



Yellowfish Ten Bears Tabanika Big Looking Glass Eschiti Moway Otter Belt Parker Whitewolf Horseback Wildhorse

# THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

*Comanche Strong, Stronger Together*

VOLUME 23 EDITION 2

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

Positsg Mra (February 2022)

## WIOA & Numunu Staffing are on a Mission to Reduce Native American Unemployment

Submitted by Edward Tahhahwah Jr./ Numunu Staffing

Unemployment rates for Native Americans are nearly 29% nationally; as reported by Brookings in an article published on November 10, 2021, "The monthly jobs report ignores Native Americans. How are they faring economically?"

1. Nationally, the unemployment rate in November of last year was 4.2%, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, US Dept. of Labor.

2. According to the Brookings article, Native Americans report the highest unemployment rates compared to other minority groups.

To improve Native American employment, the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma secures grants and invests in workforce development programs.

The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) offers the Work Experience Program. Taking effect in 2015, WIOA replaced the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) and helped job seekers access employment, education, training, and support services, empowering them to succeed in the labor market.

"We are revamping the Workforce (WIOA) Department," said Rodney Parker, who took the program's lead as Director in December 2019. "We provide more services to our tribal members now than in the past. Our services empower tribal members to compete in today's Workforce and develop pathways to meaningful careers," Parker continued.

"WIOA and Numunu Staffing share the same goal, and by actively collaborating, we can improve employment for Native Americans quicker," Parker added.

WIOA's services start with training and mentorship for tribal clients -- Numunu Staffing leverages that training and monetizes it for the candidate and tribe. Numunu Staffing is a for-profit staffing firm wholly owned by the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. Often, WIOA will refer program participants to Numunu Staffing for placement. Numunu Staffing

See, UNEMPLOYMENT, Page 3

## Comanche Nation Housing Authority Purchases Record-Breaking 15 Homes for Low-Income Families in 2021



Courtesy Photos

Submitted by Comanche Nation Housing Authority

Comanche Nation Housing Authority (CNHA) closed on a record-breaking 15 homes in 2021, giving 15 Southwest Oklahoma families the opportunity to become homeowners as part of the organization's homeownership lease purchase program. The organization has been serving enrolled members of the Comanche Nation for more than 60 years. In that time, CNHA has provided more than 850 homes to Tribal members and has placed an average of four families per year in its lease purchase program.

"We are thrilled to have the opportunity to help additional families on a path to homeownership, especially given the financial hardships so many people have had to overcome throughout the past couple of years," said Russell Sossamon, executive director of CNHA, a Southwest Oklahoma organization that provides rental and housing assistance to low-income enrolled tribal members of the Comanche Nation.

CNHA received a one-time federal grant of \$1.5 million for 2021 under the American Rescue Plan (ARP), all of which went to purchasing homes in the southwest counties of Oklahoma. The organization also recently received a federal grant of \$5 million from the Indian Housing Block Grant Competitive program. This additional funding will allow

CNHA to continue its homeownership lease purchase program and provide 10 families with homes each year through 2025, more than doubling its annual average.

"There is a huge demand for our services in Southwest Oklahoma," Sossamon said. "Our lease-to-own program provides the means for low-income families to overcome their credit issues and financial obstacles and become homeowners."

CNHA's homeownership lease purchase program is a lease-to-own program that provides low-income enrolled tribal members of the Comanche Nation the opportunity to acquire homeownership in five counties across Southwest Oklahoma, including Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Kiowa and Tillman. Unlike conventional homeownership programs, CNHA's program does not require families to meet standard credit score requirements or make a down payment.

CNHA also subsidizes the cost of the home by deducting \$50,000 from the final sale price, regardless of the price of the home.

"We also pay all insurance and taxes associated with the property and do not charge interest. This program truly is a game-changer for low-income families who want to become homeowners," Sossamon said.



Those who meet the Housing and Urban Development (HUD) low-income requirements can join CNHA's waiting list to participate. There are nearly 100 families currently on the waiting list to join the lease-to-own program.

To learn more about the program's requirements or to inquire about joining the waiting list, visit [www.comanchehousing.com](http://www.comanchehousing.com).

### ABOUT COMANCHE NATION HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Comanche Nation Housing Authority (CNHA) provides rental and housing assistance to low-income enrolled members of the Comanche Nation through a number of its service programs, including the down payment and closing cost grant, elder home rehabilitation program, rental program, student housing program, homeownership lease purchase program and CNHA emergency home repair program (HIP). CNHA currently operates in five counties -- Caddo, Comanche, Cotton, Kiowa and Tillman for most programs.

For more information about program requirements and low-income guidelines, call (580) 357-4956, or visit [www.comanchehousing.com](http://www.comanchehousing.com).

## February the Month of Hearts



By Paula Karty/News Staff

As many view February as the month of Love because of Valentine's Day, it is also the American Heart Month.

February is the awareness month for heart health in the United States, with one day set aside as National Wear Red Day to raise awareness of heart disease. On the first Friday in February, people are encouraged to wear red to raise awareness of heart disease.

Throughout the day, your heart is working. You might not give this much thought. Your heart is the most important muscle in your body. The heart pumps blood and oxygen to all the organs throughout your body.

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is one of the most widespread and complicated health challenges in the United States. Cardiovascular disease, which is a disorder of the heart and blood vessels - such as heart attack or stroke.

Heart disease affects all ages, genders, and ethnicities. Heart disease occurs when the arteries leading to the heart become clogged. Risk factors for heart disease include high cholesterol, high blood pressure, smoking, diabetes, and excessive alcohol use.

Although, a lot is learned about how the heart works, there are still unanswered questions about heart health and the cardiovascular system. The best way to protect your heart is stay active, eat a healthy and balanced diet, and reduce your daily stress.

It's never too soon - or too late - to take steps to prevent a heart attack.

- Quit smoking, if you don't smoke, Don't start.
- Lower your BMI to approximately 25 through a healthy diet consisting of at least five fruits and vegetables a day and 30 min. of vigorous exercise five days a week.
- Take your prescribed heart disease medication.
- Manage your stress levels.

The term "heart disease," refers to several types of heart conditions. The most common type of heart disease in the United States is Coronary Artery Disease (CAD), which affects the blood flow to the heart. Decrease blood flow can cause a heart attack.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, sometimes heart disease may be "silent," and not diagnosed until a person experiences signs or symptoms of a heart attack, heart failure, or an arrhythmia. Symptoms may include: **Heart attack:** Chest pain or discomfort, upper back or neck pain, indigestion, heart burn, nausea or vomiting, extreme fatigue, upper body discomfort, dizziness, and shortness

See HEART, page 3

## In Loving Memory



"We are deeply saddened by the recent news of the passing of one of our business committeemen CBC No. 1, June Sovo. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Sovo family. This Comanche Warrior's soul is now at peace. May our condolences bring his family comfort, and may our prayers ease the pain of our loss. What an amazing person and what a remarkable life June shared with us. We feel so lucky that June Sovo was a part of our Comanche family.

*"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."*

John 14:3

As Chairman of the Comanche Nation, I hereby order, by the authority vested in me by the Comanche Nation Constitution, that the flag of the Comanche Nation shall be flown at half-staff at the Comanche Nation Complex and upon all tribal buildings and grounds."

URA, Chairman Woommavovah



# The Easiest Way To Grow Your Savings!

## Add City Savers To Your Checking Account!\*



\*Must Have A City National Bank Savings Account



## COMANCHE NATION ADDRESS UPDATES

Did you receive your 2021 Per Cap and/or Elders Payment?

Please Contact Per Cap Assistance at **(877)585-4177** to check on any missing Per Capita or Elders Payments.

You may now update your address with Enrollment by going to the enrollment page at **www.comanchenation.com** and clicking on the Online Form or call **(580)492-3371** for other enrollment related questions.

**More Than Banking, It's Family!**



**877-585-4177**  
**CNB1901.COM/COMANCHE**

**MEMBER  
FDIC**

## THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Posits Mna  
"Sleet Month"  
February 2022

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 March edition is 5 p.m., February 15.

Contact:

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

- Jolene Schonchin, Editor, Reporter, Photographer- Email: Jolene.Schonchin@comanchenation.com -Telephone Number-(580)492-3382
- Paula Karty, Assist. Editor, Reporter, Photographer- Email: Paula.Karty@comanchenation.com -Telephone Number-(580)492-3383
- Stacey Heminokky, Administrative Assistant- Email: Stacey.Heminokky@comanchenation.com Telephone Number (580) 492-3385
- 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 an 800 word limit. The letters to the editor or articles contained in *The Comanche Nation News* does not reflect the views or opinions of the PIO staff.

### Comanche Nation Officials

**Chairman**  
Mark Woommavovah  
**Vice Chairman**  
Dr. Cornel Pewewardy  
**Secretary/Treasurer**  
John David Wahnee  
**Committeeman No. 1**  
June Sovo  
**Committeeman No. 2**  
Diana Doyebi  
**Committeeman No. 3**  
Alice Kassanavoid  
**Committeeman No. 4**  
Robert Komahchee  
**Tribal Administrator**  
Julia Mantzke  
**To contact officials:**  
Comanche Nation  
P.O. Box 908  
Lawton, Okla. 73502  
Toll Free: (877) 492-4988  
**Physical Address**  
584 Bingo Rd.  
Lawton, OK 73505

**NAJA**  
Native American Journalists Association  
Member of the Native American Journalist Association since 2001

Member of the Society of Professional Journalists since 2010

Follow The Comanche Nation News

The Comanche Nation News

FOLLOW US ON  
twitter  
TCNNPIO

Instagram  
comanchenationpio

# Government

## A Total of 18 Resolutions on the January Agenda for the CBC Meeting

Story by Hannah Tehauno/News Staff

**Editor's Note:** This is an overview of the January 8, Comanche Business Committee Monthly Meeting, and not the official minutes. To obtain a copy of the official minutes, please contact the Office of the Chairman, (580)492-3251.

Chairman, Mark Woommavovah, called the meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Secretary-Treasurer, John D. Wahnee, conducted Roll Call. A quorum was established with all the Comanche Business Committee (CBC) members present.

Committeeman No. 2, Diana Gail Sovo-Doyebi, began the meeting with the Invocation.

Committeeman No. 3, Alice Kassanavoid, motioned to approve the minutes of December CBC meeting. Committeeman No. 1, June Sovo, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

### Resolutions

**List No. 01-2022: Enrollment Eligible Resolution.**

The applicants have been verified and are eligible for membership with the Comanche Nation Tribe.

Sovo-Doyebi, motioned to approve. Sovo, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 02-2022: Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1223-Adults.**

Applicants approved for Comanche Tribal Membership.

Sovo, made the motion to approve. Committeeman No. 4, Robert Komahchee Jr., seconded the motion. The motion carried 6/0/0.

**List No. 03-2022: Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List 1224.**

Applicants do not meet BQ. Sovo-Doyebi, motioned to approve. Kassanavoid, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 04-2022: Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List-1225-No Allottee.**

Kassanavoid, made the motion to approve. Sovo, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 05-2022: Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List-1226-Outside of Parameters.**

Kassanavoid, motions to approve resolution. Sovo, and Robert Komahchee Jr., second the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 06-2022: Great Plains Legal Services (GPLS) Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Resolution.**

Wahnee, made the motion to approve. Sovo, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 07-2022: Comanche Nation Gaming Commission (CNGC) Resolution 4a Vendor.**

Kassanavoid, motioned to approve the resolution. Wahnee, seconded the motion. The motion carried 6/0/0.

**List No. 08-2022: Comanche Nation Enterprises (CNE) REDW Audit Resolution.**

Wahnee, made the motion to approve. Komahchee Jr., seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 09-2022: Tax Commission Resolution Enacting Limited Liability Companies (LLC) Ordinance.**

Sovo-Doyebi, motioned to approve. Sovo, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 10-2022: Tax Commission Resolution Hemp Plan Edits.**

Wahnee, made the motion to approve. Kassanavoid, seconded the motion. The motion carried 6/0/0.

**List No. 11-2022: Realty 802-719 American Indian Probate Reform Act (AIPRA) Resolution.**

Sovo-Doyebi, motioned to approve. Sovo, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 12-2022: Realty 802-1642 AIPRA Resolution.**

Kassanavoid, motioned to approve. Sovo, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 13-2022: Realty 802-3117 Fred Eso Resolution.**

Sovo, made the motion to accept. Kassanavoid, seconded the motion.

