



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

THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Lords of the Plains Comanche Strong, Stronger Together

VOLUME 25 EDITION 3

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

Tapookæ M̄ta (March) 2024

Comanche Nation News
PO Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

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Martinez Courtesy Photo



Tahhahwah Courtesy Photo

Comanche Nation Entertainment Promotes Longtime Team Members

LAWTON, Okla. (Feb. 20, 2024) - Comanche Nation Entertainment has promoted longtime team members Jay Martinez and Shandi Tahhahwah. Martinez, previously General Manager of Comanche Red River Hotel Casino is now General Manager of Comanche Red River Hotel Casino, Comanche War Pony Casino and Comanche Star Casino. Tahhahwah, previously General Manager of Comanche Cache Casino, is now General Manager of Comanche Spur Casino and Comanche Nation Casino.

"Jay and Shandi have shown exceptional leadership and operational expertise throughout their careers with Comanche Nation Entertainment," said Steven Doyle, interim CEO. "Both have been pivotal in their commitment to optimizing guest and team member experience, which has been critical in our growth as one of the best entertainment companies in the state."

Martinez and Tahhahwah manage the strategic and operational management of their respective properties, focusing on budget oversight, team leadership and fostering collaborative environments to ensure excellence across all levels of operations.

Tahhahwah brings more than 14 years of industry experience to her role and has worked with Comanche Nation Entertainment since 2007. She has held a variety of positions within the company including operations manager, marketing manager and internal auditor with the Comanche Nation Gaming Commission, where she also contributed to writing the Tribal Internal Control Standards (TICS).

Martinez also brings with him over a decade of experience, having served in every department of Comanche Nation Entertainment's casino operations. One of his major projects was the implementation of a state-of-the-art sanitization and air filtration system at Comanche Spur Casino. The sanitization system, which was installed at every Coman-

See ENTERTAINMENT, Page 3



LEFT: Tribal elder Lanora Parker, center, along with over 400 voters, signs in for the Special Meetings, which took place Feb. 8 at Watchtaker Hall. BOTTOM LEFT: Comanche Nation Vice Chairman, Dr. Cornel Pewewardy addresses the General Council about the Bill of Particulars against him, during his recall meeting. BOTTOM RIGHT: Comanche Business Committee Member No. 1, Hazel Tahsequah, speaks to the tribal members during her special recall meeting.

Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff



Special Meetings to Recall CBC Members Pewewardy and Tahsequah Fail

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

A total of 408 tribal members showed up on the afternoon of February 8 to attend a special General Council Meeting to Recall Comanche Nation Vice Chairman, Dr. Cornel Pewewardy. Petition No. 01-23 was the first of two petitions that were to be heard.

Chairman Mark Woomavah called the meeting to order around 1:30 p.m.

The petition was taken out by tribal member Ron Red Elk and it was read by his representative, tribal member Britney Atavich. The Bill of Particulars cited against Pewewardy:

"Unconstitutional 'De-Facto' Removal of Committeeperson #3: Dr. Pewewardy did willingly violate the Constitution of the Comanche Nation by bringing forward and voting yes to Resolution 101-2023 'Resolution to Suspend CBC No. 3 Alice Kassanavoid for Violations of the Comanche Nation Constitution and Other Pertinent Laws' in the September 9, 2023 Monthly Business Meeting. Article VIII - Vacancies and Removals From Office of the Constitution does not provide any avenue to suspension ('de-facto removal') by the CBC. The only constitutionally provided way to remove a member of the CBC is the take out a recall petition following all the required steps pursuant to the authority in the Comanche Indian Tribe's Constitution, Article V - Tribal Council/Powers Clause; Article VIII - Vacancies and removal from Office; and Article XI - Amendments for the following purposes: B. To Request the Tribal Chairman to call a Special Meeting of

the Tribal Council to remove an officer of the Comanche Business Committee from office for neglect of duty or conduct that has brought disrepute to the tribe, Article VIII Section 2. The Vice-Chairman willfully acted to violate the Constitution Article II, Sections 1 & 3. He failed to define, establish, and safeguard the rights, powers, and privileges of the tribe and its members. He refused to care for the common well-being of the tribe and its members and also harmed the Comanche Nation and the Comanche Nation People by taking away the direct representation of the Tribal Council by the suspension ('de-facto removal') of Committeeperson #3.

Theft of Tribal Funds: Dr. Cornel Pewewardy did willingly and knowingly accept and cash a check for payment for the Comanche Nation Tax Commission meeting which he did not attend (CN Tax Commission Meeting 1/26/2023). The check was issued on 1/26/2023 and deposited into Dr. Pewewardy's account at Fort Sill Credit Union at 1:06 p.m. on 1/26/2023. See attached minutes of the 1/26/2023 Meetings of the Comanche Nation Tax Commission - Reported by Leslie A. Foster. a. Dr. Cornel Pewewardy, Vice Chair (not present) at the first meeting. b. Dr. Pewewardy signed and cashed a check for \$1200. 2 meetings for \$600 when he only attended one meeting on 1/26/2023.

Theft by a tribal official is a crime. Dr. Pewewardy has brought disrepute to the Comanche Nation and the Comanche People and harmed both

through his actions.

