gmail.com

Warrior Cafe

Richard and Stacie Chibitty, owners
900 Showplace Blvd. Indianahoma, OK
M-F, Daily 8:30 a.m.- 2p.m. & Evening 5p.m.-9 p.m.
Saturday 8:30 a.m.- 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m.- 5 p.m.
warriorcafe@yahoo.com
(580)246-8339

www.facebook.com/warrior-cafe GAME ROOM

**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

Dallas Outreach!!

March 14, 2020
10am - 5pm

Spring

Comanche Nation Tribal Historic Preservation Office is hosting genealogy appointments for Comanche Nation Tribal Members residing in the Dallas/Fort Worth area. To schedule an appointment contact: (214) 941-1050 Ext 275

1269 Record Crossing Rd, Dallas, TX 75235



Tahdoahnippah Brothers Win State Wrestling Championships

Tribal youth Place in Regional and State Wrestling Tournaments

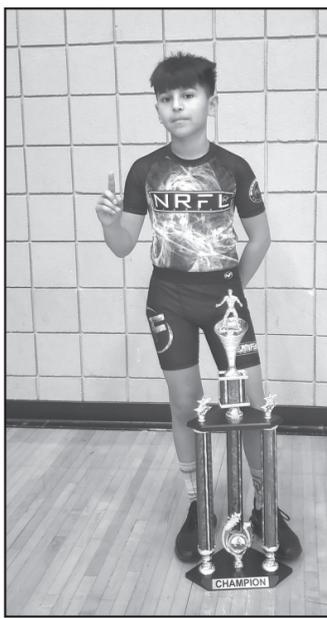


Courtesy Photos

George Tahdoahnippah Sr., center, with State winners, from left, Jamarcus Jarvis, Talon Tahdoahnippah, and George Tahdoahnippah Jr. at the Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association State Championship at the Jim Norick Arena in Oklahoma City, Okla. February 14-15.



Jamarcus Jarvis



Talon Tahdoahnippah



James Grant



Zayden Roberts



George Tahdoahnippah Jr.



Rivers Tahdoahnippah

Submitted by George Tahdoahnippah/Elgin Grappler Wrestling Coach

The Tahdoahnippah brothers both won their respected weight class at the 42nd Annual Oklahoma Kids Wrestling Association State Championship at the Jim Norick Arena in Oklahoma City, Okla. February 14-15. The older brother, George Jr., won the Division 4 - Heavyweight title, and little brother, Rivers, won the Division 1 - 37 lbs. title. Other brother, Talon, placed 3rd at the Division 3 - 80 lbs. weight class. The Tahdoahnippahs wrestle for the Elgin Grappler Wrestling Club in Elgin, Okla.

"It took a long time to get here and I kept working hard. I learned a lot to get where I am now. It feels good to be a state champion,"

said George Tahdoahnippah, Jr. George Jr. won his match in the finals versus his cousin/teammate and fellow tribal member, Jamarcus Jarvis. Coach/father George Tahdoahnippah Sr. said, "I had to step back and just watch both my boys wrestle each other. Jamarcus is my nephew, and he has marched through the competition this year for just being his second year wrestling. It was awesome having two young Comanche boys vying to be an Oklahoma state champion!" Little brother, Rivers Tahdoahnippah, stormed through his competition to earn the title of state champion as well. Rivers pinned ev-

ery opponent he wrestled and was named Outstanding Wrestler of the Division 1 (6 years and under) Oklahoma State Wrestling tournament. "Rivers just amazed us all this year," said father-coach George Tahdoahnippah. "It was his first-year wrestling and he accomplished everything a young wrestler could. He was Oklahoma Novice State Champion. He was Oklahoma Southern Regional Champion. Now, he is Oklahoma Open State Champion. "As a parent and a coach, I am so proud of all my boys," said Tahdoahnippah. George Jr. and Rivers parents are George Sr. and Mia Tahdoahnippah. Grandparents are Otis

Tahdoahnippah and Phil and Francene Monenerkit. Talon Tahdoahnippah placed 3rd at Oklahoma State Tournament in the Division 3 - 80 lbs. and was Southern Regional Champion. Talon is the son of George and Mia Tahdoahnippah. He is the grandson of Otis Tahdoahnippah and Phil and Francene Monenerkit. **Other Winners** Fellow teammate and Comanche Nation tribal member Jamarcus Jarvis was the runner up champion at the Division 4 - Heavyweight at the Oklahoma State Wrestling Championship and was the Southern Regional Champion. Jamarcus is son of Curtis and Ruby Jarvis and grand-

son to Lawanna Mihecoby. Zayden Roberts qualified for the state tournament and placed 3rd at the Oklahoma Southern Regional in the Division 4 - 120 lbs. weight class. He is in 6th Grade at Elgin Middle School, and his 7th year wrestling. His parents are Thomas and Melissa Roberts and grandparents are Angela "Lokie" Hankins and the late Lewayne Hankins. James Grant wrestles 46 lbs. in Division 1 and qualified for the state tournament. James placed 5th at Southern Regional tournament. He is son of Carrington Johnson and James "Chadoc" Grant. He is the grandson of Brenda Chockpoyah and the late Meech Aitson.

PRINCESS CANDIDATES

Continued from Page 2

ping of our daughters, sisters, aunts, and mothers. Honoring our Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women was my platform for the pageant. I know it will be my lifelong pursuit. I believe that all the tears shed retelling our stories will be worthwhile, once justice is served. In my free time outside of MMIW events, I try and stay active in my local community. I have been in martial arts for three years now and use that knowledge to organize self-defense classes a couple of times a year for Native youth in my area. I have a black belt in Tae Kwon Do, and I am currently working towards my green belt in Wing Chun Kung Fu. I spent three years assisting veterans in training service dogs in the Oklahoma City area. One of my passions is knowing that there are veterans out there who have a better quality of life because of my assistance in training their canine companions. I have volunteered at my local public library reading to toddlers and assisting in teaching classes since I was 13 years old. I have volunteered with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation annual gathering for the last two years teaching beadwork classes to its members.

I am a Principal Writer for You Go Girl-Oklahoma, where I compose articles about issues in Indigenous communities across the United States. I am a referee for the Norman Youth Soccer Association for three years; I began playing soccer in Kindergarten and have played or been a ref ever since. For two years I have been a member of Many Nations Youth Council. Through this, I have had the opportunity to attend the national UNITY conference three times and serve as secretary and representative for my council. This past year I was given a chance to speak at the conference. I felt honored that they allowed me to encourage my peers to be active in their communities, learn their language, and know their culture. I am a member of Norman First American United Methodist Church. Here, I have helped organize Comanche hymn singings for those who do not have the opportunity to hear our beautiful songs every day. **My Commitment to my Culture** My family instilled in me that a princess is less about being royalty and more a service to their community, in and out of the arena. One thing I love is singing

our Comanche hymns. Besides organizing hymn singings to help revitalize our language, I have a love for digitizing cassette tapes and reel-to-reel tapes. My mother and I work hard together, hunting down and giving new life to these recordings. I enjoy this because I can hear the songs, prayers, and conversations of my great-great-relatives. Doing this work has allowed me to listen to my great-great-grandfather Fred Ticeahkie pray and sing songs I had never heard before. I believe it is an essential step in not only keeping the memory of my beloved relatives alive but also helping bring back some of these songs that have been forgotten over the years. Hearing some of the voices of my elders and my loved ones like my uncle Norman Naumi makes me smile; it makes my heart overflow with pride in knowing where I come from. While I am not fluent, I attend Comanche language classes because it keeps our culture alive. I am grateful that I have been given the opportunity to attend Comanche language classes at the Oklahoma City Outreach office with Sam, Ms. Karen, Ms. Gale, Ms. Margaret, Ms. Wilma, and Ms. Pat. They have all instilled teachings in me that are invaluable. They remind me every day that my elders are the most

important people in my life, and I am blessed to be able to spend my days listening and learning as much from them as possible. I am also grateful for the opportunity to be a member of Matriarch in Oklahoma City. Since joining Matriarch in 2017, it has given me an outlet full of beautiful and amazing Native American aunts of all tribal nations. My aunts in Matriarch have taught me to be proud of myself and to embrace my imperfections and learn to love them. They have made me a better person than I was almost three years ago, teaching me new things every time we meet. Through my language class and my Matriarch aunts, I have been able to learn how to make my Comanche clothes. I enjoy spending my evenings making dresses, doing beadwork, making ribbon skirts, fringing shawls, doing feather work, and cooking Indigenous foods. These two families have helped me connect to and appreciate my culture in the best way possible. My family brought me into the arena when I was three years old, and I have danced and sang ever since. My mother and grandmothers have been making my dresses, leggings, and other traditional clothing pieces since I was little. I am proud that they are now teaching me how to do these things

myself. Making my first entire set of bead work by myself and maintaining it over its first year is honestly one of my most significant accomplishments. By learning these skills now, it is allowing me to continue my journey in the area without having to rely on them to provide for me while ensuring my ability to contribute cultural knowledge to future generations. "Everything that has ever happened to us is there to make us stronger." John Trudell I am a proud Numunu young woman, my experiences both good and bad, have shaped me into who I am today. I have been fortunate to have a loving and supportive family, a network of encouraging elders pushing me to be the best version of myself, and the most tenacious and determined role models someone could ask for. I believe that it is not only my experiences that make me strong but the experiences of all those before me that give me hope, strength, and resilience. **Udako** - Thank you for reading a little bit about me, I hope that you will consider me for the 2020 - 2021 Junior Comanche Nation Princess.

Text Club

Text COMANCHE to 411247

For All the Latest News, Happenings, and Events From THE GREAT COMANCHE NATION

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Programs

IAM NDN Invites Youth to Participate

IAMNDN is a program within the Prevention, Recovery / Reintegration Department of the Comanche Nation. With a motto of "Culture Is Prevention," IAMNDN aims to empower young Comanche tribal members, ages 13-24, with a strong cultural knowledge base. The idea is that as youth learn about the richness of their own cultural heritage and traditions, they develop a stronger sense of connectedness. Through active community engagement, IAMNDN members get the chance to embrace a healthy substance-free lifestyle, while carrying on Comanche culture and traditions.