**List No. 14-2022: Realty Resolution 10.21 Acres Felton Dean.**

Wahnee, motioned to approve the resolution. Komahchee Jr., seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 15-2022: Realty Resolution Native American Church Lease.**

Sovo-Doyebi, made the motion to approve. Wahnee, and Vice Chairman, Dr. Cornel Pewewardy, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 16-2022: Language Resolution Decade of Comanche Language.**

Wahnee, motioned to approve. Kassanavoid, seconded the motion. The motion carried 6/0/0.

**List No. 17-2022: CBC American Rescue Plan (ARP) Resolution-January 2022.**

Sovo-Doyebi, motioned to approve. Kassanavoid, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

**List No. 18-2022: Tribal Education Departments National Assembly (TEDNA) Grant Resolution.**

Pewewardy, made the motion to approve the resolution. Kassanavoid, seconded the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:52 a.m. and went into Executive Session.

Wahnee, motioned to move out of Executive Session. Kassanavoid, seconded the motion. The motion carried 6/0/0.

The meeting came back into place out of Executive Session at 2:48 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

*From the Chairman's Desk*



### Leaders Add Value by Serving Others

I believe the bottom line in leadership isn't how far we advance ourselves, but how far we advance others. That is achieved by serving our Comanche People and adding value to their lives.

If you are leader, then trust me, you are either having a negative or positive impact on the People you lead. We must understand "Only a life lived in the service of others is worth living." Real leadership is service. Serving others is what separates a good leader from a selfish one. Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. A leader's ability to add value begins in the heart.

My prayer: Dear GOD, help me to develop an attitude of service toward the People I lead. Make me into the kind of person who empowers our People, lifts others up, and creates an environment for others' success. And may my success as a leader be measured by the accomplishments of the People I lead. AMEN.

Comanche Strong-Stronger Together

## UNEMPLOYMENT

Continued from Page 1

then matches WIOA candidates with on-the-job training opportunities for other companies. It empowers WIOA candidates to utilize their training and launch a career. Fees for recruiting and payroll services are 100% paid for by employers, and profits from Numunu Staffing return to the tribe for further investment in workforce development and other tribal programs.

"By working together, we make tribal investments in workforce development go further – amplifying their impact and growing our tribal economy," said Edward Tahhahwah, Lead Talent Recruiter from Numunu Staffing.

"Working with Numunu Staffing has afforded our clients access to local jobs quicker, allowing WIOA's limited funding to cover more clients," said Parker.

Last year, 100% of the WIOA clients referred to Numunu Staffing received job offers within two weeks of referral. Today, the partnership is working together to modify restrictions on supportive services for "temporary" employees so that they, too, can access training resources to enhance their skills and advance their careers.

For the 2021 fiscal year, the Comanche Nation Workforce provided employability training to eighty (80) Native Americans, the majority being Comanche Nation tribal members. Out of the eighty Native Americans, 26% became full-time, permanent employees of a company or business, the Comanche Nation Tribal Government hired some.

In October of 2021, Numunu Staffing updated the Comanche Nation's leadership with "A Year in Review Report." In the report, 61% of Numunu Staffing's placements were Comanche Tribal Members, and another 18% were members from other tribes, making 79% of job placements Native Americans.

As opportunities increase for this company, Numunu Staffing plans to stay committed to its mission of empowering candidates to find meaningful employment and grow their earning potential. At the same time, working with clients to reduce labor costs, minimize turnover, and improve business outcomes.

"With today's unprecedented 2.5% unemployment rate in Oklahoma, it's unconscionable that such a disproportionately high number of those unemployed are Native Americans. In partnership with WIOA, Tribal entities, and employers, we are confident we can bring the Native American unemployment rate on par with other ethnic groups," said George Tahdooahnippah, CEO of Numunu Staffing.

To learn more about the programs offered by WIOA and how to qualify; please get in touch with Comanche Nation Workforce at (580) 492-3257 or visit the website at www.comanchenation.com, under "Departments," under "Education Center," under "Workforce."

To talk to a recruiter at Numunu Staffing for job placement assistance, contact Numunu Staffing at (580) 280-2268 or visit the website at www.numunustaffing.com.

## HEART

Continued from Page 1

of breath.  
**Arrhythmia:** Fluttering feelings in the chest (palpitations)  
**Heart failure:** Shortness of breath, fatigue, or swelling of the feet, ankles, legs, abdomen, or neck veins.

Some heart attacks are sudden and intense. Most start slowly, with mild pain or discomfort. Pay attention to your body.

Warning signs of a heart attack are:

**Chest discomfort:** Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center of the chest that lasts more than a few minutes - or it may go away and then return. It can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness or pain.  
**Discomfort in other areas of the upper body:** Symptoms can include pain or discomfort in one or both arms, the back, neck, jaw or stomach.  
**Shortness of breath:** This can occur

with or without chest discomfort.  
**Other signs:** Other possible signs include breaking out in a cold sweat, nausea or light headedness.

As with men, women's most common heart attack symptom is chest pain. But women are somewhat more likely than men to experience some other common symptoms such as: Shortness of breath, nausea/vomiting, and back or jaw pain.

If you are experiencing any symptoms, and you are not sure if it's a heart attack, you should seek medical help.

## REMINDER TO COMANCHE TRIBAL MEMBERS

Per CBC Resolution No. 150-2021, all visitors must provide proof of COVID-19 Vaccination (Vaccination Card or Medical Record) prior to entering any Comanche Nation Government Building as of January 4, 2022.

If you are NOT vaccinated, call the Comanche Nation Program you need to visit for Curbside Service.

# Programs

## Child Support Program Announces Court Dates

### In the Comanche Nation Tribal Court

- Cara Dupoint-Peteet: CNC-SP-21-44; Petition for Establishment of Child Support
- Lonnie Komahcheet, Jr.: CNC-SP-21-48; Petition for Establishment of Child Support
- Darrell Spear: CNCSP-15-140; Application for Indirect Contempt
- Kelsey Keiningham: CNC-SP-21-47; Petition for Establishment of Child Support
- Michael Zunk: CNCSP-19-12; Application for Indirect Contempt
- Adrianna Greely: CNC-SP-21-38; Petition for Establishment of Child Support



Prevention & Recovery's staff member, Christine Machado, Project Director for Tribal Opioid Response, Red Road Recovery Project and Operation Over Opioids, was recently awarded employee of the quarter for the 1st quarter of the 2022 fiscal year.

## Prevention & Recovery Services and Departmental Highlights

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

### Gravel Tinhorn Schedule

Please take note as to when your area falls on the schedule each month that the Gravel/Tinhorn Program is accepting applications, and submit your application within 30 days prior to the deadline. Please make sure to update and fill application out every year if needing gravel. Applications available on Comanche Nation Website, under Gravel Tinhorn Program.

- January 1 – January 31 Taking Applications due for Apache area February 1 – February 28 Taking Applications due for Elgin
- March 1 – March 31 Taking Application due for Anadarko, Carnegie and Ft. Cobb April 1 -April 30 Taking Application due for Cache
- May 1 – May 31 Taking Application for Snyder - Indian Area
- June 1 – June 30 Taking Applications for Chattanooga, Faxon, and Grandfield Area July 1 – July 31 Taking Applications for Geronimo, Temple, and Walters Area

### QUALIFICATIONS INCLUDE:

- All New Applicants Must provide all documents before application is complete.
- If there are any changes in the contact number please call the office and update phone number. (Operators may call for additional information.)
- Must provide Proof of Comanche Nation C.D.I.B.
- Must provide copy of Utility bill to show proof of residence (name included on bill).
- Must NOT benefit a business or NON – Comanche Tribal Member (rental homes)
- Must reside in the Comanche Nation Jurisdiction boundaries of the Service Areas.
- Applicant shall be responsible for maintaining the driveway after improvements are made.

If you have any question / concerns please call the office at (580) 492-3308 Monday – Friday from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. You can now submit applications to Email:GravelTinhorn@comanchenation.com

Prevention & Recovery is the largest department within the Nation's Programs/Services and consists of an all-native staff with 28 active employees and four vacant positions. Program Director, Bonnie Lemon, has successfully secured over \$10 million in grant funding, ensuring staffing for 22 of the 32 positions to operate the following programs:

**Native Connections-** Increases suicide awareness and reduces suicidal behavior and trauma through culture and by promoting mental health care among Native youth and young adults.

**IAMNDN-** Utilizes culture as a prevention tool to positively impact the negative effects associated with underage drinking and prescription drug use among Native youth. Project Strong Life- Provides direct services and case management to youth who have been affected by the opioid epidemic.

**Indigenous P.O.W.E.R. Program-** Empowers Native youth to lead successful and well lives by providing resources, culture, and education through outreach and programming.

**Circles of Care-** A planning grant that takes a culturally relevant approach to building a system of care for mental health and awareness to our community.

**Reentry Project/Reintegration-** Provides all levels of case management for tribal members returning home from incarceration or long-term substance abuse treatment.

**Red Road Recovery Project-** Provides evidence based, culturally-relevant services to clients receiving treatment for Substance Use Disorder, Opioid Use Disorder and/or Alcohol Use Disorder.

**Community Opioid Intervention Pilot Project-** Promotes community awareness, education, prevention, and outreach regarding the opioid epidemic within Native American communities.

**Operation Over Opioids-** Provides MAT (Medication Assisted Treatment) and case management to tribal members suffering from Opioid Use Disorder.

**Outpatient Substance Abuse Services-** Offers multiple services to the community to include substance abuse education, relapse prevention, parenting classes, tribal batterers intervention program, gambling education, referrals for substance abuse and/or mental health treatment, DUI assessments, family engagement activities, and community outreach events.

**Residential Treatment Services-** provides long-term, residential treatment to Native Americans suffering from Substance Use Disorder, Opioid Use Disorder, Alcohol Use Disorder and/or Co-Occurring Disorder. The treatment incorporates evidence-based and culture-based practices into daily programming.

**The Residential Men's & Women's units** incorporate a solid foundation based upon cultural and familial values and engaging with community partners to provide multi-faceted level of services. Multiple

clients have been reunited with, and subsequently regained custody of their children while completing the residential program. Additionally, Prevention & Recovery is constantly enhancing their services based on client need, and have recently re-started their in-house GED program, led by Reentry Group Facilitator, Jay Mule. The class currently hosts two students, who study for their GED three days per week for approximately three hours per day. The two students have already completed and passed the language arts portion of the program, the first of four educational components (language arts, social studies, math, and science) needed to receive the GED. The students are currently studying for the science portion and are scheduled to complete their GED within the next 60-90 days.

In addition to the Residential Treatment Program, the Prevention & Recovery Department hosts a variety of Outpatient services and classes that are free and offered to tribal members and the community, such as Relapse Prevention, Parenting (DHS & ICWA Certified), Tribal Batterer's Intervention Program, and Gambling Education. The Outpatient Office also has five Native youth-focused programs that engage in culturally responsive prevention and outreach strategies. They often host community-wide events and cultural activities as prevention strategies to strengthen tribal youth and their sense of cultural identity and community connectedness. The IAMNDN program's "Culture is Prevention" Day (in honor of Native American Month) is just one recent example of their collaborative efforts with their youth prevention programs. Held in Walters, Oklahoma, the event had over 170 youth in attendance from local public schools within their tribal jurisdictions.

Prevention & Recovery's very own, Christine Machado, Project Director for Tribal Opioid Response, Red Road Recovery Project and Operation Over Opioids was recently awarded employee of the quarter for the 1st quarter of the 2022 fiscal year (10/01/21 - 12/30/21). Machado received the award for her continuous hard work and dedication and often going above and beyond her assigned duties. Machado has been employed with the Nation and P&R Department for a little over two years. We are very proud of Machado, who was honored with a coin of excellence, certificate, and poster. Machado is very passionate about the work she does and has been instrumental in providing tribal members with successful recovery programs.



## Comanche Nation Environmental Program Annual Tire Drive. February 2022

Locations are as follow.

1. Comanche Nation Community Building 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> in Cache Ok.
2. Comanche Nation Community Building 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> in Walters Ok.
3. Comanche Nation Community Building 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> in Apache Ok.
4. Comanche Nation Environmental office 22<sup>nd</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> at Comanche Nation HQ.

Not all tires will be accepted. This year only taking tires up to but not larger than 24 inches. Nothing larger will be accepted. Tires still on the rims are acceptable.

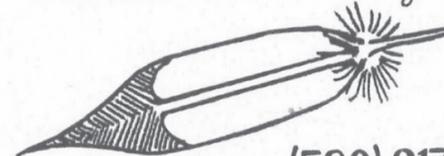
Any questions please contact the Environmental office @ 580.492.3754



You Can Watch the Comanche Business Committee Meetings Live By Going to [livestream.com](http://livestream.com)

Comanche Nation Offices will be closed February 21, in honor of President's Day. Offices will re-open February 22, for regular business.

David Wahkinney Sr.  
Contemporary & Native American Art  
*embellish · adorn · intrigue*



[mysticnative@email.com](mailto:mysticnative@email.com) (580) 917-2201

**DIVORCE?  
WRITS?  
WILLS/CODICILS?  
ATTESTATIONS?  
Notary Services  
Tax Return Preparation**

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

# Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

## Recipes for Home Cooking

### Three Sisters Grape Dumplings

#### Ingredients

- 2 Cups all-purpose flour
- 1 Egg
- 1¼ cups water
- 1 Tablespoon cornstarch
- 64 Ounces grape juice
- Sugar to taste

#### Directions

1. Place flour in a heap on tabletop. Make a well in center of flour and crack an egg into center. Using a fork, begin mixing the egg into the flour and add water as you go.
2. Form the dough into a ball and roll out very thin. Cut into 1-inch squares.
3. In a large pot place grape juice and sugar to taste.
4. Bring to a rolling boil. Drop dumplings into boiling grape juice.
5. Mix 1 Tablespoon cornstarch in 1 cup water. Add to hot grape juice. Cook for a few minutes and serve hot.

### Grilled Banana Nutella Sandwich

#### Ingredients

- 4 Slices of seeded whole grain bread (or any bread you like)
- 4 TBS Nutella
- 2 Small bananas, sliced
- Butter Spray.

#### Directions

1. Spread 1 tablespoon of Nutella on each slice of bread. Spray the other side with butter spray.
2. Spread the sliced bananas onto two slices of bread in a single layer. Alternatively, you can mash the bananas first and spread the mixture evenly on two slices of bread. The sandwiches will taste the same whether you mash the bananas or not. It's just a matter of texture. Cover the bananas with the other slice of bread.
3. Heat a grill pan or a panini press. When the pan is hot, place a sandwich on top. Grill each side for about 2 minutes, or until you see nice grill marks on the bread. Repeat for the other sandwich.
4. Cut the sandwiches in half and serve. Best served warm.

FEBRUARY 2022						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		Frederick 1st Day	Frederick 2nd Day	Walters 1st Day	Walters 2nd Day	
	Cache 1st Day	Cache 2nd Day	Cache 3rd Day	Cache 4th day	TRUCK DAY	
	Lawton 1st Day	Lawton 2nd Day	Lawton 3rd Day	Lawton 4th Day	Lawton 5th Day	
	CLOSED President's Day	Maks-Up Day	Make-Up Day	Inventory	Inventory	
	Inventory					

## Valentines Day

Match the Comanche Word to the English Translation.

Ƨ kamakutu nu	Kiss
Pihi	Red
Ƨru yukwiitu	Together
Eka	Nice
Ƨruutsi	I Love You
Muhrai	Heart
Kawikatu	Affection

Answer Key For the "Match the Comanche Word" that was published in the December Edition of TCNN.

### NEW YEAR OF JANUARY

Match the Comanche Word to the English Translation.

Ƨku Tooma Maa	Healthy
Kwihnetu	Apple Cider
Pa?a	Fun
Amawoo?a paa	Rejoice
Nanina?ookitu	Long
Keho?yopitu	New Year
Hiyoo?itu	Cold



### Comanche - Words of January

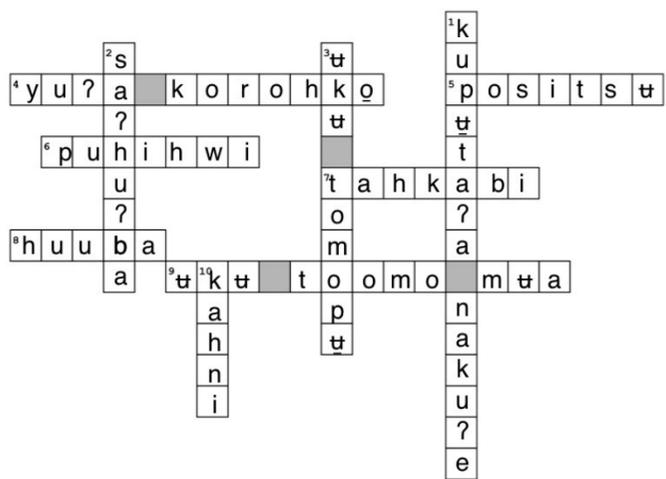
Remember: There may be more than one way to spell or say something.

**Down**

1. chimney
2. soup
3. New Year's Day
10. house

**Across**

4. scarf, bandana
5. sleet
6. money, gold, metal, doll:
7. snow, ice
8. coffee
9. January (beginning a new year)



For assistance use our online dictionary [www.webonary.org/comanche](http://www.webonary.org/comanche)

February Quiz Time!

### GUESS THE WORD



For assistance use our online dictionary [www.webonary.org/comanche](http://www.webonary.org/comanche)

P \_ H I \_ A \_ O \_



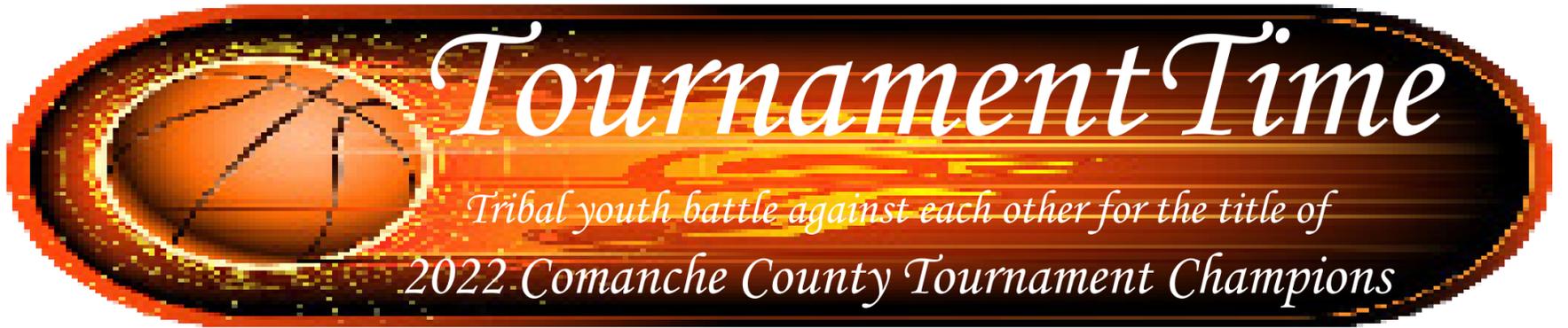
**580-291-0408**



**By: Chubby**

**625 W. Wyoming St.  
Walters, Ok 73572**





# Tournament Time

Tribal youth battle against each other for the title of  
2022 Comanche County Tournament Champions



*Dannie McClung*  
Frederick High School



*Shakayla Wilson*  
Indiahoma High School



*Tayah Kaudle-Kaulay*  
Indiahoma High School



*Morgan Curry*  
Sterling High School



*Elizabeth McCarthy*  
Geronimo High School



*Brook Roberts*  
Indiahoma Girls Head Coach



*Alivia Hardin*  
Walters High School

### In Loving Memory

#### LOOK AGAIN

Our world is so big that even if we traveled every day of our lives we'd never see it all. There would still be lagoons to snorkel, mountains to crest, and hidden nooks and crannies of creation to explore. Earth is merely a grain of sand on the shore of a limitless universe.

And still we get bored. We simply stop exploring because we believe we've already conquered this tiny corner of the universe. But right under our noses there are buds beginning to bloom, leaves preparing to fall, lizards scurrying over rocks, or tiny ants carrying tremendous loads. Above us there's a sky filled with so many distant worlds that our minds cannot fathom its expanse.

Today, wherever the road takes you, open your eyes. Instead of hurrying past what you've already seen, look again. Take time to appreciate the detail God has woven into nature. Look at the faces of the people you pass along the street. Notice the buildings, the food, the artwork, the amazing innovation, and the imagination that originated from the human brain—another of God's masterworks.



*My Dearest Kerwin Louis Pewewardy Kaulaity, son of Samuel "Doc" Pewewardy Jr., and Mary Lee Kaulaity, was born on Fort. Sill Army Hospital on May 7, 1957. The youngest of their sons, he was raised in Lawton, Okla. Kerwin's culture was Comanche, Kiowa and he was a citizen of the Comanche Nation. He is survived by his wife, Chante Skaya. Kerwin adored his lovely mother with all his heart. He was a very special, humble, and loving. He had a very beautiful heart and had a big sense of humor. On January 25, 2021, Kerwin went to a very long journey with his Creator to be reunited with his parents and all his relatives, and I dearly miss my husband a lot with all my heart, and someday my Creator will reunite me and Kerwin Louis Pewewardy Kaulaity again. Kerwin is part of my heart, soul, and spirit.*

*~Love always, Alicia*



*Shakyla Wilson*  
Indiahoma High School



*Jessie Ototivo*  
Walters High School



*Conner Daly*  
Geronimo High School



*Jermaine Chasenah*  
Walters High School



*JJ McClung*  
Indiahoma High School



*Cy Red Elk*  
Walters High School



*Nick Chibitty*  
Indiahoma High School



*Beau Davis*  
Sterling High School



*AJ McClung*  
Frederick High School



*Scotty Miller*  
Geronimo High School



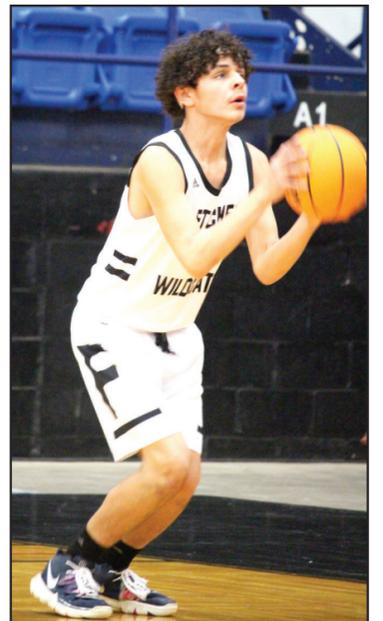
*Joseph McCarthy*  
Geronimo High School



*Jalen LeGrand*  
Chattanooga High School



*Timmy Martinez*  
Indiahoma High School



*Christian Larue*  
Fletcher High School



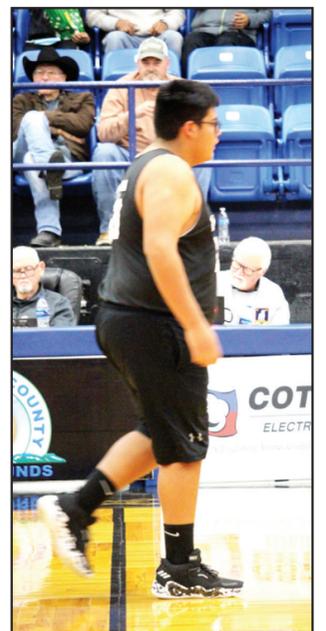
*Ashlee McClung*  
Frederick High School



*Terrance Robinson*  
Indiahoma Boys Assatch



*Andrew McClung*  
Frederick Boys Head Coach



*Diego Ramirez*  
Indiahoma High School

# People, Places & Things Happening

## Standing on the Shoulders of Our Ancestors



Courtesy Photo

From Left: (standing): Nick Chibitty, Quintin Watson, Timothy Martinez, JJ McClung, Antonio Reyna, Diego Ramirez, Tdohasan Sunray, Assistant Coach Terrance Robinson. From Left: (seated): Trenton Stinson, Dyllan Plaster, Trace Thomason, Cameron Pappas.

In the late 1800s, Mennonites established Post Oak Mission near present day Indianoma with the goal of missionizing the Comanche people. The church and community still stand today, with the sound of Comanche hymns emanating from the structure for which had been moved to its present location in the mid-1950s. The noted Comanche Chief Quanah Parker, was a foundational part of a long standing partnership.

Aside from the melodic sound of the traditional Comanche art form, are the ones heard in the small gym at the local school, a cheering that has become a rallying cry for the small community with few businesses and other amenities common to many in the surrounding communities. Over the years, basketball has become an integral part of the culture in Indianoma. In 2002, a group of Indian boys and their non-Indian teammates, brought home the coveted Gold Ball signifying that the team was the very best the State of Oklahoma had to offer on the hardwood. 20 years later, the water tower, which looms freshly painted over the Indianoma community as a representation of this feat, is looking for an addition.