Martin Flores, the Director and PFS Specialist, is a fluent speaker of Comanche. Martin shares his knowledge of the language and traditions of our people. Through this program, young people have learned traditional crafts such as drum-making, feather work, gourds, and moccasin-making.

In the first week of February, Flores took a group of IAMNDN youth members to the annual Community Anti-Drug Coalitions (CADCA) conference in Washington DC. Here, they completed the "Key Essentials Training". CADCA "Key Essentials Training" empowers youth, ages 13 through 20, with tools they can take back to their own communities. Through the CADCA conference, IAMNDN youth learned about the CADCA framework of prevention education through which a community can transform. With this new framework, the trainees learned how they could work together, educate, inspire, and gather community support.

The IAMNDN office is located at 807 F. Avenue, Lawton, OK 73502. Martin Flores, IAMNDN Director and PFS Specialist can be reached by phone at: (580) 248-4782, or by email at: martin.flores@comanchenation.com.

Higher Education has been issued a new phone number. The new number is (580) 699-7218.

Vocational Rehabilitation Has Different Programs to Help Tribal Members

The Vocational Rehabilitation program helps adults age 18 and older with a disability (or disabilities) as they seek employment. They also have a Transition program that assists high school students age 16 and older that have a disability (or disabilities), as they prepare for life after high school. They are funded by a federal grant.

Sometimes transportation is a problem for many people, they travel for Outreach twice each month: Anadarko Indian Clinic on the 2nd Wednesday and Lawton Indian Hospital, the 3rd Wednesday. A counselor is there to answer questions, has applications on hand, and can help you complete the application. There is a form in the application that your doctor completes, the Documentation of Disability. It tells us what your disability is and if you have any limitations. The disability has to be an impediment to employment, meaning it affects a person's ability to find or retain a job. Other forms of outreach that they do is setting up information tables at various events.

Applications are available in the Voc Rehab office. They can also mail or fax an application. If needed they can come to your home to help you complete the application.

There are seen and unseen disabilities: physical, cognitive, intellectual, psychological, and/or sensory. Recovering drug and/or alcohol abuse is a disability; a person has to be active in recovery, such as attending classes and counseling.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program is located at the Dorothy Sunrise Lorentino Education Center, 1608 SW 9th Street, Lawton, OK 73505. Their phone number is (580) 492-3605 and the fax number is (580) 699-7241. They are open 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday thru Friday, and invite you to call or come to the office for any questions you may have. Program information can be found on the Comanche Nation website under Departments, Education Center, Vocational Rehabilitation.



Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

ELDERS CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY. On February 14, the Comanche Nation Elders Center held their Annual Valentines Meal located at 1107 SW H. Ave, Lawton, Okla. Tribal member, Rita Coosewoon said the Invocation to begin the afternoon meal. While the Elders sat and enjoyed their sweetheart meal, they had entertainment by Blu Pahdocony, who played his guitar and sang for them. Pictured above Right; Leonard and Rose Chibitty were the only Elder couple in attendance that have been married for 58 years and in June, 59 years. They were gifted a Valentines basket full of chocolate and goodies. Bottom Left; Tribal member, EJ Kowena, placed 1st for the Best Valentines Box. She made the Numun "Luv-Shack." All the contestants did a very good job. The Elder Center would like to thank everyone who came out to make this event a success.



Summer Youth Employment Applications Available March 30

It is about that time again where the Comanche Nation Workforce Department restarts the annual Summer Youth Employment Program (SYEP).

This year, the Summer Youth Employment Program will be accepting 110 youth applicants to participate in this year's summer work experience.

SYEP Applications will be ready for pick-up on **March 30**, from the Comanche Nation Workforce office or online Comanche Nation website.

Deadline for SYEP Applications will be **May 1**.

Remember: the youth must be between the ages of 14 and 18 & must be an enrolled Comanche Nation tribal member.

Tribal members of a different federally recognized tribe must be between the ages of 14 and 24.

All applications will be processed on a first come, first serve basis. Incomplete applications will not be accepted!

WIOA Career Fair Set for April

The Comanche Nation Workforce W.I.O.A., will be hosting a Career Fair, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m., April 15, at Watchtaker Hall.

Connect with local employers. Explore employment options and achieve your career goals.

Breakfast and lunch will be provided as well as door prizes.

Come professionally dressed with your resume in hand.

For more information contact the Comanche Nation Workforce Office at (580) 492-3257, or email: necia.morrow@comanchenation.com, yvonne.flores@comanchenation.com.

Follow the Comanche Nation Public Information Office:



The Comanche Nation News



TCNNPIO



You are Cordially Invited to attend a Gambling Addiction Awareness event Hosted by CNPRC. Presentation by OAPCG- Oklahoma Association of Problem & Compulsive Gambling.

March 25 • 2-3 PM • Comanche Nation Prevention & Recovery • 807 SW "F" Ave. Lawton, OK 73507
 Contact: Anna Silverhorn @ (580) 357-3449 or anna.silverhorn@comanchenation.com



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

OPEN HOUSE. The Prevention and Recovery Program hosted an Open House to celebrate their new outpatient treatment center, located at 807 SW F. Ave, Lawton, on Jan. 31. The Prevention & Recovery Outpatient program provides individual and community substance prevention and substance abuse education and outreach activities. Services include:

- Relapse Prevention Classes
 - Parenting Classes
 - Life Skills development
 - Substance Abuse Education
 - Referrals and payment for drug & alcohol assessments
 - Referrals and transportation to residential programs
 - Community substance abuse awareness and prevention outreach activities
 - Suicide awareness and prevention outreach activities for youth
- For more information about the treatment center, call (580) 357-3449.



Military News

Submitted by Lanny Asepermy/CIVA

Attention Comanche Veterans

The Oklahoma Department of Veterans Affairs will host a Compensation Claims and Rater Evaluation on April 10, starting at 9 a.m. at Red Buffalo Hall in Carnegie. If you are a veteran who needs to file a compensation claim with the VA or have a claim on file and would like the current status of that claim updated please bring your DD 214 and any paperwork you have from the VA with you.

If you are a Comanche veteran with an Honorable Discharge and have not been recognized for your military service please contact Lanny Asepermy at (580) 678-4629 or email him at sgtmajase@yahoo.com.

Recognition for your military service includes an embroidered Grateful Nation blanket, a 16x20 framed Honor Certificate, a Veterans gift bag and a stipend.

If you are a family member of a Comanche veteran and would like to nominate your veteran for recognition please contact Asepermy with the veteran's name and their telephone number.

CIVA Seeking Candidates for Princess

Nominations are being sought for the 2020-21 Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) Princess. The position is from Armed Forces Day, 2020, to Armed Forces Day, 2021. Candidates must be an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation; a direct descendant of a Comanche veteran; be of unimpeachable character; never married or cohabitated with no children; between the ages of 13-17 years at the time of selection; and must provide own regalia.

Candidates must provide a copy of their CDIB, a 5x7 photo in regalia and a bio to Lanny Asepermy at PO Box 247, Apache, OK 73006, no later than March 31. Interviews will be conducted during monthly meeting on April 7, in the Comanche Veterans Patroit Room.



Courtesy Photo

The current princess is Trinity Rae Ahtone.

CIVA Activities and More

A Prayer Service was held on January 6, for Wesley Pewewardy at the Comanche Nation Funeral Home. Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko presented military honors. Veterans Dominic Pawlowski and Ramonah Davis and Auxiliary Leader Shirley Pohawpatchoko also attended the Service.

PFC Pewewardy served, with Honor, in the Army Reserve, from 1959-63. He completed Basic and Occupation Training at Fort Chaffee, Ark. He was a Clerk/Typists. PFC Pewewardy served on active duty for 6 months and 14 days at Fort Hood, Texas during the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962. He completed his military service, as a Wrench Operator, aboard

an Army ship at Camp Leroy Johnson in New Orleans, La.



Courtesy Photo

PFC Wesley Pewewardy in 1959.

The funeral for PFC Pewewardy was conducted on February 7, at Watchtaker Hall. Interment followed at Otipoby Cemetery on Fort Sill. Jimmy Caddo opened the service with a prayer and Lanny Asepermy conducted honors including a Roll Call. At the cemetery the Comanche Nation Police Department provided a firing squad, Clifford Red Elk played taps and two active duty Soldiers folded and presented the casket flag to the family. Other attendees were Vice-Commander John McClung, Richard Sapcutt, Ron Parker, Beaver Takawana, Lyman Guy, Keller Roaming Warrior, Mark Davis and Auxiliary members Shelley Asepermy and Liz Plata. A meal was provided after the service at Watchtaker Hall. A total of 13 veterans and three Auxiliary members attended the Prayer and Funeral services.

On January 11, Commander Kevin Pohawpatchoko, Auxiliary Leader Shirley Pohawpatchoko, Historian Lanny Asepermy, former Auxiliary Leader Shelley Asepermy and Chaplain Lyman Guy were guests of the Fires Center of Excellence and Fort Sill Commanding General, Major General, Wilson Shoffner, at the Sherman House on Fort Sill. The annual gathering is a "meet and greet" opportunity hosted by MG Shoffner, for leaders from Lawton, the surrounding area and Kiowa, Comanche and Apache Tribes to get acquainted with the military leaders on Fort Sill. Attendance for the event was coordinated by Guy, former Chairman of the Apache Tribe of Oklahoma.



Courtesy Photo

Lanny Asepermy, Lyman Guy, Shelley Asepermy, MG Wilson Shoffner, Shirley and Kevin Pohawpatchoko.