After a 2020-2021 season which produced an 18-9 record and a District Championship, with a close loss in the Area final, the first half of the 2021-2022 season has ended with the Indianoma Public Schools Basketball Team, sporting 12 wins and only two losses; one of which was a one-point overtime loss to a larger Class school. The Indianoma Basketball team's current rank in the State stands at #7.

A quick stop at the two local corner store and café establishments in Indianoma invariably leads to conversations surrounding the team. There is an optimism that exists in the community that stems from some near misses over the last two decades and over one hundred years of history. Collectively ensuring success

for the team, the banner which reads, "You are standing on the shoulders of your ancestors" as the team has come out of the locker room to begin each game, may in short time prove prophetic. The legacy of Quanah Parker and other Comanche leaders and people continues.



Debra Aynes with son, and mother.

## Meet the Creative Native



Submitted by Center for Native American Youth/ Aspen Institute

Quahada Burgess is a Comanche artist that lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Burgess participates in Southwestern Association for Indian Arts Indian Market and has won four ribbons. In addition to artwork, Burgess makes movies, his most recent film is called, "Samurai".

Washington, D.C., the Center for Native American Youth (CNAY) at the Aspen Institute is excited to announce the 4th annual Creative Native Call for Art. Each year, art submissions are inspired by a unique prompt. Artists who submit will have the opportunity to receive national recognition, funding for art supplies, and an award of \$500. This year, art submissions must be inspired by the prompt: futurism. This year's theme focuses on Native youth hopes and dreams for the future. Native youth creatives: What are your hopes for the future? What is the future of your culture, your people, your community, and yourself? "We are proud to support young Indigenous creatives through this program," says executive director Nikki Pitre,

"Through this year's Creative Native prompt, we will better understand where Native youth see the future of our people through art expression."

## Aynes and Smith Recognized

On December 27, 2021, Debra Eells Aynes, from Yukon Okla., and Lisa Smith, from Washington, DC, were recognized for their military service at the home of Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer (Retired) Jimmy Patterson Jr. east of Apache, Okla. Both honorees were presented with embroidered Comanche Nation blankets, an Honor Certificate, a Veterans gift bag and a stipend.

Aynes' military information is in the January issue of TCNN.



Lt. Col Lisa Smith with Brother, sister, and mother.

Smith retired, as a Lieutenant Colonel, from the Air Force after serving from 1988-08. Her service includes thirteen months, in 2006, 2007 and 2008, at Joint Balad Hospital, Iraq where she treated 1,176 battle-injured patients. Other duty stations were at Walter Reed Hospital in Washington, DC; Keesler AFB, Miss.; Maxwell AFB, Ala.; Barksdale AFB, La.; Luke AFB, Ariz.; Cannon AFB, NM; Brooks City AFB, TX; Lackland AFB, TX; and overseas at Osan AB, Korea; and Geilenkirchen NATO AB, Germany. She is a Physical/Occupation Therapist.

Her awards include the Meritorious Service w/3 OLC; AF Commendation w/OLC; Joint Service Achievement; Army Achievement; National Defense Service w/Star; Iraq Campaign w/2 Battle Stars; Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary and Service; and Korean Defense Service medals; the Meritorious Unit and Air Outstanding Unit w/Silver and two Bronze OLC awards; and the Air Force Recognition ribbon.

Her mother is Lotsee Patterson Smith. Attending the presentation were George Red Elk, Lanny Asepermy and Ron Parker.

Since 2003, the CIVA has recognized 524 veterans for their military service. If you are a Comanche veteran and never been recognized for your military service please contact the Commander, Kevin Pohawpatchoko.



Courtesy Photos

## CONGRATULATIONS TO THE OSSO CHAMPIONS!

The Tribal Chiefs are a local basketball team from Lawton, Okla. The team consist of Comanche tribal members from the Ah-dosy, Tahah (Cache), Kopaddy, Chasenah, and Cable families. The team collected its first Championship in OSSO Sports and Social, men's league on Sunday Jan 16. The team is 24 - 5 and has been traveling to play its league games in Oklahoma City, Okla., every Sunday.



Team members include:

- Jared Kopaddy
- Chad Robinson
- James Jackson
- Jashawn Baird
- Anthony Daniels
- Michael Deck
- John Mann
- Zach Ballejo
- Tyvin Dorsey
- Kyle Bowman
- Jacob Tahah

## Comanche Owned Business



Keith Pahcheka, tribal member and owner of Ranger Bail Bonds, 4021 W. Jefferson Blvd., Dallas, Texas, 75211; phone: (214) 935-4910. Always ready to help with your Bail Bond needs.

Courtesy Photo

**"For God so loved the world that he gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."**

**John 3:16**

**"Beloved, let us love one another, because love is of God; everyone who loves is begotten by God and knows God. Whoever is without love does not know God, for God is love"**

**1 John 4:7-8**

## 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Comanche Homecoming Celebration July 15, 16, 17, 2022 Sultan Park, Walters, Oklahoma

2022-2023 Comanche Homecoming Princess: Kyleigh Davidson



Emcees:	Kevin "Bubba" Sovo Martin Flores	Honorary Emcee:	Wallace Coffey
Head Gourd Dance Singer:	Anthony Nauni	Head War Dance Singer:	Darrell Cable Sr.
Head Gourd Dancer:	Terry Poemoceah	Head Man War Dancer:	Ronald Monoessy Sr.
Head Lady Dancer-Gourd Dance:	Joyce Oberly	Head Lady Dancer-War Dance:	Sally Kerchee Strye
Arena Directors:	Travis Codynah Ashley Kerchee Larney Silverhorn		
Contest Coordinator:	Corey Reeder	Raffle Coordinator:	Cheryl Pewewardy
Co-Host:	Walters Service Club		
Color Guard:	KCA Veterans Organization		
Raising & Lowering of the flags:	Comanche Indian Veteran's Association		
<b>Honored Veterans</b>			
Friday:	Fred Codynah		
Saturday:	Bernard Kahrahrah		
Sunday:	John David Wahnee		
<b>Honored Elders</b>			
Friday:	Bill Volker		
Saturday:	Marion Nauni Simmons		
Sunday:	Ruth "Tootsie Motah Toahty		
<b>Veteran Flags to be flown</b>			
Friday:	Otto "Sonny" Tonips Jr., U.S.M.C.		
Saturday:	Bobby J. Nauni, U.S. Air Force		
Sunday:	Acey Oberly Jr., Oklahoma National Guard		

# Milestones

## Happy Birthday



February - Adrianna Serna  
 February 1 - Marshall 'Chubs' Kerchee  
 February 2 - Vicki Rutledge  
 February 2 - Rosie Motah  
 February 5 - Nancy Nauni  
 February 5 - Timothy Teyah Laurenzana  
 February 9 - Khloe Goombi, Happy 13th Birthday! ♥♥  
 February 9 - Rance Hood  
 February 9 - Tarah Lynn Komah-Ahhaity  
 February 10 - J.J. Yeahquo  
 February 10 - Richard Lee Komah  
 February 10 - Derek Timothy Harjo Jr.  
 February 11 - Nicholas Howard Whitewolf  
 February 11 - Ramona Laurenzana Bledsoe  
 February 16 - Mary Pollard  
 February 17 - Lillene Suina  
 February 18 - Trenton Wauqua-Hennessee. *Happy 12th Birthday!*  
 February 18 - Dean Toppah  
 February 18 - James Donald  
 February 18 - Ava Wahkinney  
 February 19 - Sophia Spear Whitewolf. *Happy 14th Birthday! From Mom, Dad and siblings.*  
 February 19 - David Pete Jr.  
 February 21 - Jessie Martinez  
 February 23 - Edward Charles Villicana  
 February 24 - Edwin Akoneto  
 February 24 - Norman Naudi, Jr.  
 February 24 - Balerma Burgess  
 February 25 - Cole Cook  
 February 25 - Gabriel Dalby  
 February 26 - Cameron Martin



Happy 18th Birthday  
 Adrianna Serna  
 February



Happy Birthday  
 Marshall 'Chubs' Kerchee  
 February 1



Happy Birthday  
 Timothy Teyah Laurenzana  
 February 5



Happy 4th Birthday  
 Derek Timothy Harjo Jr.  
 February 10  
 ~Love Mom and Dad



Happy 19th Birthday  
 Nicholas Howard Whitewolf



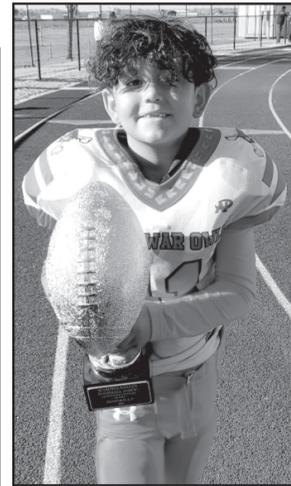
Happy Birthday  
 Ramona Laurenzana Bledsoe  
 February 11



Happy 14th Birthday  
 James Donald  
 February 18



Happy 9th Birthday  
 Ava Wahkinney  
 February 18

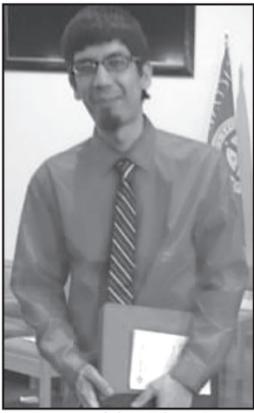


Happy 7th Birthday  
 Dean Toppah  
 February 18

February 11  
 From Mom, Dad, special nephew baby Kenneth and family!



Happy Birthday  
 Jessie Martinez  
 February 21



Happy 34th Birthday  
 Edward Charles Villicana  
 February 23  
 ~He is attending Bacone College, studying Criminal Justice. Love Grandmother Selma Conneywerdy Herrera

Happy Heavenly Birthday  
 Balerma Burgess  
 February 24  
 ~Happy Heavenly Birthday Mom/Grandma. From Sienna and the Grands.

Happy Heavenly Birthday  
 Rita Wahnee  
 February 28

**The Comanche Nation News**  
 March Edition Deadline:  
 February 15  
 Email:  
 stacey.heminokeky@comanchenation.com  
 Mail:  
 Comanche Nation/PIO  
 P.O. Box 908  
 Lawton, OK 73501  
 Contact: (580) 492-3385

## CHR/EMS/Fire Report

The following are calls that the department has ran from December 9, 2021 to January 10, 2022. It gives the date, time, type of call, address with town, and any assisting agencies.

### Year 2021

- December 9 @ 6 p.m.: Standby, 1 SW Goodyear Blvd.-Lawton
- December 9 @ 9:19 p.m.: Service Call, 4222 SE Bedford Drive-Lawton
- December 10 @ 12:23 p.m.: Grass Fire, NW Post Oak Road and NW Alex Drive-Indiahoma (Cache FD, Indiahoma FD, Wildlife Refuge FD, Chattanooga FD, Pecan Creek FD, Comanche County Sheriff, Comanche County Emergency Management)
- December 10 @ 4:36 p.m.: Grass Fire, SE 90th and SE Coombs Road-Lawton (Comanche County Emergency Management, Flowermound FD, Lawton FD, Bethel FD, Cox's Store FD, Hulén FD, Elgin FD, Fletcher FD, Sterling FD, Fort Sill FD, Wildlife Refuge FD, Chattanooga FD, Grandfield FD, Valley View FD, Kirks Ambulance, CCMH Ambulance, Red Cross, OHP, Comanche County Sheriff, Tribal Pd, Grady County Task Force, County Grater)
- December 11 @ 5:02 p.m.: Structure Fire, 16566 US 62-Apache (Porter Hill FD, Edgewater FD, Apache FD, BIA Fire, Tribal PD)
- December 12 @ 12:05 p.m.: Grass Fire, 1249 NW Airport Road-Cache (Cache FD, Tribal PD, Comanche County Sheriff)
- December 12 @ 5:20 p.m.: Medical, 584 NW Bingo Road-Lawton (Kirks Ambulance, BIA Fire)
- December 13 @ 4:13 p.m.: Agency Assist, 48150 US Highway 281-Apache (Tribal PD)
- December 14 @ 3:01 p.m.: Agency Assist/Grass Fire, 488 Holstein Circle-Fletcher (Sterling FD, Fletcher FD)
- December 14 @ 3:18 p.m. December 15 @ 11:06 AM: Medical, 584 NW Bingo Road-Lawton
- December 15 @ 2:01 p.m.: Grass Fire, NE 75th and NE Watts Road-Elgin (Elgin FD, Sterling FD, Fletcher Fd, Cove Acres FD, Porter Hill FD, Wichita Mountain Estates FD, Fort Sill FD, OHP, Tribal PD, Comanche County Sheriff, Comanche County Emergency Management)
- December 15 @ 4:37 p.m.: Grass Fire/Agency Assist, 2648 NE Jake Dunn Road-Elgin (Cox's Store FD, Wichita Mountain Estates FD, Comanche County Emergency Management)
- December 18 @ 9:22 a.m.: Grass Fire, Post Oak Road and Lee Blvd./Post Oak Road-Cache (Cache FD, Indiahoma Fd, Chattanooga FD, Fort Sill FD, Emergency Management County, County Grater, Geronimo FD, Lawton FD, Pecan Creek FD, CCMH Ambulance, Comanche County Sheriff, Tribal PD)
- December 21 @ 2:35 p.m.: Smoke Investigation, Lake Road and Otipoby-Elgin
- December 23 @ 1:32 p.m.: Grass Fire, NE King Road and NE 180th- Fletcher (Fletcher FD, Elgin FD, Comanche County Sheriff)
- December 24 @ 11:57 a.m.: Fire Investigation, 4588 SE Railroad-Lawton (Flowermound FD, Tribal PD)
- December 24 @ 2:18 p.m.: Grass Fire, 1602 NE Glover Road-Elgin (Wichita Mountain Estates FD, Porter Hill FD, Medicine Park FD, Paradise Valley FD, Comanche County Sheriff, Tribal PD)
- December 24 @ 4:37 p.m.: Medical, Exit 45/Highway 49 Overpass-Lawton (Wichita Mountain Estates FD, Fort Sill FD, Kirks Ambulance, Survival Flight, OHP, Comanche County Sheriff, Tribal PD)
- December 24 @ 5:20 p.m.: Medical, I-44 MM 45.5-Lawton (Wichita Mountain Estates FD, Fort Sill FD, OHP, Comanche County Sheriff)
- December 28 @ 11:50 a.m.: Grass Fire, 13920 NE Lake Road-Fletcher (Sterling FD, Fletcher FD, Elgin FD, Cox's Store FD, Valley View FD, Cyril FD, Hulén FD, Grady County Task Force, Stephens County Task Force, County Grater, Kirks Ambulance, Comanche County Emergency Management)
- December 28 @ 6:29 p.m.: Fire Investigation, 211 NE Littlebear Loop-Elgin (Wichita Mountain Estates FD, Medicine Park Fd, Porter Hill FD, Tribal PD, BIA Fire)
- December 30 @ 9:03 AM: Smoke Investigation, 312 Lakeview Drive-Apache (Edgewater Park FD)
- December 30 @ 4:57 p.m.: Grass Fire, E1750 and N2710-Walters (Hulén FD, Walters FD)

### Year 2022

- January 3 @ 11:32 a.m.: Medical, 584 NW Bingo Road-Lawton
- January 3 @ 1:10 p.m.: Agency Assist, 54 Resort Circle-Elgin (Porter Hill FD)
- January 3 @ 3 p.m.: Grass Fire, SW Airport Road and SW Baseline Road-Faxon (Chattanooga FD, BIA Fire, Comanche County Sheriff)
- January 4 @ 9:28 a.m.: Service Cal, 250510 E2000 Road-Devol (Tribal PD)
- January 4 @ 10:35 a.m.: Fire Investigation, 24134 CR EW181-Chattanooga (Chattanooga FD)
- January 4 @ 12:44 a.m.: Agency Assist, Highway 65 and Woodlawn-Lawton (Hulén FD)
- January 5 @ 1:34 p.m.: Service Call, 2395 SW Paint Road-Cache
- January 5 @ 2:36 p.m.: Grass Fire, 246 SW Simmons Road-Cache (Cache FD)
- January 6 @ 9:53 a.m.: Service Call, 136 NE Littlebear Loop-Elgin



Happy 13th Birthday  
 Gabriel Dalby  
 February 25  
 ~We love you Gabe! Love Mom, Jay, your sister, and family!

# Obituaries

## Jonathon "Jon-Jon" Wiley Mowatt



Courtesy Photo

### Mowatt

Jonathon "Jon-Jon" Wiley Mowatt, 33, passed away on December 20, 2021, due to a brief illness. He was born to Caron Yellowfish and the late Dick James "DJ" Mowatt on March, 18, 1988.

Mowatt attended Geronimo Public Schools from K-12 grade; received a certificate of completion in Criminal Justice from Great Plains Technology Center; and attended Cameron University.

He worked for Arrow Signs for 15 years as a sign fabricator. His craftsmanship can be seen throughout the Lawton area. He was especially proud of the signage which he created for the Chief's Smoking Ice House. He helped coach midget baseball at Geronimo Schools. He loved watching OU football and PBR bull riding. He enjoyed playing pool and darts. Mowatt will be missed everyday by his family and friends.

Mowatt was preceded in death by his father, Dick James Mowatt, Anadarko, Okla.; his maternal grandparents, Edward & Cornelia DeRoin Yellowfish, Lawton, Okla.; and his paternal grandparents, Spencer & Rachel Mowatt, Indianola, Okla.

Mowatt is survived by his wife: Traci Mowatt of the home; one son: Quinton Riley of the home; his mother: Caron Yellowfish, Geronimo, Okla.; four brothers: DeRoin Motah, Los Angeles, Cali.; "DJ" Mowatt, Garland, Texas; Matthew Mowatt and Ronnie Mowatt, El Reno, Okla.; two sisters: Cheryl Mowatt, Lawton, Okla. and Rachel Mowatt, El Reno, Okla.; numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews, and friends.

## Roger Van Perdasofpy



Courtesy Photo

### Perdasofpy

Roger Van Perdasofpy, passed away on December 13, 2021. He was born to Albert Caldwell and Maxine Perdasofpy on November 1, 1959.

Perdasofpy grew up in and around the Anadarko area where he was raised by his mother and father, Elton Stumblingbear. His hobbies included making Native American drums, tanning hides, and making deer jerky. He participated in and took pride in his Native American culture. He was a proud member of the Comanche Nation. He attended Fort Sill Indian School and worked at Indian City as a Tour Guide. He served our County as a Sargent in the U.S. Army from 1977-1981.

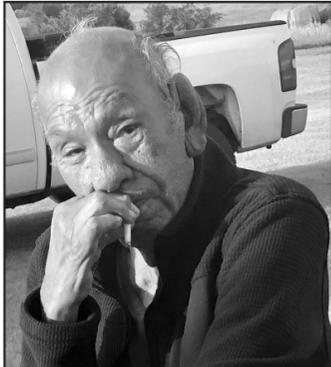
He is survived by son, Andrew Cecil Codynah of Anadarko; daughter, N. Allison Codynah of Cherokee, N.C.; siblings, Randy W. Stumblingbear of Fletcher, Robert Anthony Stumblingbear of Anadarko, Michael Stumblingbear of Lawton, Vernon F Stumblingbear of Longview, Texas, and Mary Ann Stumblingbear of Tulsa; grandchildren, Werahre, Nocona, and Dara, and Mariah.

He is preceded in death by his biological father, Albert Caldwell;

mother, Maxine Perdasofpy; father, Elton Stumblingbear; brother, Andrew Stumblingbear; nephew, Brandon N Stumblingbear; and grandparents, Vernon Perdasofpy and Myrtle Berry Perdasofpy.

A Funeral Service was on December 22, 2021, with Pastor Lynn Munoz officiating, held at the Comanche Nation Funeral Home. Burial was at the West Cache Creek Cemetery in Apache, Okla., under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

## Kenneth Chasenah



Courtesy Photo

### Chasenah

Kenneth Chasenah, went to his Heavenly Reward on December 15, 2021, in Apache.

Graveside service was at the Mithlo Home place west of Apache with Pastor Sharon Yeahquo officiating.

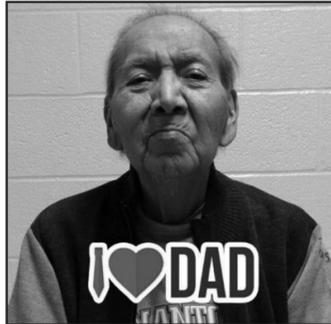
Chasenah was born to Watson and Lavina (Chasenah) on February 18, 1938, in Caddo County Oklahoma. He attended and graduated from Apache High School. He was a farm laborer for Paul Jackson Jr. most of his life.

He was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and a charter member at Mahsetky Mission which later became United Methodist Church of Apache. He enjoyed driving everywhere to check on his family and friends and also loved to go to Mescale-ro. He was a Crown dancer for Eugene Chihuahua, Watson Treas and Eustace Fatty dance group.

He is survived by: two sisters: Elvina Poolaw of Anadarko and LaVera Birdsheed; three brothers: Melvin Mithlo all of Apache, Harry Mithlo and Bill Mithlo both of Lawton; special niece and caregiver Tsistone Mithlo, many others relatives and friends.

Chasenah is preceded in death by: parents Watson and Lavina (Chasenah) Mithlo, grandparents Mahkanarsy and Asepermy, Emma and Arthur Chasenah; brothers and sisters Leatrice Jay, Eugene Mithlo Sr., Stan Chee and Roy Mitchell Sr.

## Charles Frank Passah Sr.



Courtesy Photo

### Passah

Charles Frank Passah Sr., 78, of Lawton, Okla., passed away on December 20, 2021. He was born to Walter Passah and Evelyn Komardly on April 26, 1943.

To Charles family was very important, he loved spending time with them. He enjoyed cookouts and seeing all the kids running around, laughing and playing. He loved listening to blues and oldies music any chance he got. He also liked going to powwows, visiting with friends and family, and watching OU Football games.

He is survived by children; Maria Coronado and spouse Steve Coronado of Ft. Worth, Texas, Charles Passah Jr. and spouse Nikki Passah of Apache, Amy Passah of Lawton, Charlotte Passah of Ft. Worth, Texas, Sara Simental and spouse Miguel Simental of Ft. Worth, Texas, Angie Currasco and spouse Freddie Currasco of Oklahoma City, and Chebon Tiger of Oklahoma City; grand kids, Tara Passah, Joshua Passah, Jennifer Passah, Stephanie Coronado, Jordan Passah, Andrew Billiot, Mariel Coronado, Laura Passah, Steve Coronado, Greg Passah, Naviee Passah, Lance Passah, Mari

Semental, and Tabe-eka Passah; and 12 great grandchildren.

He is preceded in death his parents; brothers, Adrian Komardley and Morris Komardley; sisters, Carrie Comanche and Sara Passah; paternal grandmother, "Passah" Eliza Ekapitty; and maternal grandparents, George and Emma Day.

Visitation was December 22, 2021, at the Comanche Nation Funeral Home with a Graveside Service followed at West Cache Creek KCA Cemetery in Apache, Okla., with Penny Soontay officiating.

## Gregory Haumpy Jr.



Courtesy Photo

### Haumpy

Gregory Haumpy Jr., passed on December 21, 2021, in Lawton, Oklahoma at the age of 58, years old. Haumpy was a member of the Comanche Nation, and the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma. He attended Boone Grade School and graduated from Riverside Indian School in 1981. Haumpy attended Fort Cobb Vo-Tech and received his carpentry license. Haumpy was a lifelong member of MGM drum group, and he loved traveling throughout the powwow circuit singing. Haumpy was an auto-mechanic and was self-employed throughout his life.

Haumpy is survived by his daughter, Dorothy Marie Haumpy, grandchildren, Anthony and Brianna Portillo, great grandchildren, Milah, Alianna, and Angel; granddaughters, Makaela and Leah; grandson, Christopher Sons, Eric Haumpy, wife, Kelly Chatham, Pau-tyle Haumpy III, Nicholas; grandchildren, Christian, and Brandon; Daughter, Winnifred Haumpy, all of Lawton, Oklahoma. Sister's; Clorandia and husband, Pepper Tsatoke, (Apache), Ernestine Newry, (Kansas City, Mo.), Mable Gene Haumpy, (Lawton), Mary Madderra, (Lawton), Venus Faye Haumpy, (Duncan), Marilyn Collins, (Anadarko), Brenda Turner, (Phoenix, Ariz.), Cora Sue Thompson, (Gotebo); brothers; Donnell Heminokeky, (Apache), Glen Heminokeky, (Lawton), Lloyd Heminokeky, (Cyril), Larry Heminokeky, (Apache), Duane Whitehorse, (Florida), and Alfred Haumpy, (Carnegie).