A Soldier deployment ceremony was held on January 11, for Army National Guardsman, Private First Class Sherman Addi, at Ware's Chapel (located at Hog Creek west of Anadarko). PFC Addi is the son of Dan Addi and his companion, Tavia Torralba, a member of the CIVA Auxiliary. Members of the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society and O-ho-mah Lodge also attended the gathering of about 35 guests. A meal was provided by Torralba. After the meal, prayers, hymn singing, testimonies and a cedar ceremony followed.

Representing the CIVA were Kevin and Shirley Pohawpatchoko, Dominic

and Lisa Pawlowski, Lanny and Shelley Asepermy, Keller Roaming Warrior, Gwen Stone and Princess Trinity Ahtone.

PFC Addi enlisted in the National Guard on September 17, 2017, completed Basic Combat Training at Fort Benning, Ga., and Advanced Individual Training, as an Information Technician Specialists, at Fort Gordon, Ga. He is assigned to A Battery, 1st Battalion, 158th Field Artillery based at Fort Sill. His unit was activated on December 12, 2019, at Fort Sill for deployment overseas. They departed for Fort Bliss, Texas, for more deployment training on January 12. They are scheduled to depart overseas on/about February 9, for a nine-month deployment.



Courtesy Photo

Shelley Asepermy, Gwen Stone, Princess Trinity Ahtone, Lanny Asepermy, Sherman Addi, Kevin Pohawpatchoko, Dominic Pawlowski, Shirley Pohawpatchoko, Lisa Pawlowski, Keller Roaming Warrior and Tavia Torralba.

On January 16, Vice-Commander, John McClung and Treasurer, Lanny Asepermy presented the proposed Fiscal Year 2021 CIVA Budget to the Budget Review Committee (CBC) in the New Conference Room. Funding for \$49,500 was approved for referendum vote on the May 2020 ballot. Funding for the CIVA has been approved by referendum vote for the past 13 years. Fiscal Year 2020 funding was \$60,000.

Two flat Bronze Military Markers were placed for the families of Franklin White-wolf (1941-19), Air Force 1961-70, at Otipoby Cemetery on Fort Sill and Dwight Tanner Sr. (1935-16), Army National Guard and Air Force 1954-58, at Rock Creek Cemetery southeast of Duncan. The markers were placed on January 16, despite the cold, overcast weather. Placing the markers were Marker Coordinator George Red Elk, Clifford Red Elk and Mark Davis. Kevin Sovo assisted with the loading of the 135 lb. marker slabs. The markers were the 273 and 274 placements.



Courtesy Photo

George Red Elk on left and Mark Davis on right after placement of Franklin White-wolf marker.

CIVA Co-Historian, Ron Parker, was inducted into The Order of Saint Barbara Military Honor Society on January 16, at the Hilton Garden Inn, during the 75th Field Artillery Brigade Military Ball. The nomination, approval and presentation of the award was made by the Commander of the Brigade, Colonel Ryan McCormack.

Saint Barbara is the patron saint of Field Artillerymen everywhere.

Parker served in the Army from 1967-71 earning the rank of Captain. He was a Field Artillery Forward Observer with the 1st Infantry Division in Vietnam for 19 months. Parker is 1 of only 28 Comanches to earn the honorary title of Numu Pukutsi as he was decorated with the Bronze Star with/Valor Device for heroism.

11 veterans, five Auxiliary members, Princess Trinity Ahtone and her chaperone, and one guest attended the ball along with ten members and friends of the Parker family.

Other known Comanches inducted into the Saint Barbara Military Honor Society include Kent Tomah, George Red Elk, John McClung, Dominic Pawlowski and Paul Tate Jr.



Courtesy Photo

Ron Parker being congratulated, after receiving the Saint Barbara Medal, by the Command Sergeant Charles Masters. Kent Tomah is on the left.

Auxiliary members Shirley Pohawpatchoko, Shelley Asepermy, Liz Plata and Cheryl Takawana and ten veterans attended the funeral of former Auxiliary member Lucinda Rose "Lou" Pueblo at the Open Door Church of God in Walters on January 25. Her interment was next to her husband, Navy veteran Willis Pueblo, at Post Oak Cemetery in Indianola.

Pueblo was a faithful and loyal member of the Auxiliary from 2013 to 2017 when health issues curtailed her participation. Heartfelt remarks were made by Pohawpatchoko followed with the placement of roses into the casket by each member of the CIVA.

Pueblo was born on May 9, 1947 to Vernon and Myrtle (Berry) Perdasofpy and passed away on January 22, 2020, at age 72 years.

A Color Guard consisting of Commander, Kevin Pohawpatchoko, and Auxiliary Leader, Shirley Pohawpatchoko, John McClung and his son John Grady McClung, Clifford and George Red Elk, Lyman Guy, Richard Sapcutt, Ramonah Davis, Liz Plata and Lanny and Shelley Asepermy presented the colors at the Indianola High School Homecoming basketball game vs Cement on January 31, at the Indianola gym. The four Auxiliary members wore Battle Dresses for the event. Asepermy introduced the Color Guard and Kevin and June Sovo provided the drum. The full-house of fans sung the National Anthem along with the players, coaches and color guard. As a gesture of appreciation the school provided a "no pay" concession to the members of the Color Guard.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Color Guard.



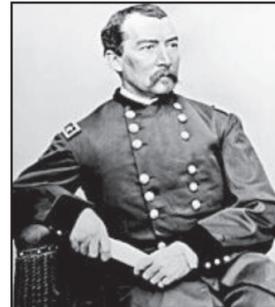
Courtesy Photo

Auxiliary members Shirley Pohawpatchoko, Liz Plata, Lisa Pawlowski and Shelley Asepermy, in Battle Dresses, for the Indianola high school Color Guard presentation.

The February 6, monthly meeting was cancelled due to inclement weather. It was rescheduled for February 13.

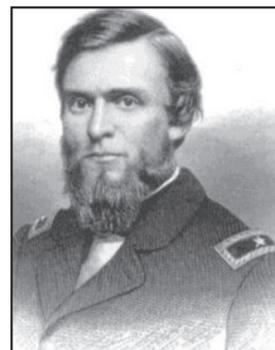
Comanches and Fort Sill

Almost every Comanche has driven by or been on Fort Sill which is located on 94,000 acres just north of the Comanche Nation Complex. The site of Fort Sill was staked out on January 8, 1869, by Major General, Philip Sheridan (1831-88). At first the fort was called Camp Wichita and was referred by the Comanches as the "Soldier House at Medicine Bluffs." Sheridan renamed the fort in honor of his West Point classmate and friend, Brigadier General, Joshua Sill (1831-62), who was killed during the Civil War.



Courtesy Photo

Phillip Sheridan

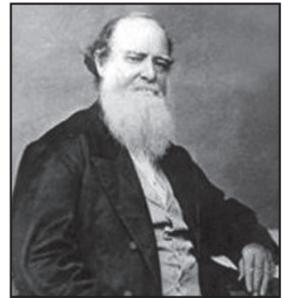


Courtesy Photo

Joshua Sill

The first Indian Agent on Fort Sill was Colonel, Albert Boone (1802-84), the grandson of frontiersman Daniel Boone. The fort was established, as a base camp for the U.S. Cavalry, to stop tribes from raiding border settlements in Oklahoma Territory, Texas and Kansas.

On June 2, 1875, Quanah Parker (1845-11) and his Quahadi band surrendered at Fort Sill ending what was known as the Comanche Campaign (1868-75) or Red River Wars.



Courtesy Photo

Albert Boone



Courtesy Photo

Quanah Parker

Members of Troop L, 7th Cavalry, which included 23 Comanches, were based at Fort Sill from 1892-97 in a place called "Comanche Town."



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Town

Most of us know that many members of the Fort Sill Apache Tribe were held as prisoners of war on Fort Sill from 1894-1914. Eighty individuals (about 20 families) were given allotments in the Fletcher and Apache areas after their release as Prisoners of War.



Courtesy Photo

The sign at the top reads "Office, Apache Prisoners of War."

The Post Cemetery, originally called "Boot Hill," was established on February 2, 1869, and is the burial site of 7,140 soldiers, American Indians, civilians, foreign prisoners of war and unknowns. At the entrance of the cemetery is "Chief's Knoll" which is the resting place of Quanah Parker, his mother and sister. Comanche Leader, Ten Bears, is also buried on the knoll along with Kiowa, Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians. Otipoby Cemetery is located on Fort Sill's east range. That cemetery was established in 1888. The controversial Indian Agency Cemetery is located on Henry Post Army Airfield. It was established about 1870 and finally opened to the public in 2015. There are 112 graves in the cemetery of which 62 are identified and 50 are unknowns. Most are Comanche.



Courtesy Photo

Quanah Parker gravesite at the entrance of the Fort Sill Post Cemetery.

Continued on Page 11

Continued from Page 10



Courtesy Photo

Marker of Comanche Chief Ten Bears

The post is also the sacred site of Medicine Bluffs. In 2008 the Comanches were granted a federal injunction preventing the military from building any structures near the Bluffs.



Courtesy Photo

Medicine Bluffs Historic Site looking to the south.

There is also a water point, on post, named after Comanche and Vietnam War veteran, Eugene Mithlo, (1946-09) which was dedicated in 2014.

Mithlo served with the 9th Infantry Division in Vietnam where he was decorated with the Combat Infantryman Badge and Bronze Star. He worked as a Department of the Army civilian from 1969 beginning as a Public Works laborer. For the next 32 years he held various positions with the Public Works Directorate supporting roads, grounds, training and wildlife habitat. After his retirement, as a Civil Servant, he concluded his employment on Fort Sill as the head of the Roads Department until his death in 2009.



Courtesy Photo

Eugene Mithlo



Courtesy Photo

Eugene Mithlo Water Point marker

The Central Issue Facility bears the name "Code Talker Hall" in honor of the Comanche, Choctaw, Kiowa and Cheyenne Code Talkers of World Wars I and II. It was dedicated and so-named in 2015.



Courtesy Photo

Code Talker Hall

Fort Sill is currently the training center for the Field and Air Defense Artillery and is one of four military bases that conduct Basic Combat Training. CPT Kent O. Tomah

III is currently a commander of a Basic Combat Training unit on post.

The Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA)

A state of Oklahoma not-for-profit document reads "Comanche Indian Veterans Association is an Oklahoma Domestic Not For-Profit Corporation filed on August 18, 1976. The Company's filing status is listed as in Existence and its File Number is 21100297412. The Registered Agent on file for this company is Clifford E. Ototivo, and is located at 1813 Taylor St. Lawton, OK. The company has 3 principals are C. Ototivo, Edgar Monetatchi, and James Chasenah." This was the official establishment of the CIVA. In a document written by the late Zona Atewuthtakewa Suminski (1903 - 09) she states, "Comanche Indian Veteran organizations date back to World War I. The first known club was called the American Indian Inter-tribal Veterans Association. Their first gathering to honor World War I veterans was held in Cotton County on the farm of Herbert Homovich, who was a World War I veteran. The gathering was held in the late summer of 1919. In 1946 the American Indian Veterans Association became active as an intertribal organization - this organization included the Kiowa, Apache, Cheyenne, Arapaho, Wichita, Caddo, and Delaware Tribes. Lee Motah was the Commander." The first gathering (Pow-wow) of the Comanche Indians Veterans Association (CIVA) was held October 23-25, 1976. This information was taken from a letter from the CIVA to the Native American Church who was asked to Co-host the event. The letter had the CIVA logo as a watermark. The first officers of the CIVA listed on the letterhead were: Commander, Edgar Monetatchi (1918-02); Vice-Commander, Clifford Ototivo (1920-80); Service Officer, Morris Sunrise (1914-83); Secretary, Jerome Tahhahwah; Treasurer, James Chasenah (1922-98); Chaplain, Horace "Taylor" Noyabad (1900-86); Color Guard, Carl Tahah (1932-12) and Howard White-wolf (1912-08). According to Suminski's document other veteran members of the CIVA included James Barciderbar; Franklin and Herbert Cable; Stacy Pahdopony; Roderick Red Elk; Strudwick Tahsequah; Lawrence Tomah; and Algernon Tonips. Tahhawah is the only living member of the original veteran members. The first Auxiliary members included Mae Cable; Marie Carr; Jean Jenkins; Barbara Miller; Alama Ototivo; Rosalie Pennah; Helen Red Elk; Bea Saupitty; Jolene Tahah; Loraine Tahmahkera and Martha Weryavah. Pennah is the only living member of the original Auxiliary members.



Courtesy Photo

Edgar Monetatchi



Courtesy Photo

Clifford Ototivo Sr.



Courtesy Photo

James Chasenah

In addition to Monetatchi, other Commanders include James Chasenah; Algernon Tonips; Nate Woommavovah; Robert Kaskanavoid, Edward Yellowfish; Ted Pewo; Nipper Tiddark; Jack Codopony Sr.; Kevin Pohawpatchoko (current Commander), George Red Elk and Ron Mahsetky.



Courtesy Photo

Current Commander, Kevin Pohawpatchoko

The first CIVA Princess was Colette Tahah. The current princess is Trinity Ahtone. Former princesses include Francis Mowatt; Cri Cri Brittan; Deborah Tahah; Thomasine Kaudle-Kaule; Lorraine McCurtain; Lisa Karty; Shana Tahhahwah; Melinda Alcalá; Megan Stone; Randi Attocknie; Christina Jones; Krista Hubbard; Chelsea Sapcut; Shelby Mata; and Lauren Noriega.



Courtesy Photo

Krista Hubbard, served as princess from 2003-10.



Courtesy Photo

Current CIVA Princess, Trinity Ahtone

One of the most notable projects the CIVA has done is the Court of Honor. The court is in front of the Nation HQs and consists of 13 granite dyes with the names, rank, branch of service and years of service of about 1,200 Comanches. The court was established during the early

1980's and upgraded in 2003 with the addition of the Code Talker Memorial. In 2004, the dyes were rearranged and a sidewalk was added making it handicap accessible. In 2017, flagpoles for military service flags were added.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Court of Honor

Other notable projects include the Comanche Veterans Patroit Room and Gallery and Tahsequah Garden. The Patroit Room is located to the right of the Nation's HQs main entrance. It contains about 600+ photos of Comanche veterans with brief bios under each photo - this includes photos and bios of our thirteen Fallen Warriors and seven Prisoners of War, photos and bios of 28 Numu Pukutsi and photos and bios of 22 Code Talkers. The seals of the United States, the Comanche Nation, Oklahoma, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, Air Force and Coast Guard are in place on the west windows of the room. Information about Comanche involvements during World Wars I and II and the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan Wars are in place on the windows of the north wall of the room. The flags of the US, Comanche Nation, Oklahoma and CIVA hang above the center of the room. The room is an outstanding tribute to the Nation's Warriors and their families.



Courtesy Photo

Entrance into the Patriot Room

Tahsequah Garden is located between the two flagpoles in front of the entrance of the Nation HQs. It was established in honor of Lieutenant Colonel Meech Tahsequah. LtCol Tahsequah's aircraft was shot down over North Korea in 1950. It was thought he was a prisoner of war. The Department of Defense declared him dead while missing in action on February 28, 1954 - his body has not been recovered.



Courtesy Photo

Tahsequah Garden with POW/MIA Flag in the background.

Very little record-keeping was done until 2003. Since then it is documented the CIVA has provided funeral details for the families of 268 veterans and placed markers for the families of 274 veterans. Also during that 16-year span the CIVA has fulfilled commitments for almost 2,000 requests (about 125 per year). The requests include the Color Guard for Pow-wows, ceremonies, banquets, parades, sport-

ing events, fairs, homecomings, expositions; Flag raising and lowering ceremonies; guest speakers for schools, other veteran organizations and military functions; host for three major events annually - the Armed Forces Day Banquet, the Memorial Day Ceremony and the Veterans Day Celebration and Pow-wow; Co-host for both Comanche and non-Comanche organizations; providing a meal to veterans during our monthly meetings; assistance with numerous VA Compensation claims (of which the majority were approved); recognition/honors to over 375 Comanche veterans during our major events or monthly meetings; and numerous hospital/assisted living/nursing home/home visits to our veterans.



Courtesy Photo

Armed Forces Day 2019 Honorees: Darrell Chrismon, Ron Parker, James Mountain, Marion Plata Samuel Allen and Brandon Allen.



Courtesy Photo

Former Vice-Commander and Historian Roger Tehauno placing an American flag during Memorial Day ceremony.

Active membership is on a volunteer basis. No one is paid for their participation with the organization. Currently there are 10 active veterans and four active Auxiliary members that have attended at least half of our commitments. Another 10 veterans and 13 Auxiliary members assist when they can. The current officers are Kevin Pohawpatchoko (Navy, Iraq war), Commander; John McClung (Army and National Guard, Gulf, Iraq and Afghanistan wars), Vice-Commander; Dominic Pawlowski (Marine Corps and National Guard, Iraq war), Secretary; Lanny Asepermy (Army, Vietnam war), Treasurer; and Clifford Red Elk (Army, Vietnam war), Sergeant at Arms. All are decorated combat veterans. Monthly meetings are held the first Thursday of each month usually in the Comanche Patriot Room. A meal, prepared by Auxiliary members, is provided to any Comanche veteran and a guest prior to the meeting. The meetings start at 6 p.m.

The CIVA was first funded by the Nation in 2006, and again in 2007. In 2008 and since the CIVA has presented a budget to the Budget Review Committee (CBC) for approval. For the past thirteen years the CIVA budget has been approved by referendum vote by the Comanche people. Fiscal Year 2021 budget was approved for \$49,500 by the Review Committee and will be on the May 2020 ballot. The CIVA respectfully request continued support of the organization and Comanche veterans. The CIVA is the lowest funded program on the ballot. Since being funded the CIVA have used their funding to recognize and honor 378 veterans (about 29 veterans per year).

New Veteran Photo



Courtesy Photo

Darin K. Yackeschi

Darin Kyle Yackeschi, served in the Coast Guard from January 12, 2004 to February 13, 2017, earning the grade of Aviation Maintenance Technician First Class. He completed Basic Training at Camp May, N.J. His first assignment was aboard the USCGC (WLR-75550), a Coast Guard River Buoy Tender, based in Memphis, Tenn., as a Buoy Deck Rigger and Crane Operator with navigation missions up and down the Mississippi River. In 2005, he transferred to Air Station New Orleans where he served as a First Responder including service during Hurricane Katrina. In 2006, he completed A School, at Elizabeth City, N.C., as an Aviation Maintenance Technician. He was then assigned to the Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala., where he received his specific flight crew training and earned his Air Crew Wings while serving on a HH65 Eurocopter Dauphin helicopter. In 2010, he transferred to Air Station Kodiak, Alaska. During his tour in Alaska he was directly responsible for two lives saved. His military service concluded at Coast Guard Air Station Port Angeles, Wash. Again he also directly contributed in the saving of two lives.

His awards are many including the Achievement with/Operational Device, four awards of the Good Conduct, National Defense Service, Global War on Terrorism Service, Armed Forces Service and Humanitarian Service with/1 Service Star Medals and the CG Commandant Letter of Commendation with/ Gold Star, CG Presidential Unit Citation with/Hurricane Device, CG Unit Commendation, CG Meritorious Unit Commendation, CG Meritorious Team Commendation, CG Special Operations Service with/Bronze Star, CG Sea Service and CG Pistol Marksman Ribbons.