Greggy, as his family lovingly called him, Jonzie, as his friends called him was born October 10, 1963, and is proceeded in death by his mother, Gloria Marie Yokesuite Haumpy, his father Gregory Haumpy Sr., brother, Rudy Yokesuite, his grandparents, Blanche Lookingglass Yokesuite and Baldwin Yokesuite; great grandparents, Laura and Bayard Lookingglass.

Haumpy was a devoted father and grandfather. He enjoyed traveling, singing in the powwow circuit, working on cars and creating Native American crafts. Haumpy also loved to cook and spend time with family. He always had a smile on his face and loved to joke around. Haumpy was married to Donna Tiger in 1981, then married Jena Jones, and still remained friends with both.

A wake service was scheduled for January 3, at the Comanche Nation Complex gym in Elgin, Oklahoma. Mike Roberts officiating the graveside January 4, at the Celestial Gardens Cemetery in Cyril, Oklahoma.

## Karen Jean Kaniatobe



Courtesy Photo

### Kaniatobe

Karen Jean Kaniatobe, 75, of Oklahoma City went home on Tuesday,

December 21, 2021. Kaniatobe was born to Laverne S. Conner and Beatrice Tahmahkera Smith on October 14, 1946.

Kaniatobe lived with her grandparents, Wilson and Ida Tomah Tahmahkera on a small farm in Walters. If mischievous things occurred, Kaniatobe was most likely the instigator. Kaniatobe married Jack Codynah in 1965, and to this union 4 children were born, Jeff, Kimberly, Kara, and Kevin. She later married Cecil Kaniatobe, from this union Cecil helped raise Ricky Toho and later adopted Jocelyn Codynah. She attended Walters Public School where she graduated in 1965, received a Certificate of Completion from Draughan's Business College in the late 80's, and attended Oklahoma City Community College, where she won the Who's Who Among Students in American Junior Colleges award from 1993-1994. Kaniatobe's occupations consisted of working at the Indian Health Service, during the time of the Oklahoma City Bombing; Southwest Airlines, where she worked for 18 years and retired from in 2013 and then worked for Comanche Nation as the Director of Oklahoma City Outreach before leaving there to enjoy the rest of her days with her family. Kaniatobe enjoyed reading, beading, doing diamond dot paintings and drinking coffee. She loved spending time with family especially her grand kids and great grand kids. Kaniatobe was a very strong woman and fought her cancer all the way up until her last breath. Kaniatobe was a loving and caring woman and will be greatly missed by many. Kaniatobe won!

She is survived by daughters, Kimberly Codynah and Kara Codynah-Rios; sons, Ricky Toho and Billy Wayne Codynah; brother, William Eugene McKesson, sisters, Cheryl Mitchell and Alberta Printup; uncles, Garrison Tahmahkera and Marvin Tahmahkera; aunt, Anna Tahmahkera; a special granddaughter, Jocelyn Codynah; 29 grandchildren; 46 great-grandchildren; special cousins, Texas Gary Lyn Tahmahkera, Steve Tahmahkera, Lance Tahmahkera, Karen Pennington, and Darlene Jojola; and numerous family and friends.

She is preceded by her parents; husband, Cecil Kaniatobe; sons, Jeffery Lavern Codynah and Kevin John Codynah; brothers, Jody "Joey" Allen Printup, Thomas Stamper, Phillip Smith, Kermit Smith Sr., Lawrence Smith, and Donald Smith.

Visitation was December 28, 2021, and Funeral Service was December 29, 2021. Both services was at Comanche Nation Funeral home with Rev. Tina Baker officiating. Burial was at Highland Cemetery under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

## James Paul Nelson



Courtesy Photo

### Nelson

James Paul Nelson, born on August 14, 1963, known to everyone as "Gopher" passed away on December 23, 2021, at the age of fifty-eight (58) years old.

Funeral Service and Interment was January 3. Funeral Service was at the Comanche Nation Funeral Home. Burial took place at the Walters Cemetery. Officiating the services was Gerald George Red Elk.

Nelson was the youngest son of the late Frances Marie Red Elk Nelson. Nelson was the youngest brother of the late Roderick Red Elk, Ronald "Butch" Nelson, Lloyd Van Nelson, Doris Nelson Thames, Charlie Nelson, Delita Marie Nelson. He leaves behind his children of Christopher Nelson of Edmond, Oklahoma and Demi Kaylen (Grace) Permansu Nelson of Walters, Oklahoma. He leaves behind brother William Nelson, Sr. and wife Lil-

lie Nelson of Lawton, Oklahoma. He also leaves behind his beloved Auntie-Mother, Carmelita Red Elk Thomas, of Logan Utah, his Uncles Ronald Red Elk and Gene Red Elk of Walters, Oklahoma, numerous nieces, nephews, and his Indian-Friend-Brothers who he looked at as Family.

Nelson served his Country honorably in the United States Army, having served in the Black Forest area of Germany and Libya. From there he became a machinist and the trades he learned while being a soldier. Nelson took on higher education and carried a 4.2 GPA all the way through to his Bachelor's Degree of Human Ecology, & Master's Degree of Human Relations, at the University of Oklahoma. Nelson lived his life in Apache, Oklahoma which he often referred to as "East of Eden"

## Christina Marie Lee



Courtesy Photo

### Lee

Christina Marie Lee, 37, passed away on December 25, 2021, in Ardmore, Oklahoma of natural causes. She was born on September 3, 1984, at Naval Hospital Long Beach, California. She attended schools in Camp Pendleton, California; Colony, Texas; and Great Plains Technical College in Lawton, Oklahoma. She worked as a Surgical Technician at Mercy Hospital in Ardmore, Oklahoma.

Her beautiful smile and laugh will be missed by her family and her friends. Her hobbies included Pow-Wow Dancing as a Southern Buckskin Dancer, reading, camping, and spending time with her family.

Lee is survived by her husband, Randall and was a proud mother to their son, James; her father, Robert Tehauno Sr.; her mother, Darlene Tehauno; and her brothers, Robert Jr., Jimmy, and Christopher Smith.

She is preceded in death by her grandparents Vernon & Patsy Tehauno.

Lee was honored in a Memorial Services on December 30, 2021, at Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

## Ralph Wermey

Ralph went to his heavenly home on December 26, 2021. Wermey was born on November 5, 1980, in Lawton to Ralph Wermey and Dana Spooner.

Wermey's greatest joy in life was being Dad! He loved watching OU play football and basketball, watching movies and listening to music. He enjoyed taking the kids fishing. He was a member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

He is survived by his father Ralph Wermey Jr. and mother Dana Spooner Bear; daughter Hendrix and step sons Axton and Waylon; sister Kallise (Russell) Myatt and brother Kyle (Leah) Massey.

Preceded in death by his maternal grandparents Mr. and Mrs. Don Spooner.

Graveside services was January 13, at Memory Lane Cemetery in Anadarko under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

Continued from Page 10

## Deborah Denise Oxley



Courtesy Photo

### Oxley

Deborah Denise Oxley, born September 30, 1959, to Vernon and Yvonne Chockpoyah in Lawton Oklahoma. She went to Her Heavenly home on January 5.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory; her parents Yvonne and Vernon Chockpoyah Sr., her sister Brenda Chockpoyah and brother Kevin Chockpoyah, her Son and his wife Aaron and Tiffany Oxley, and her pride and joys being her granddaughters Paisley & Abby Oxley. Three nieces Christy and Husband Kenneth Laurenzana, Carri Johnson and her Companion Chadoe Grant, and Serina Chockpoyah. Two nephews; Robert Holder and his wife Sherry, and Cody Chockpoyah. Jordan Laurenzana, Kobe Laurenzana, Nick Johnson, Jennica Johnson and James Grant who all called her grandma. Oxley also leaves behind many relatives, friends and co-workers whom she thought a lot of.

She is preceded in death by her grandmother and grandfather Lottie and Roy Simmons and brother Vernon Chockpoyah Jr.

Funeral was January 11, at the Apache Reformed Church with Pastor Kenneth Laurenzana officiating under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

## Sofia Vaughn

Funeral for Sofia Vaughn was January 14, at Locust Grove Baptist Church under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home with Pastor Kenn Lane officiating. Vaughn went home to be with the Lord on January 7. Burial followed at Elgin Cemetery.

Vaughn was born on July 4, 1959, to Ramon and Mitzie Laurenzana. Her siblings are Rudy, Ramon, Jr., LaRue, Peggy Lynn, Ardecia, Tony, Jason and Amber. She married David Vaughn, Sr. on December 3, 1983. On July 17, 1985, they welcomed their son David, Jr. Being a wife and a mother to the loves of her life were her most precious achievements.

## Rudy Laurenzana



Courtesy Photo

### Laurenzana

Rudy Laurenzana, 66, passed away on January 13. He was born to Ramon and Mitzie Laurenzana on August 7, 1955.

Laurenzana enjoyed and lived life to the fullest. Those that had the opportunity to meet him will tell you he always knew how to make them laugh or at the very least, put a smile on their face. He enjoyed going to the gym and listening to the Beatles (or vice versa). He was married to the love of his life and his favorite cook, Mary.

He is survived by children, Rudy Laurenzana Jr., Antonio Laurenzana, James Willis, Christian Willis, Clay Smelley, John Bowers, and Jodi Pagnanelli; siblings, Ramon Laurenzana Jr., LaRue Sikes, Sofia Vaughn, Peggy Wahkinney, Ardecia Laurenzana, and Tony Laurenzana; a special brother, Ron Mahsetky; grandchildren, Elana and Sasha Laurenzana, Naomi, Lily, Alyvia, and Makiah Willis, and Xander Smelley.

A Celebration of Life was held at the Living Faith Christian Center in Apache on January 18.

## Alene Gembacz



Courtesy Photo

### Gembacz

Alene Gembacz, 95, passed away at home with her family by her side on January 15. Gembacz was born September 12, 1926, to Day and Pearl Werquayah.

Gembacz lived her entire life in Cache, Okla. In her younger years she attended grade school in a one room school located between Chattanooga and Baseline Road. In 1942, she married Robert Geionety and had one daughter, Linda Ecker. Then in 1944, she married Burnell Pueblo Sr. and had three sons; Jr., Burnell, and Danny. She then married Staff Sgt. Louis Gembacz in 1960, and they had one son, Randy. Gembacz was a homemaker all her life and was a very good cook. She enjoyed having all the kids and grandkids for Sunday dinner, to her that was the most enjoyable part of Sunday dinners. In the mid 50's, 3-4 months prior to American Indian Expo, Gembacz along with her mother, Pearl, would make all sorts of beadwork and sell them at the fair. She loved to play bingo and hand games any chance she got. She also had a dog, Chico. It's was very rare to see her without Chico, she loved that dog. Gembacz was a very good mother and was always there when we needed her.

She is survived by her daughter, Linda Ecker of Cache; sons, Randy Gembacz and Danny Pueblo both of Cache and Jr. Pebeashy of Oklahoma City; along with numerous nieces, nephews, grandkids, great grandkids, and great great grandkids.

She is preceded in death by her parents; a son, Burnell "Frog" Pueblo Jr.; and a sister, Lena Mae Wemy.

The family would like to give a special thanks to Ruth Pickup for providing end of life care for our loved one and to thank everyone that brought food by.

Graveside services was January 24, at Deyo Mission Cemetery with Billy Komahcheet officiating under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

## Kevin Lynn Parker



Courtesy Photo

### Parker

Kevin Lynn Parker, 59, of Norman went to be with his Lord and Savior on January 17, in Norman with his loving family by his side.

Graveside service was January 21, at Edge Family Cemetery with Rev. Lynn Bellamy officiating.

Burial followed at the Edge Family Cemetery under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

Parker was born in Lawton on August 16, 1962, to Franklin and Joyce Marie (Edge) Parker. He attended and graduated from Ft. Cobb High School in 1980. He enjoyed watching sports. Parker was a pitcher at Ft. Cobb and led them to state. Parker was the pitcher when they won the state tournament in baseball. Every time he gets together with his teammates all they talk about is winning the state finals. He was an avid OU Sooner football. He worked as a Wal-Mart Associate. He loved spending time with family and friends, especially time with his grandchildren. Parker was proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and was proud of his heritage being the great-great grandson of Chief Quanah Parker.