AMT1 Yackeschi was born on January 17, 1984, in Lawton to Cynthia Blanche Shiver and Darin Dee Yackeschi. He lived in Hawaii, Germany and graduated from Northwest high school in Clarksville, Tenn. He enlisted into the Coast Guard while living in Troy, Tenn. He and his wife, Maggie and son, Noah currently live in Port Angeles, Wash., where he is working on his Master's degree in Aeronautics with a primary focus on Human Factors. In conjunction with being a full-time student he is also a Tribal Partnership Specialist employed by the Census Bureau which allows him to work alongside the local Native American community. He primarily works with the Port Gamble S' Klallam, Jamestown S' Klallam, Lower Klallam, Makah, Hoh and Quilcote tribes.

Culinary Corner

March 2020 Tahpooka Maa						
Sunday Paha Tabeni	Monday Surnu Habitu	Tuesday Waha Habitu	Wednesday Pahi Habitu	Thursday Hayakwe Habitu	Friday Tuhims Tabeni	Saturday Tue Paha Tabeni
1	2 Inventory	3 Frederick 1 st Day	4 Frederick 2 nd Day	5 Walters 1 st Day	6 Walters 2 nd Day	7
8	9 Cache 1 st Day	10 Cache 2 nd Day	11 Cache 4 th Day	12 Cache 4 th Day	13 TRUCK DAY	14
15	16 Lawton 1 st Day	17 Lawton 2 nd Day (St. Patrick's Day)	18 Lawton 3 rd Day	19 Lawton 4 th Day	20 Lawton 5 th Day	21
22	23 Make-Up Day	24 Make-Up Day	25 Make-Up Day	26 Inventory	27 Inventory	28
29	30 TRAINING No Issuance	31 Inventory				

the butter is all spread out, place the slice of bread in the skillet and crack the egg straight into the center of the hole.

- Cook until the egg sets a bit on the bottom, 30 to 45 seconds. Sprinkle the egg with salt and pepper. After about a minute, flip it over with a spatula and salt and pepper the other side.
- Move the toast around in the skillet. Let it cook until the yolk feels soft.

Irish Mashed Potatoes

- Ingredients**
- 3 Pounds potatoes, scrubbed
 - 2 Sticks butter
 - 1 1/4 Cups hot milk
 - Freshly ground black pepper
 - 1 Head cabbage, cored and finely shredded
 - 1 (1-pound) piece ham or bacon, cooked the day before
 - 4 Scallions, finely chopped
 - Chopped parsley leaves, for garnish
- Directions**

- Steam the potatoes in their skins for 30 minutes. Peel them using a knife and fork. Chop with a knife before mashing. Mash thoroughly to remove all the lumps. Add 1 stick of butter in pieces. Gradually add hot milk, stirring all the time. Season with a few grinds of black pepper.
- Boil the cabbage in unsalted water until it turns a darker color. Add 2 Tablespoons butter to tenderize it. Cover with lid for 2 minutes. Drain thoroughly before returning it to the pan. Chop into small pieces.
- Put the ham in a large saucepan and cover with water. Bring to a boil and simmer for 45 minutes until tender. Drain. Remove any fat and chop into small pieces.
- Add cabbage, scallions, and ham to mashed potatoes, stirring them in gently.
- Serve in individual soup plates. Make an indentation on the top by swirling a wooden spoon. Put 1 tablespoon of butter into each indentation. Sprinkle with parsley.

Recipes for Home Cooking

Creamy Spring Peas With Pancetta

- Ingredients**
- Kosher salt
 - 2 Cups shelled fresh English peas or thawed frozen peas (about 10 ounces)
 - 1 Pound sugar snap peas, trimmed
 - 1/4 Pound snow peas, trimmed and thinly sliced
 - 4 Ounces pancetta, chopped
 - 2 Tablespoons all-purpose flour
 - 1 1/2 Cups low-sodium chicken broth
 - 1/2 Cup heavy cream
 - Juice of 1 lemon
 - Freshly ground pepper
- Directions**
- Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over high heat. Fill a large bowl with ice water. If using fresh English peas, add to the boiling water and cook until tender, about 1 minute. Add the snap peas and cook until bright

- green, about 2 minutes, then add the snow peas and cook 30 seconds. Drain the peas and plunge into the ice water to cool.
- Cook the pancetta in a large skillet over medium heat until crisp, 8 to 10 minutes. Transfer to a paper towel-lined plate with a slotted spoon. Add the flour to the drippings in the skillet and cook, whisking, until toasted, about 1 minute. Whisk in the chicken broth and cream and cook until reduced by one-third, about 6 minutes.
- Drain the peas, shaking off the excess water, then add to the skillet. (If using frozen peas, add them here). Cook, stirring, until heated through, 3 to 5 minutes. Stir in the lemon juice and season with salt and pepper. Transfer to a serving bowl and top with the pancetta.

Super-Easy Pulled Pork

- Ingredients**
- 3 Tablespoons brown sugar
 - 3 Tablespoons paprika
 - 1 1/2 Tablespoons garlic powder (such as McCormick (R) California Style)
 - 1 1/2 Tablespoons ground black pepper
 - 1 1/2 Teaspoons salt
 - 1/2 Cup Dijon mustard (such as Hellmann's (R))
 - 8 Pounds pork shoulder roast (butt roast), rind removed
 - 1/2 Cup barbecue sauce, or to taste
 - 18 Large hamburger buns, split
- Directions**
- Preheat oven to 250*degrees F (120 degrees C).
 - Mix brown sugar, paprika, garlic powder, black pepper, and salt in a bowl. Spread mustard over pork roast and sprinkle with brown sugar mixture, using the entire amount. Line a shallow

- baking dish with aluminum foil. Place a rack in the prepared baking dish and arrange pork roast on rack.
- Bake in the preheated oven until very tender, 9 to 11 hours. Let cool, then shred into bite-size pieces. Stir barbecue sauce into pork to moisten; serve with hamburger buns.

Egg-In-A-Hole

- Ingredients**
- 1 Slice of your favorite kind of bread
 - 1 Tablespoon butter
 - 1 Egg
 - Salt and freshly ground black pepper
- Directions**
- With a biscuit cutter or the rim of a glass, press a hole in the center of the slice of bread.
 - Heat a skillet over medium-low heat and melt in the butter. When

NEW COURSE! SPRING 2020 1-CREDIT SEMINAR

DECOLONIZING INDIGENOUS CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

with Dr. Cornel Pewewardy
-Professor Emeritus at Portland State University

The course provides a historic and contemporary perspective of Indigenous Peoples of North America literary and cultural creation, which includes essays, novels, poetry, short stories, graphic novels, songs/dances, among others. We also realize that new forms of "text" make new traditions, and are essential to the continuum of consciousness educators experience as they develop their understanding and employment of decolonizing theories and pedagogies. Therefore, we'll also examine historical films like Daughter of Dawn (1920) and contemporary films like Beverly Singer's Wiping the Warpaint Off the Lens.

The course will focus on the concept of whiteness, the gaze, and transference in contemporary Native American fiction. Case studies present evidence from a variety of local sources—toys, heritage pageants, Indian mascots, misrepresented "history," advertisements—that demonstrate the pervasiveness of the [stereotyping] problem. Special guest testimonies chronicle various sets of colonial relations that undermine Indigenous self-determination in schools, many which surface in small and everyday acts erasure, silence, and marginalization that are continuous with and foreground more epic colonial violence. A critical analysis of these phenomenon can provide students with powerful insights into the challenges that teachers and educators face in U.S. public schools and points the way to creating oppositional pedagogies.

In addressing the core tenets of Indigenous resistance movements, like Red Power, Idle No More, Dakota Access Pipeline and Missing & Murdered Indigenous Women, the course offers fresh insights into the politics of active decolonization. The course will conclude with a Colonial Reality Tour of campus to help unfold the lessons of colonization in Southwest Oklahoma.

**MARCH 7TH AND MARCH 14TH (2020)
NANCE BOYER HALL, ROOM 2064
8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

REQUIRED TEXTS:
Indigenous Children's Survivance in Public Schools by Leilani Sabzalian (2019)
An Indigenous Peoples' History of the United States by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2019)
(For Young People) by Roxanne Dunbar-Ortiz (2019)
-edited by Jean Mordica and Dabire Reese

DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATION, ENGLISH AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES
For more information, contact Cameron University, Dr. Christopher Keller, Professor and Chair, Dept. of Communication, English and Foreign Languages (505) 581-2259; ckeller@cameron.edu

March 2020

Walters - Community Building parking lot
Elgin - Empty Parking lot next to soccer fields
Lawton - CN fitness Center parking lot
Apache - Community Building Parking lot
Fletcher - Corner of Hancock and Cole

WHERE WILL I BE?

COMANCHE NATION RECYCLE TRAILER CALENDAR

for more information contact the office at (580)-492-3754 or at tito.lindsey@comanchenation.com

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
	24	25	26	27	28	29 FLETCHER
2 WALTERS	3 WALTERS	4 WALTERS	5 WALTERS	6 WALTERS	7 WALTERS	8 WALTERS
9 ELGIN	10 ELGIN	11 ELGIN	12 ELGIN	13 ELGIN	14 ELGIN	15 ELGIN
16 LAWTON	17 LAWTON	18 LAWTON	19 LAWTON	20 FLETCHER	21 FLETCHER	22 FLETCHER
23 FLETCHER	24 FLETCHER	25 APACHE	26 APACHE	27 APACHE	28 LAWTON GPTC 580 Environmental summit	29 COMPLEX
30 COMPLEX	31 COMPLEX	1	2	3	4	5

People, Places and Things Happening

Figuroa's Elementary Class Wins Academic Meet



Courtesy Photo

Figuroa

Tribal member, Beckham Cooper Figuroa, attends Crossings Elementary School in Edmond, Okla.

Figuroa and his Academic team won a meet with several other schools.

Figuroa, is the grandson of Angie Garza and great-grandson of Marlene Cooper.

Owens Receives Student of the Month



Courtesy Photo

Owens

Tribal member, Lucas Owens is in Pre-kindergarten at Elgin Elementary located in Elgin, Okla.

Owens received Student of the Month and is very "Owlstanding."

Owens is the son of Adrienne Roughface and William Owens.

Quis Quis Graduates Magna Cum Laude from Haskell University



Courtesy Photo

Quis Quis

Tribal member, Amber Rose Quis Quis, graduated Magna Cum Laude with her Degree in Social Work from Haskell Indian Nations University located in Lawrence, Kansas.

Quis Quis is now continuing her education to work towards her Degree in Indigenous and American Indian Studies.

Quis Quis is the daughter of Ann Quis Quis, the granddaughter of Marie Chebahtah, great granddaughter of Leonard Chebahtah and the great great granddaughter of Chebahtah (Chevato).

Tribal Athlete Trains for Olympic Qualifiers



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Moore

Darien Moore competed in the 2015 Indoor USA Track & Field championships, placing fourth in Shotput, eighth place in the Weight Throw, as well as qualifying for the 2016 Olympic trials, in Portland Oregon. He competed again in 2017 for the Indoor USA Track & Field, and his goal is to go begin training for next year's event as well. Moore moved back to the Lawton area to begin training, and to get refocused on his goal.

He said after playing team sports in high school, he wanted to play solo sports like track and field.

"Everything you put in, you get out of it," said Moore. "The responsibility is yours and only yours."

Moore has also volunteered to coach at universities, which gave him a different perspective of the sport, and he said that has made him a better athlete. He added he has coached national qualifiers, and school record holders.

Moore said his family have been very supportive throughout his athletic career from starting in California, traveling to North Dakota, then Portland, Oregon, saying each place gave him new experiences with different coaches.

Moore will begin training for the 2021 Track & Fields events, and at 28-years old, he added he is in his prime, and will continue to compete for years to come.



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

COLLEGE INFORMATION OPPORTUNITY. The Comanche Nation Higher Education Program hosted its annual Parent College Information Night on February 19, at the Comanche Nation Complex's Watchtaker Hall. Christian Boos, Higher Education Specialist, said



Parent College Information Night is important for Comanche tribal parents and students to come and gather information regarding scholarships opportunities, colleges universities, and it's a great opportunity for the parents to ask questions regarding financing college education. From high school freshmen to seniors, the event also brought local tribal parents and students from the Kiowa, Wichita, and Caddo tribes. There was a huge array of college vendors at the event, with some coming from out of state to provide information to students and parents. Catherine Parker, director for the Comanche Nation Higher Education Program, said over 200 RSVP for the event, but many more showed up. She added more students and vendors participated this year. The Comanche Nation IT Department streamed the event live, so parents and students who could not attend can find the video on *The Comanche Nation News* Facebook Page. **PHOTOS:** Top: Corey Still, Ph.D., from the American Indian Graduate Center, visits with tribal members during the Parent Information Night. Left: Oklahoma Indian Educator of the Year, Julian Guerrero Jr., was one of many speakers at the event, motivating students and parents to pursue a college education. Right: Comanche Nation Vice Chairman, Lanora Parker, visits with parents and students during the college information outreach event.

The Comanche Nation Offices will be closed April 10, for Good Friday, and re-open 8 a.m., April 13, for regular business.

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ALL GOURD BENEFIT POW-WOW

SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2020

2:00 PM TO 10:00 PM

WATCHETAKER HALL

COMANCHE NATION COMPLEX

584 BINGO RD, LAWTON, OK

HEAD STAFF:

MC-MARTIN FLORES

HEAD SINGER-BUBBA SOVO

HEADMAN GOURD – TIMOTHY PARKER, JR.

ARENA DIRECTOR – JIM WADE

SUPPER WILL BE AT 5:30 PM

SPECIAL INVITATION TO OUR COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS AND JR. PRINCESS

ALL VENDORS ARE WELCOME

(DONATION FOR SET-UP)

CONTACT:

RICHARD CHIBITTY 580-574-1380

VICKIE SANDER 580-704-8528

MARY WADE 580-713-8715



Follow the Comanche Nation Public Information Office:



comachenationpio

Obituaries

Zenia Mae Anderson



Courtesy Photo

Anderson

Zenia Mae Anderson, 86, Apache, passed away January 25, with her loving family by her side.

Funeral Service was January 31, at the Apache Reformed Church in Apache with Regina Brannock officiating. Burial followed at West Cache Creek Cemetery Apache under direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

Wake Service was January 30, at the Reformed Church in Apache.

Anderson was born July 24, 1933, in Elgin to Frank and Mary (Walktoquathy) Poemoceah. She grew up in Apache and at-

tended schools at Boone/Apache, Ft. Sill Indian School and graduated from St. Patrick's Mission School in Anadarko. She went on to Beautician School and had her own business. She attended college and graduated with a Bachelor of Art from USAO in Chickasha. She was the director of enrollment at the Comanche Nation for 18 years. She enjoyed gardening, picking pecans, and laughing. She also loved to sew, and sell Indian Jewelry with her husband. She was a proud member of the Comanche Nation.

She is survived by her sons; Ray Anderson, Johnny Edwin Anderson Jr. and Larry Joe Anderson all of Apache. Brother; Bert Perdasofpy of Anadarko, Five Granddaughter's; Annie Rae Headlee of Wichita Falls, Texas, Andi Dawn Stevenson San Antonio Texas, Danielle Mae Meders of Dallas, Ga., Billie Jean Anderson of Cache and Kelly Acosta of Choctaw. Numerous other family and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; Frank and Mary Poemoceah, husband John Anderson Sr. sisters; Norma Penniston, and Camille Wallace.

Bert C. Perdasofpy



Courtesy Photo

Perdasofpy

Bert C. Perdasofpy, 80, passed away February 19, in Chickasha with his family by his side.

Funeral Service was February 22, at Apache Reformed Church in Apache with Pastor Gary Collier of Paris, Tenn., officiating. Burial

followed at West Cache Creek KCA, Apache under direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

Wake Service was February 21, at Apache Reformed Church.

Perdasofpy was born August 5, 1939, in Lawton to Bert Perdasofpy and May Walktoquathy. After birth he lived in Faxon before the family moved to Boone where he attended school before graduating from Apache High. He continued his education at Okmulgee Tech and graduated with a Diesel Mechanic Degree. He grew up on a farm, riding horses, playing in the creek and farming. His favorite past time was racing his cars, he was a Ford man. He won various trophies racing his cars including running from the law. He also raced in the streets. He rebuilt several engines that were blown while racing. Perdasofpy spent his later years in Anadarko. He is known by a great many people. Perdasofpy did not have a ton of money but helped many people by fixing their vehicles, giving them a place to stay or giving them cash. He was a proud member of the Comanche Nation. He taught his children to be independent and all have professional employment today.

He is survived by his children; Bertha Perdasofpy of Rockhill S.C., Cleveland Perdasofpy and wife Terry of Bartlesville, Jerry Perdasofpy of Bartlesville, and Terry Welker of Claremore. Eight Grandchildren and 13 Great Grandchildren. Numerous other family member and friends. He is preceded in death by his parents; Bert and May (Walktoquathy) Perdasofpy, sisters; Norma Penisten, Zenia Anderson, Camille Wallace. Great Grandson Marcus Leal. Grandparents; Andrew and Kinney Perdasofpy



Its Spring Time!

Consider Growing a Simple Garden to Help the Ecosystem and Your Home

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



With Spring in the air, now is a great time to consider growing a few plants and flowers that will not only bring color to your yard, but also aid the pollination of flowers, fruit, and vegetable plants.

Butterfly garden

Butterflies like colorful single-bloom flowers. They prefer single blooms because it is easier for them to get nectar from the flower. Marigolds, zinnias, cosmos, black-eyed Susan, purple coneflower, goldenrod, aster and buttonbush are all known to attract butterflies.

According to the Farmers Almanac website:

- Butterfly gardens don't have to be large. You can grow plants in containers on a patio or even in hanging pots and window boxes.
- Butterflies need the sun to

maintain body temperature, so place your garden in the sunniest location possible.

- The key to attracting butterflies is to provide them with lots of nectar sources; they also prefer to feed on open, tube-shape flowers.

- All butterflies start out as caterpillars that require host plants on which to feed. Many of these are native plants—weeds and wildflowers that may already be growing on or near your property. Some good choices include clovers, milkweeds, and violets.

- After a rain, you may see butterflies congregating around a puddle or damp area in the garden to drink and extract minerals from the soil. Maintaining a puddle in the same spot will keep butterflies coming back.

Plants that help with insects

With Spring also come flies, mosquitos and other annoying insects. Some plants can help keep bugs at bay, by both growing them in your yard, and making simple sprays with them.

According to Mother Nature Network's webpage:

- Basil repels flies and mosquitos, and is delicious in salads and soups.
- Lavender repels moths, fleas, and mosquitos. Place tied bouquets in your home to help keep flies outdoors.
- Lemongrass repels mosquitos
- Mint repels mosquitos. Mint is best grown in pots rather than the ground because it spreads aggressively.

- Rosemary repels mosquitos
- Catnip Though catnip is an herb, it's one that people usually don't eat. Cats love it, of course. A member of the mint family, it contains a chemical called nepetalactone, which attracts cats but repels insects such as mosquitos, flies, deer ticks and cockroaches.
- Chrysanthemums Repel roaches, ants, Japanese beetles, ticks, silverfish, lice, fleas, bedbugs, spider mites, harlequin bugs and root-knot nematodes.
- Floss flowers Floss flowers contain coumarin, a chemical used in bug repellent sprays. Mosquitos don't like the smell of the chemical, which is also found in sweetgrass.
- Common lantanas: Repel mosquitos.

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APPOINTMENTS AVAILABLE FOR HELP WITH THE

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- Creating an account
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Language Department
(580) 699-7231
language@comanchenation.com

Currently located at the Dorothy Sunrise Lorentino Education Center



**SAVE
THE DATE**

Comanche Nation Office of Environmental Program's Earth Day Event.