He is preceded in death by: parents Franklin and Joyce (Edge) Parker; brother Jeff Parker and grandmother Mae Edge.

He leaves behind his daughters: Marlee Porter and husband Bryan of Anadarko; and Kimberly Parker and wife Donnet of Ft. Cobb; brothers: Damon Parker and wife Samantha of Anadarko, Jon Parker and wife Jannie

of Apache; sister, Lana Parker of Norman; grandchildren, Kaylee and Aspen; special sister Alena Polly-Edge.

## June Eddie Sovo



Courtesy Photo

### Sovo

June Eddie Sovo, 69, of Walters went to his heavenly home on January 17.

An all-night wake service was held on January 20, at First Baptist Church of Lawton 501 SW B Ave and a Funeral Service was held on January 21, 2022 at First Baptist Church with Pastor Mike Keahbone officiating. Burial followed at the Little Washita Cemetery under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

Sovo was born on November 11, 1952, to the late Milton (Browine) Sovo Sr. and Marjorie Diana (Tahquechi) Sovo in Lawton, Okla. He grew up in Sterling, Okla., and later resided in Walters, Okla.

He graduated from Sterling High in 1971. He worked for Triple A Fencing after high school. He played and coached sports for his son's teams as well as coached men and women's basketball and softball teams. After graduating he attended the Red River Vo-tech and finished as a licensed Journeyman. Later he was an assistant Electrical Instructor for the license Journeyman, and worked as a certified electrician for a time. He did the electrical work for the City of Lawton water towers. He did the electrical work on the Goodyear building. He was one of the 1st Public Information Office employees for Comanche Nation. Now known as Comanche Nation News Letter. He was an avid horseman, he was a bull rider and loved to do relay races, wild horse and wild steer saddling. His team members were June and Gene Sovo, Morgan and Frankie Tosee. This team held the title for five years for wild horse and steer saddling at Cameron University Aggie Rodeo Club. He participated in many parades on horseback in surrounding areas and states. He and the family were presented with the Mayor's Award from Wichita Falls, Texas. He enjoyed participating in Native American Cultural and dances where he was a well-known champion fancy dancer. He participated in the 1976 Bi-Centennial Celebration where he was one of the horseback escorts. He also participated in several Ft. Sill reenactments on horseback. The Sovo family represented the Comanche Nation at Ft. Riley, Kansas military base with the Red Country Band and equestrian drill team. He loved playing all music instruments, he was one of the lead singers for the family's Red Country Band. In 1976 he represented the Comanche Nation in the peace treaty signing between Southern Ute Nation and Comanche Nation. He also represented the Comanche Nation on State Capitol grounds with Tu-Wee (Black Knife) dance. In 1976 he represented the Comanche Nation in Washington, D.C., during the Bi-Centennial with the Tu-wee (Black Knife) dance; he was one of the original whipmen. He participated in the Cahokeah Mounds Celebration in St. Louis, Illinois for the late Evelyn Voelker. He represented the Comanche Nation at the opening of the Native American Museum in Washington, D.C. He was also one of the delegations for the Comanche Nation at the peace treaty signing at Fredericksburg, Texas. He was a founder for the Comanche Native American Church (Thavey-Eka Chapter); and a lifetime member of the Native American (1918 Chapter) He represented the Comanche Nation at Stinnett, Texas. He served as a commissioner on different boards for the Comanche Nation as well as now Committeeman #1. He was an official voice and luper for the Walt Disney Movie Lone Ranger for the Native American Music. He was employed for 45 years for the food distribution (Original Employee) until his retirement. He continued active in his Native American Culture until his death.

Sovo is survived by his children Justin W. Sovo of Elgin, Okla. Kevin M. Sovo of Walters, Okla. Kris-

toper D. Sovo of Sterling, Okla. Stacey Paul Sovo; adopted son Mikey Blackstar; adopted daughters Sissy Printup, Tonya M. Grey, Margeret Oberly Corley, Roxy Oberly Tenequer, and Lynda Blackstar White Cloud; his brother and sisters Milton Sovo Jr. of Apache, Okla. His twin Gene Sovo, Ted Sovo, Donnita Sovo, and Diana Gail Doyebi Sovo of Sterling, Okla. and numerous grandchildren, great grandchildren and friends.

He is preceded in death by parents: the late Milton and Marjorie Sovo, his son Roddrick Allen Sovo, and his sister Denise Renee Sovo.

## Earl Burgess Jr.



Courtesy Photo

### Burgess

Earl Burgess Jr., went to his Heavenly home January 17, while in the hospital at CCMH. Burgess was born in Lawton on January 30, 1948, to Earl Sr. and Daisy (Perdasofpy) Burgess.

He grew up in the Medicine Park area and attended school at Elgin, Okla. Some of the things he liked doing was spending time with family, friends, and neighbors. He had a thing for mechanic work on cars, wood work and crafts. He loved going to church when able. He liked going to Comanche Casino. When car trouble happened, he was always glad to help out any way he could. Even when he was handicapped, he was still wanting to work under car hoods. He liked watching old westerns and old movies. He liked watching OU football games when ever a game was on. He loved to cook. He retired in April, 2010, from Cedar Crest Nursing Home. He was a member of the Comanche Nation as well a descendant of the Otoe Missouri Nation of Oklahoma.

He is survived by companion, Frostina Morales; children, Billy Burgess, Sarah Burgess, Nina, Martha, Miranda Subirias, and Toinette (Morales) and husband Adam Fellhauer, Mickey, Jason, Randy, Tommy, and Quinton; son-in-laws, Josh Kadayso and Calvin; sisters, Julene Gutierrez, Martha Irving, Betty Luna, Patty and husband David Ramos; brothers, Ronald Burgess and Donald Burgess; grandkids, Marcus, Favian, Sidney, Jesse, Jolie, Tristan, Gavin, Sebastian, Christian, B.J., Chris, Cecilia, Summer, Pro-myse Horne, Freeman Epps Jr., Jazii Carr, Lauren (Martinez) Greene; great grandkids, Lilly Greene, Laila Greene, and Livi Greene; along with many other relatives and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; children, Daisy E. Kaydayso, Kevin Hendrix, Marvin Chasenah, and Julia Silverhorn; brothers, Wayne Motah, Teddy Burgess Sr., and Bobby Burgess; sisters Barbara Dankowski and Jessie Mendozarosas; granddaughter, Lena Burgess-Adams; Melinda Marris.

Graveside Service was held on January 26, at Highland Cemetery with Rev. Bill Foote officiating under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

## Kim Renee Chalepah



Courtesy Photo

### Chalepah

Kim Renee Chalepah, was born on April 1, 1984, in Lawton, Okla., and passed away January 18, in Anadarko, Okla. She was the daughter of Norma Jean Pewo and Kimit Wayne Chalepah Sr.

Chalepah grew up in Apache and attend school in Ft. Campbell, Ky., Apache High School, and graduated at Riverside Indian School. She furthered her education by attending the Canadian Valley Technology in Chickasha.

Her previous employment was a Revenue Auditor at the Silver

Buffalo Casino, Comanche Spur Casino and as a Coordinator (Medical Coding) at the Comanche County Memorial Hospital. At the time of her passing she was employed at the Apache Tribe Housing Authority as a receptionist.

Chalepah was of the Kiowa, Apache, Comanche, and Mexican descent. She was an enrolled member of the Comanche Tribe. She was proud of her family heritage names: Pewo/Anguiano and Tonahcot/Chalepah.

A devoted fan of the Oklahoma City Thunder and Oklahoma Sooners, she loved to karaoke in her spare time with family and friends.

She will be remembered as a very loving, kind, gentle, friendly, full of joy, compassionate, and always had a smile on her even when times were hard.

Chalepah was a very devoted mother to her daughters who were the center of her life, whom she loved and called her babies. Very proud auntie to her nephew, Joaquin.

Chalepah will be greatly missed by family, friends, co-workers, and all those who knew her.

Chalepah is survived by her father, Kimit Wayne Chalepah Sr. and his fiancé, Kelly Killnight of Oklahoma City; daughters, Junelle Mae Chalepah, Aiyanna Renee, Niyah Ann Morrison of the home; brothers, Kimit Wayne Chalepah Jr. AKA Kasey, Korey Chalepah and Jalana (Woosypitti) Chalepah; nephews, Jeffery Hardy, Jildan Reynolds and special nephew Joaquin "Bobby Jean" Chalepah; sister, Kayeln "Neno" Chalepah of El Reno; paternal grandmother, Libby (Tonahcot) Ware; and numerous grandpas, grandmas, aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Chalepah was preceded in death by her mother, Norma Jean Pewo; maternal grandmother, Esther (Anguiano) Pewo; maternal grandfather, Robert "Bobby" Pewo; paternal grandfathers, Alfred Cahlepah Jr. and Gerald "Jerry" Ware; and cousins/brothers, Gerrand Kaudle Kaule and Zachary Bearheels.

Graveside Service was held at West Cache Creek Cemetery in Apache on January 26, with Dusty Miller officiating under the direction of Comanche Nation Funeral Home.

## When Tomorrow Starts Without Me

*When tomorrow starts without me, and I'm not here to see, if the sun should rise and find your eyes all filled with tears for me. I wish so much you wouldn't cry the way you did today, while thinking of the many things we didn't get to say.*

*I know how much you love me, as much as I love you, and each time you think of me, I know you'll miss me too.*

*But when tomorrow starts without me, please try to understand, that an angel came and called my name and took me by the hand, and said my place was ready in heaven far above, and that I'd have to leave behind all those I dearly love.*

*But as I turned to walk away, a tear fell from my eye; for all my life, I'd always thought I didn't want to die. I had so much to live for and so much to do; it seemed almost impossible that I was leaving you.*

*I thought of all the yesterdays, the good one and the bad. I thought of all the love we shared and all the fun we had.*

*If I could relive yesterday, I thought just for a while, I'd say goodbye and kiss you and maybe see you smile.*

*But then I fully realized that this could never be, for emptiness and memories would take the place of me. And when I thought of worldly things that I'd miss come tomorrow, I thought of you and when I didn't, my heart was filled with sorrow.*

*But when I walked through heaven's gates, I felt so much at home, when God looked down and smiled at me, from His great golden throne. He said, "This is eternity and all I've promised of you. Today your life on earth is past but here it starts anew."*

*I promise no tomorrows; but today will always last. And since each day's the same day, there's no longing for the past. You have been so faithful, so trusting and so true. Though there were times you did some things you knew you shouldn't do. Yet, you have been forgiven, and now at last you're free. So won't you take my hand and share your life with me?"*

*So when tomorrow starts without me, don't think we're far apart, for every time you think of me, I'm right here in your heart.*

# Cynthia Chavez Lamar Named Director of the National Museum of the American Indian

Becky Haberacker/ Smithsonian Institute

Cynthia Chavez Lamar has been named director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, effective Feb. 14. She is the first Native woman to be named as a Smithsonian museum director. Chavez Lamar has been at the museum most recently since 2014, and earlier in her career was a museum intern (1994) and later an associate curator (2000–2005). She is currently the museum's acting associate director for collections and operations. Chavez Lamar is an accomplished curator, author and scholar whose research interests are focused on Southwest Native art and the methodologies and practices involved in collaborating with Indigenous communities.



Courtesy Photo Walter Lamar Chavez Lamar

Chavez Lamar will oversee the museum's three facilities: the National Museum of the American Indian on the National Mall in Washington, D.C., the museum's George Gustav Heye Center in Lower Manhattan and the Cultural Resources Center in Suitland, Maryland. The Cultural Resources Center houses the museum's collections and its curatorial and repatriation offices; laboratories and work rooms for conservation, collections management, registration, photography, film and video; a computer and information-resource center; a library; and indoor and outdoor spaces for Native cultural care practices and use of the collections.

"Dr. Chavez Lamar is at the forefront of a growing wave of Native American career museum professionals," said Lonnie Bunch, Secretary of the Smithsonian. "They have played an important role in changing how museums think about their obligations to Native communities and to all communities."

Since January 2021, Chavez Lamar has served as acting associate director for collections and operations at the museum. She is responsible for overseeing its collections, facilities, safety and information technology departments. She leads efforts to ensure effective management of and care for the museum's collection, which is composed of more than 1 million objects and photographs and more than 500,000 digitized images, films and other media documenting Native communities, events and organizations.

"I am excited to begin my tenure as the director of the National Museum of the American Indian," said Chavez Lamar. "I am looking forward to leading and working with the museum's experienced and dedicated staff. Together, we will leverage the museum's reputation to support shared initiatives with partners in the U.S. and around the world to amplify Indigenous knowledge and perspectives all in the interest of further informing the American public and international audiences of the beauty, tenacity and richness of Indigenous cultures, arts and histories."

From 2014 through 2020, Chavez Lamar served as assistant director for collections at the muse-

um. In this role, she guided the overall stewardship of the museum's collection, which is one of the largest and most extensive collections of Native and Indigenous items in the world. Chavez Lamar led museum efforts to improve collection access and availability by advocating for and encouraging an increase in the number of collections online. She supported the development of a collection-information system module to record access, care and handling instructions provided by tribal, nation and community representatives. Chavez Lamar also established and prioritized partnerships and collaboration with Native nations and tribes and developed a loan program for tribal museum and cultural centers that provides training and technical assistance to enhance collections stewardship and reconnects descendant communities with the museum's collections.

Chavez Lamar was the director of the Indian Arts Research Center at the School for Advanced Research in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from 2007 to 2014. While there, she raised the visibility of the 12,000-object collection and developed institutional projects and programming to highlight it. She also led and supported the development of Guidelines for Collaboration to assist Native communities in accessing museum collections and museums working collaboratively with them.

From 2006 to 2007, she was the director of the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

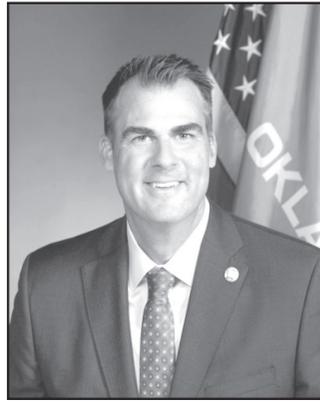
From 2000 to 2005, Chavez Lamar was an associate curator at the National Museum of the American Indian and the lead curator for "Our Lives," one of the inaugural exhibitions in the Washington, D.C., museum when it opened in 2004. She collaborated with eight Native communities on the exhibition.

Chavez Lamar was a presidential appointee to the Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development in 2011. She was a governor's appointee as a commissioner to the New Mexico Arts Commission from 2009 to 2012. She currently sits on the advisory group for Indigenous North America at the Princeton University Art Museum, and she is a member of the advisory board at the Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center at Colorado College.

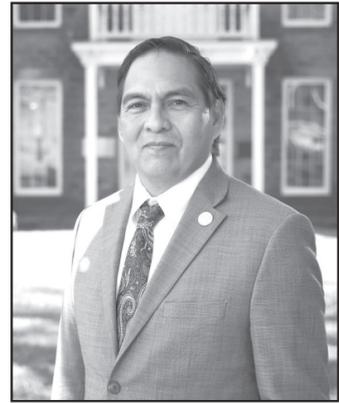
Chavez Lamar is an enrolled member at San Felipe Pueblo, and her ancestry also includes Hopi, Tewa and Navajo on the maternal side of her family. She earned a bachelor's degree from Colorado College in studio art, a master's degree in American Indian studies from UCLA and a doctorate in American studies from the University of New Mexico. She also received an honorary doctorate from Colorado College for her contributions to the museum field.

# Supreme Court Denies Overturning McGirt 31 times

By Nancy Marie Spears/ Gaylord News



Stitt



Hill

The Supreme Court, on January 24, in a sweeping series of rulings denied 31 Oklahoma appeals of multiple McGirt-related decisions, a landmark case that reaffirmed the Muscogee (Creek) reservation in eastern Oklahoma had never been dissolved.

The court's decisions came a weekend after it agreed to review one of the more than 30 appeals the state has lodged since the McGirt ruling was issued in 2020. The court last week agreed to hear one appeal—Oklahoma v Castro-Huerta—that the state should have authority to prosecute non-Natives who commit crimes against Native Americans in Indian Country.

The controversial Supreme Court ruling grew out of the McGirt v Oklahoma case, a July 2020 decision by the court affirming the Muscogee Nation's Reservation boundaries. Oklahoma courts have since ruled that the reservations of the Cherokee, Choctaw, Chickasaw, Seminole and Quapaw tribes were never dissolved by Congress.

The sweeping denials are a significant setback in Oklahoma Gov. Kevin Stitt's effort's to overturn the McGirt ruling.

While Stitt didn't comment on the Supreme Court's denials on Monday, his communications director Carly Atchison said the state is encouraged that the court agreed on Friday to hear a case involving a non-native accused of child abuse involving a native child. She said that "could be a huge relief for Native vic-

tims of crime."

Stitt in a statement Friday said he "encouraged that the Supreme Court has decided to address whether a state has authority to prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes against Indians in Indian Country," Stitt said in a Jan. 21 statement. "The fallout of the McGirt decision has been destructive. Criminals have used this decision to commit crimes without punishment. Victims of crime, especially Native victims, have suffered by being forced to relive their worst nightmare in a second trial or having justice elude them completely."

Muscogee Nation Monday called the court's decisions a "clarion call" for state officials to begin collaborating for the sake of all Oklahoma citizens – Native or not.

"Today's Supreme Court action should end the State of Oklahoma's long, unfruitful campaign of litigation that has come at the cost of untold millions of taxpayer dollars and has diverted resources away from properly implementing the sovereignty ruling for the benefit of all who live and work in the Mvskoke Reservation," said the tribe's Principal Chief David Hill.

There has been a long and heated debate between Stitt and tribal leaders on the implications of the McGirt rulings on Oklahoma's criminal justice system, as well as disagreement about the nature of the law itself.

Stitt claimed on Friday that the McGirt ruling "has hamstrung law enforcement in half of the state."

But tribal police chiefs across Oklahoma told a different story when Gaylord News reported increases in tribal cross-deputization and bolstered law enforcement departments in light of McGirt.

Stitt maintains that McGirt allows criminal law to apply differently to different people because it's "based on race." The tribes and Indigenous law experts agree that McGirt is based on a political status because of the United States' unique treaty obligations with tribes as sovereign nations.

OU Law professor Alexander Pearl, an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation who specializes in property law and natural resource conservation litigation in Indian Country, said he feels the governor sees "the McGirt problem" differently from the state and tribal officials on the ground working together to make McGirt work for everyone.

He said that could stem from a general lack of understanding and education about what tribes are and the powers they inherently have the right to exercise.

"The problem for them (officials) is ensuring that there's adequate cross immunization agreements, adequate communication, coordination, resource sharing, and so forth. Those are the sort of problems that are logistical problems," Pearl said. "My view of the governor's definition of the McGirt problem is that he does not want tribal reservations to exist."

**C.A.R.S.**  
Comanche Auto Repair & Service

**Joe Laurenzana**  
Indian owned & operated

13230 NE Tony Creek Rd.  
Elgin, Ok.  
73538  
580-215-9201  
1968numsofwalters@gmail.com

**JOIN THE COMANCHE NATION MASS TEXT:**

**TEXT THE WORD "COMANCHE" TO NUMBER 411247**



**COMANCHE NATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOT LINE**

**(580) 492-3628**

# Dear TCNN

Letters to the Editor

Dear TCNN,  
Comprehensive Enrollment Audit - FY 2023 Budget Officially Required and Authorized

The Council approved a Comprehensive Enrollment Audit by a Referendum Vote on June 3, 2018. Over 3-1/2 years ago. The CBC is officially mandated and authorized to do the audit. The CBC is required to budget this audit in our annual budget.

An Institute auditing firm, (outside and independent) estimated the cost at \$931,190. Do not know how many years is covered with a

time frame of 16-24 months. A Request for Proposals (RFP) is required for bids. More research is needed to get a more accurate figure. Other nations have had audits one.

PAST AUDIT done in December, 2007: 82 illegal enrollments were removed. This audit was done In House by a former enrollment director. The Audit covered nine years from 1998-2007. We have saved over \$1.2 M, based on a per cap of \$1,000 per year. The amount is higher if the exact per caps are used, plus education, social, burial and other services. We may have saved close to \$2 M.

And we keep on saving. Those nine years need to be audited again, by an independent firm.

We took over the Enrollment Administration from the BIA in 1976, which is 45 years. The BIA done Enrollment from day one till 1976. We can cover 45 years or all the years to day one. Does the BIA, well known for its incompetence, make mistakes? Some leases are the same as they were 50 years ago.

**AUDIT CONSIDERATIONS/FACTORS**  
Statement from the approved Council Resolution: Those

illegal enrollments may have decided some close elections (some by a little over 50%). Enrollment fraud to election fraud.

Remember, we had massive corruption to buy votes from 2001 to December, 2015. Need revised enrollment laws and restitution. The audit will pay for itself. Everyone has heard stories about illegal enrollments.

Thomas Narcomey

**Send your Letters to the Editor to:**  
**pio@comanchenation.com**  
**The deadline is the 15th of each month.**

**See Page 3 for Letters to the Editor Submission Guidelines**

# The Prevention & Recovery Program Promote Sobriety and Family at it's Annual New Year's Eve Celebration

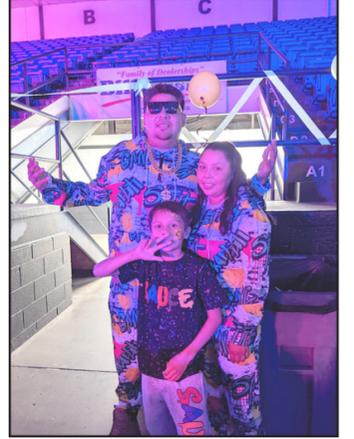
Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



The Cecil Gray Band entertained the New Year's Eve crowd with a mixture of Old School & Blues music the evening of December 31, 2021, at the Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton, Okla.



The dance floor was the place to be to show off the best dance moves on New Year's Eve during the Prevention & Recovery's New Years Eve Celebration.



Many people dressed in the 1990's fashion to go along with the theme of the celebration.



Prevention & Recovery staff and volunteers sign in visitors to the New Years Eve Celebration and distribute neon necklaces and bracelets.



DJ Marty Mar, right, and Edmond Nevaquaya, played jammin' music and helped give away numerous door prizes.



Music from the 1990's filled the air as people of all ages could not resist to go to the dance floor during the Comanche Nation Prevention & Recovery's New Years Eve Family Celebration, December 31, 2021.



Cotton Candy was one of the many edible treats during the New Years Eve Celebration.



What's Poppin' was set up to give away samples of many tasty flavors of popcorn.



George and Marina Tahdoohnippah dance to the Cecil Gray Band during the Prevention and Recovery's New Year's Eve Celebration, December 31, 2021 at the Comanche County Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton, Okla.

**DEAN'S**  
 Drive  Thru  
**PAWN SHOP**  
 NATIVE AMERICAN INDIAN GOODS



2617 S. Robinson Ave. OKC, OK 73109  
[www.DeansPawn.com](http://www.DeansPawn.com)  
 (405) 239-2774

LIKE US ON  "OKC's Oldest Pawn Shop"  Follow us on Instagram  
[www.facebook.com/deanspawn](http://www.facebook.com/deanspawn) @DEANSPAWNSHOP

SERVING OF ALL OF CADDO COUNTY, FLETCHER, ELGIN AND LAWTON AREAS

 **Heating and Air**   
**SALES-INSTALLATION-REPAIRS**  
 Competitive Pricing on ALL Parts & Equipment

---

Duct Cleaning Services • Blown Insulation

---

We Accept Visa, Mastercard and Discover Cards

**Call 405-829-1207**  
**W & R MECHANICAL L.L.C**



Native American Owned & Operated  
 Email: [wrmechanical@gmail.com](mailto:wrmechanical@gmail.com)



**Fort Sill**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

APPLY FOR A \$2000



**SCHOLARSHIP**

**FSFCU**

will be awarding five scholarships to graduating high school students.

Application deadline  
**March 31, 2022**

Apply Online  
[fsfcu.com/scholarship](https://fsfcu.com/scholarship)

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA



EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER

**GET  
IT IN  
GEAR**

**AUTO LOAN EVENT! RATES AS LOW AS 2.39% APR\* PLUS, NO PAYMENTS FOR 90 DAYS!**



\*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) is the advertised base rate. Rate is subject to credit worthiness. Other restrictions may apply. Not available on current FSFCU loans. All loans are subject to approval. Payment example for 36 months at 2.39% is \$28.84 for each \$1000 financed. Rates offered December 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022.

**Fort Sill**  
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

**APPLY ONLINE TODAY!**  
[fsfcu.com/giig](https://fsfcu.com/giig)

FEDERALLY INSURED BY NCUA



EQUAL HOUSING  
LENDER