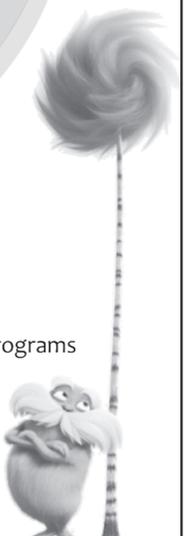
When: Friday, April 24, 2020
Where: Watchetaker Hall
(Comanche Nation Complex)
Time: 10:00 am – 2:00 pm

For More Information:

Please contact the Comanche Nation Office of Environmental Programs

Phone: (580) 492) 3754 **Fax:** (580) 492-3733

This event will be open to the public
We Hope You Can Join Us



Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday
February 1- Marshall 'Chubs' Kerchee
February 16- Brooke Akoneto

Happy Birthday
March 1- Matthew Asetamy
March 2- Aliayah Ann Aitson
March 2- Kena Poahway
March 11- Rose Edith Nauni (91)
March 17- Ricky Poahway
March 20- Doni Poahway
March 26- Raymond "Dink" Nauni
March 1- Michael Akoneto
March 3- Charles Michael Akoneto
March 7- Jacob Post Akoneto
March 15- Aiden Akoneto



Happy Belated Birthday
Marshall 'Chubs'
Kerchee- February 1



Happy Birthday
Aliayah Ann Aitson
March 2



Happy Birthday
Kena Poahway
March 2



Happy Birthday
Ricky Poahway
March 17



Happy Birthday
Doni Poahway
March 20

Comanche Nation News
April-Milestones
Deadline~ March 15
Email: candace.todd@comanchenation.com
Mail:
Comanche Nation-PIO
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, OK 73501
Contact: (580) 492-3621



Marriage Announcement
Pricilla & Wesley Stillwell
January 7, 2020

Marriage
It's a partnership between two people who decide to take the adventure of life together sometimes crazy, sometimes routine, lots of times fun, but Always worth it.

CALLING ALL ATHLETES!
Send photos of your Comanche athletes to the Comanche Nation PIO by 5 p.m. May 15, so they can be placed in the June edition of *The Comanche Nation News*. Send their name, age, grade, and school to:
Email: pio@comanchenation.com
Mail: The Comanche Nation News, PO Box 908, Lawton, OK 73502
In Person- The PIO Bldg is located next to the Comanche Nation Food Distribution Office at the Comanche Nation Complex.
For more information, call (580) 492-3381.



IAMNDN AND COMANCHE NATION PREVENTION & RECOVERY PRESENTS

EASTER EGG HUNT

SAT APRIL 4, 2020

TREATS • FACE PAINTING • PRIZE EGGS

**COMANCHE NATION COMPLEX
JANICE PEWEWARDY SOFTBALL FIELD
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

ALL AGES WELCOME!



THIS EVENT IS FREE AND OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY. ALCOHOL, DRUGS, AND FIREARMS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED THE COMANCHE NATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY THEFT, ACCIDENTS, INJURY, OR DEATH

Welcome to th

Story and Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

During the week of January 20-25, the 2020 Caddo County Tournament began, and the best of teams came out and played hard. The tournament was located at the Anadarko Warrior Fieldhouse in Anadarko, Okla. Only two lucky teams came out Caddo County Champs, that happen to be Lookeba-Sickles Lady Panthers who pulled a win over Cyril Lady Pirates, Final score: 54 to 35, and Fort-Cobb Broxton who went up against Cyril Pirates, Final Score: 74 to 52. Congratulations to all teams that competed in the Tournament. The Best of Luck Next Year!



Boone-Apache Lady Warrior, Lauren Blackstar, catches the ball and goes in for a lay-up.



Cyril Lady Pirate, Ashley Smith, goes up for a three-pointer. She made the basket catching her team up by 3-points.



Cyril Pirate, Alex Early No. 21, tries his hardest to steal the ball back.



Boone-Apache Lady Warrior, Alysia Whitewolf No. 14, gets ready to steal the ball.



Mountain View-Gotebo Lady Tiger, Grace Sovo-Cook, gets ready to in-bound the ball for her team.



Lady Pirate, Jaysia Tieyah No. 24, gets down and ready in Post-player position against Carnegie Lady Wildcat, Jada Sink.



On January 25, every seat inside the Anadarko Warrior Fieldhouse located in Anadarko, Okla. was filled during the finals of the Caddo County Tournament.

JESUS SAID, "ALL THAT THE FATHER GIVES ME WILL COME TO ME, AND WHOEVER COMES TO ME I WILL NEVER CAST OUT." (JOHN 6:37)

COVENANT BAPTIST CHURCH —Reformed Baptist—

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SERVICE TIMES: SUN: 10am, 11am. THUR: 6:30pm

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WEBSITE: cbclawton.com

Mark-ha Tsaatü Narümu'ipü 1:12-13*

Suve'süse' surü Spirit sukühu pianümüwahtükühu u miaru'iha u tsasú'atsinu. Surüse' Jesus hayarokwe süümanürüna naravenitüükü suku vianümüwahtükü naahka. Surüse' püewatsi'ünüü'nüüma'ai naahka, suhka Satan-ha pümi mavuniiku. Wihnuse' surüü kasaráivoo'nüü u mananaa'waihka.

* Excerpt from *Mark-ha Tsaatü Narümu'ipü (The Gospel of Mark in Comanche and English)*, American Bible Society, 1958. Free reprints available upon request.

Congratulations to the 2020 Caddo County Tournament Champions Lookeba-Sickles Lady Panthers and Fort Cobb Broxton Mustangs



Courtesy Photos



Comanche County Tournaments

Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff

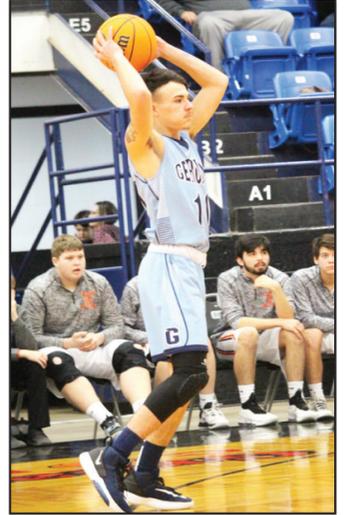
An abundance of tribal youth came to show their skills in basketball, during the Comanche County Tournaments. Students not only represented their schools but also the Comanche Nation. The Comanche County Tournaments brings tribal families from all over the area together in support of their children. Tournament games were played throughout the week, beginning January 20, with the championship being played on the 25 at the Great Plains Coliseum. This year in the girls championship game was the Fredrick Lady Bombers defeating the Sterling Lady Tigers 54 -53. In the Boys championship game was the Big Pasture Rangers defeating the Fredrick Bombers (coached by tribal member Andrew McClung) 56 - 51.



Ayden Mithlo
Sterling Public School



Elizabeth McCarthy
Geronimo High School



Colton Elkins
Geronimo High School



Joe McCarthy
Geronimo High School



Logan Powers
Fletcher High School



Jade Bessemer
Geronimo High School



Lottie Deere
Geronimo High School



Rudy Ototivo
Walters High School



Sam Tyler
Fletcher High School



Braeden Jones
Geronimo High School



Mackayla Chibitty
Indiahoma High School



Nick Chibitty
Indiahoma High School



Coach Andrew McClung
Fredrick High School



Cruz Perez
Walters High School



Jarika Estes
Walters High School



Adam Maldonado
Geronimo High School



AJ McClung
Fredrick High School

Invitations to Respond to the 2020 Census Questionnaire to Be Mailed to Households Throughout the Country

U.S. Census Bureau Press Release

Between March 12 and March 20, invitations to participate in the 2020 Census will start arriving in households across the country.

“The Census Bureau is ready for the nation to respond next month,” said Census Bureau Director Dr. Steven Dillingham. “Millions of Americans are applying for 2020 Census jobs, more than 270,000 local and national organizations are engaged, and in less than 30 days the majority of U.S. households will receive an invitation to respond to help ensure that every person in the U.S. is counted.”

“The 2020 Census is on mission, on schedule, and on budget to promote an accurate count,” Dillingham continued. “Response is important because statistics from the census are used in distributing where hundreds of billions in funding for school lunches, hospitals, roads and much more. The invitations will remind respondents to include everyone living in the household, whether they are related or not. This includes young children. Your response will impact communities for the next decade.”

“The Census Bureau has successfully tested its data collection systems, has built backup systems to support resilient operations, and is ready to receive responses from all around the country,” added Dillingham.

This invitation will include instructions on how to respond to the 2020 Census online or by phone. By April 1, most households will have received an invitation delivered either by mail or by a census taker. In areas of the country that are less likely to respond online, a paper questionnaire will be included in the initial mailing to households. Reminder mailings will be sent to households that do not respond, and in the fourth mailing every household that has not yet responded will receive a paper questionnaire.

Once households receive invitations, please respond to the 2020 Census by using the provided Census ID. If a household is unable to enter the Census ID people can still respond, by providing an address. Whether people respond online, by phone or by mail, it is important to respond right away.

Below is a timeline of how

and when the Census Bureau will invite households to complete the 2020 Census questionnaire:

- March 12-20: Initial invitations to respond online and by phone will be delivered by the U.S. Postal Service. Areas that are less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with the invitation to respond online or over the phone.
- March 16-24: Reminder letters will be delivered.
- March 26-April 3: Reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not responded.
- April 8-16: Reminder letters and paper questionnaires will be delivered to remaining households that have not responded.
- April 20-27: Final reminder postcards will be delivered to households that have not yet responded before census takers follow up in person.

If a household does not respond to any of the invitations, a census taker will follow up in person sometime between May 13 and July 31. A sample of the 2020 Census paper questionnaire and preview of the online questionnaire is available, along with more information about when most people will receive their invitations in the mail.

The 2020 Census questionnaire is available online and by phone in English and 12 additional languages: Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, Korean, Russian, Arabic, Tagalog, Polish, French, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Japanese. These 13 languages cover the language needs of over 99% of all U.S. households. To help ensure a complete count of everyone, the Census Bureau will also provide video language guides, print language guides and language glossaries in 59 non-English languages, including American Sign Language, Braille, and Large Print.

The U.S. Constitution mandates a census of the population every 10 years. Census statistics help determine the number of seats each state holds in the U.S. House of Representatives and how billions of dollars in federal funds are allocated to state and local communities for the next 10 years.

For more information about the 2020 Census, visit 2020census.gov.

COMANCHE NATION 2020 PRINCESSES ELECTION POWWOW

OUTGOING COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS ASHLEIGH MITHLO



OUTGOING JUNIOR COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS RITA MONOESSY

2 P.M. - 11 P.M. APRIL 11, 2020

WATCHETAKER HALL- COMANCHE COMPLEX VOTING -

NOON- 6 P.M. APRIL 10, 2020 AT WATCHETAKER HALL

7 A.M. - 7 P.M. APRIL 11, 2020 AT WATCHETAKER HALL

MUST BE 18 YEARS & OLDER TO VOTE. BRING CDIB OR STATE ID.

HEAD STAFF

MC - EDDIE MAHSEET

HEAD SINGERS - GAYLON MOTAH 1994-1996 COMANCHE PRINCESS DIRECTOR & JOEL MOTAH

HEAD MAN DANCER - GERALD CHASENAH - 1989-1991 COMANCHE PRINCESS DIRECTOR
HEAD LADY DANCER - JAN YEAHQO STUMBLINGBEAR - 1979 COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS

AD - RAYMOND WAHKKINNEY & TENNYSON KERCHIE

CO-HOSTS - COMANCHE PRINCESS SORORITY & COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES

SECURITY - BROOKLYN NAUNI

FLAGS - ELEANOR MCDANIEL & LANETTE TAHCHAWWICKAH 2001 COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

2 P.M. GOURD DANCE

4 P.M. PRINCESS CANDIDATE SPEECHES

5 P.M. SUPPER

6 P.M. GOURD DANCE

7 PM GRAND ENTRY

THE 2020 COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS AND 2020 JUNIOR COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS WILL BE ANNOUNCED AS SOON AS BALLOTS ARE COUNTED AND CONFIRMED.

SPECIAL INVITATION TO FORMER COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS DIRECTORS AND FORMER COMANCHE NATION PRINCESSES. ALL COMANCHE ORGANIZATIONS & ROYALTY INVITED.

ARTS AND CRAFTS VENDORS CAN SET UP FOR \$30. NO FOOD VENDORS. SPACES ON A FIRST COME FIRST SERVE BASIS. NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, ACCIDENTS OR VANDALISM. FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL JOLENE SCHONCHIN 580-583-2649.

Oklahoma House Bill ‘Ida’s Law’ Lobby to Create Tribal Liaison for Missing, Murdered Indigenous Women Cases

Jana Allen, junior news reporter/OU Daily/ February 16, 2020

An Oklahoma House bill that would create a tribal liaison within the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation will be considered soon — the bill is dedicated to Ida Beard, a missing member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes.

House Bill 3345, or “Ida’s Law,” would assign cases of missing and murdered indigenous people across Oklahoma to a new Office of Liaison, said the bill’s author Rep. Mickey Dollens, D-93. The office could consist of one person or multiple people, depending on funding.

The bill comes amid the growing movement to raise awareness about the missing and murdered indigenous women epidemic. The office would help ease the uncertainty that stems from jurisdictional boundaries when a tribal member is missing or murdered, Dollens said — a prominent reason the MMIW epidemic exists.

“If a crime happens in Indian country, and then the perpetrator goes back to State land, the district attorney can’t do anything,” Dollens said. “It has to go up to the proper authorities, usually the FBI, and sometimes that can get lost in the shuffle.” Oklahoma has the 10th most cases of missing and murdered indigenous women in the country, according to a report by the Urban Indian Health Institute. However, as acknowledged in the report, there is sometimes poor data collection by cities on these cases — meaning the reported rate could underestimate the reality.

The report also states that of the 5,712 MMIW cases reported by the National Crime Information Center in 2016, only 116 were logged in the federal missing persons database, NamUs.

Ida Beard, the bill’s namesake, went missing in June 2015 from her mother’s El Reno home without a trace. The El Reno police found no leads, and it became a cold case over the years, said her cousin LaRenda Morgan.

“She left one evening with friends and just never returned home,” Morgan said.

The Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes is hosting a Lobby Day event

for Ida’s Law from 10 a.m. to noon on Feb. 17 at the 2nd Floor Rotunda of the Oklahoma State Capitol building. The bill must be heard and passed by the House Judiciary Committee by Feb. 25 to move to the house floor, but it has faced some obstacles so far. Dollens said Feb. 10 that the bill was scheduled to be heard in the committee Feb. 11 at 3 p.m. But on the afternoon of Feb. 10, Carmen Thompson, the president of the MMIW state chapter, and Morgan were told by Rep. Chris Kannady, R-91, that the bill was being taken off of the agenda and that he did not want to meet with anyone regarding the bill.

Kannady did not respond to The Daily’s requests for comment.

“When I approached (Kannady), and he (saw) me, he said, ‘If this is about the MMIW bill, I’m not talking to anybody today, I’m not talking to anybody until I talk to OSBI,’” Thompson said.

Thompson, whose niece Emily Morgan was murdered in August 2016, was left in shock after attempting to help a bill she cares about get passed.

“This is my first time lobbying, and this is the experience I get,” Thompson said.

Morgan, who is also governmental affairs executive officer of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes, said Kannady had previously told her he didn’t want to meet with her about the bill, so Morgan had been focusing on lobbying other House members on the committee. But she said she wasn’t sure why Kannady would put the bill on the agenda and then remove it.

Morgan said Kannady’s legislative assistant told her on Feb. 13 that the bill was back on the committee’s agenda for Feb. 25.

With Thompson and Morgan both having missing or murdered family members, they said this issue is very close to their hearts, and they will continue lobbying for the bill to committee members and other legislators.

“The next step is to keep coming back and talking to state representatives and let our voices be heard for the families, and to

help push Ida’s Law to be passed,” Thompson said.

Morgan is Dollens’ constituent, and was the first one to talk to him about the missing and murdered epidemic and Ida’s case. Morgan said Dollens wanted to do something to help — so he went across the state to hear from tribal members and experts.

Last summer, Dollens requested an interim study on the MMIW epidemic in Oklahoma to see what legislation could be written to help. The study took place in the fall and resulted in Ida’s Law, along with a few other MMIW-centric bills that have been proposed by Rep. Daniel Pae, R-62, and Merleyn Bell, D-45, Dollens said.

Morgan said because Dollens highlighted Beard’s case, and because of a story The Oklahoman published in July 2019, the OSBI has picked up her case.

“They’re starting to investigate. ... They were trying to pull her medical records and gather details about her, her dental records, medical records and anything that they could use to help them investigate,” Morgan said. “So if it had not been for (Dollens and the media coverage), it would still be sitting in the El Reno Police Department.”

At the Feb. 17 Lobby Day, attendees will hear from several speakers, including Thompson, and see tributes to missing and murdered indigenous people.

The program will end with lunch, and attendees will be encouraged to find their representatives to lobby for Ida’s Law, Morgan said.

“Anybody who wants to support the legislation, or who thinks that this topic is important to them or they want to participate ... I would encourage them to come,” Morgan said. “We don’t want it to sit in this committee and not be heard and not be voted on. Because really (the deadline) is quickly approaching and come that day, if it hasn’t moved, that’s the end of it.”

IDA'S LAW HB3345

WHAT IS IDA'S LAW?

Ida's Law outlines the creation of the Office of Liaison under the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Persons. The Office of Liaison will consist of a missing persons specialist with significant experience working alongside tribal communities.



WHAT WILL THE OFFICE OF LIAISON DO?

Work with state, tribal and federal law enforcement agencies on missing persons and homicide cases involving tribal citizens.

INCLUDED PROGRAMS

DEVELOPING PROTOCOL

Develop protocol for law enforcement response to missing reports involving indigenous peoples.

NAMUS ASSISTANCE

Assist families, tribal agencies and nongovernmental entities in using the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System (NamUs) and other resources.

COURT CASE GUIDANCE

Provide guidance to victim's families with navigating state and federal district court cases.

PUBLIC AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TRAINING

Facilitate trainings for law enforcement and members of the public on issues relating to missing and murdered indigenous persons.

EDUCATION AND COORDINATION

Provide framework for coordination between state offices including, but not limited to, the Oklahoma Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, agency tribal liaisons, and the Secretary of Native American Affairs to provide training and education on MMIP issues and government-to-government relationships.

In honor of Ida Beard

Ida Beard has been missing since June 30, 2015. Beard is a citizen of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes and her case remains open to this day. Ida is one of many Native American women and girls across the country that has vanished without a trace and continue to vanish at alarming rates.

2020 Senior's Prom

Injury Prevention Celebrated Valentine's Day February 14, with Music and Dancing



Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff
2020 King and Queen
Rev. Bill Foote and Pauline Koweno



The couple married the longest were Mr. and Mrs. Bill Foote, married 57 years.



Doing the Bump, down the Soul Train line are mother and daughter duo, Johanna and Fawn Tsatoke.



Ron Mahsetky and Mison Noriaga dance to the sound of Redbone's song, "Come and Get Your Love."

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*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the advertised base rate. Loan rate and term are subject to credit worthiness. Other restrictions may apply. Not available on current FSFCU loans. All loans are subject to approval. **Payment example for 48 months at 2.69% is \$22.02 for each \$1000 financed.

***Payment example for 84 months at 4.19% is \$13.78 for each \$1000 financed. Rates offered December 9, 2019 through March 31, 2020.



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