Dereliction of Duty and Violation of the Constitution: Dr. Cornel Pewewardy did willingly and knowingly violate the Comanche Nation Constitution and was derelict in his duty as a member of the CBC by voting yes to Resolution 102-2023 that created the Office of the CBC as witnessed in the meeting on September 9, 2023. He violated Article VI - Business Committee, Section 7, (e) which states that the duties of the CBC include: "To develop proposals which are in the interest of fulfilling the purpose of the Comanche tribal organization including, but not limited to, programs involving employment, health, education, public relations, social, recreational, and historical activities of the tribe. Such program proposals shall be presented to the tribal council for final consideration as to adoption or rejection." The Office of the CBC was not presented to the Tribal Council for final consideration as to adoption or rejection. This is in direct violation of the Constitution."

In his rebuttal, Pewewardy said the meeting was unconstitutional due to Comanche Nation Chairman Woomavavah, not following the Comanche Constitution when calling the meeting. He also said he voted yes to remove Kassanavoid based on a legal opinion, and he repaid the \$600 stipend, adding he was late to the meeting and was not there for attendance roll call.

He closed his rebuttal by sum-

See RECALL, Page 5



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

ROLE MODEL AWARD. Dr. Cornel Pewewardy proudly received the 2024 Outstanding Role Model Award at the Oklahoma Native American Students in Higher Education Conference at the University of Oklahoma on February 10. This esteemed accolade recognizes individuals who have displayed a lifelong, outstanding contribution to teaching, research, and community service to Native American college students. Nominated by former students, colleagues and community leaders, Dr. Pewewardy's portfolio in education also included significant change in the Oklahoma legislation and raised awareness about self-determination in Oklahoma public school spaces.



Pahdopony-Mithlo Courtesy Photo

Composer Brent Michael Davids Creates Score in Honor of the late Juanita Pahdopony Mithlo

Composer Brent Michael Davids dedicated his orchestration to Comanche tribal member, the late Juanita Pahdopony Mithlo, and expresses why he composed and dedicated the music to Mithlo.

"NITA, for symphonic band, is a work honoring Juanita Pahdopony ("Nita"), an accomplished scholar, artist, activist, educator, and my dear Comanche friend from Lawton, Oklahoma. When I first met Nita, she was President of the Comanche Nation College, teaching students, exhibiting art in galleries, writing articles, and co directing the Comanche Nation College Film Festival. The festival screened several films I had scored, and hosted my "film scoring for filmmakers" workshop. Nita was tenacious about sharing Comanche arts, language and culture, even serving as advisor for the AMC series "The Son." Not unexpectedly, I was welcomed as a guest by Nita into the Comanche community with love.

Though we never did, we fantasized of writing an opera about Texas once. However, we did create a song for Houston Grand Opera, as part of its 'rodeo opera' initiative, called "Indian Rodeo Queen." Nita and I co-wrote the lyrics and I wrote the music. It was hilarious fun, a rodeo opera! This new work, NITA, is a subtle work for band, not intended to be ear-splitting or bombastic. It's not brassy. It's not a march. The entire work is marked "pianissimo" (pp) or 'extremely soft,' except when a few select instrumental voices emerge forward from the background texture to sing a song. NITA is a cheerful and radiant work, as was Nita's own personality. She passed in 2020, and words cannot express the loss.

NITA was commissioned by the Texas Lutheran University School of Music for performance by the TLU Bands. As the Comanche People (*Nu-munu*), the Lords of the Plains, often traveled and inhabited Texas, the new work affectionately honors Nita Pahdopony, who was a national treasure and citizen of the Comanche Nation."





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THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS
Tapooka Mna (March) 2024
 Cottonwood Month

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

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

Comanche Nation Officials

- Chairman**
Mark Woommavovah
 Email: Mark.Woommavovah@comanchenation.com
- Vice Chairman**
Dr. Cornel Pewewardy
 Email: Cornel.Pewewardy@comanchenation.com
- Secretary/Treasurer**
Robert Tippeconnie
 Email: Robert.Tippeconnie@comanchenation.com
- Committeeman No. 1**
Hazel Tahsequah
 Email: Hazel.Tahsequah@comanchenation.com
- Committeeman No. 2**
Ross Kahrahrhah
 Email: Ross.Kahrahrhah@comanchenation.com
- Committeeman No. 3**
Alice Kassanavoid
 Email: Alice.Kassanavoid@comanchenation.com
- Committeeman No. 4**
Jordan Fox
 Email: Jordan.Fox@comanchenation.com
- Tribal Administrator**
Julia Mantzke
 Email: Julia.Mantzke@comanchenation.com

To contact officials:
Office of the CBC/Chairman:
 Telephone: (580) 492-3573
Comanche Nation Address:
 P.O. Box 908
 Lawton, Okla. 73502
 Toll Free: (877) 492-4988
Physical Address:
 584 Bingo Rd., Lawton, OK 73505

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 Member of the Society of Professional Journalists since 2010
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Government

A Total of 11 Resolutions are Presented at the January CBC Meeting

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the February 3, Comanche Business Committee Monthly Meeting, and not the official minutes. To obtain a copy of the official minutes, please contact the Office of the Chairman, (580) 492-3251.

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

Resolutions

Resolution No. 12-2024- Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1317 Minors. The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 13-2024- Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1318 BQ The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 14-2024- Transit Resolution Title VI Plan The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 15-2024- Prevention & Recovery Resolution IHS Grant Application The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 16-2024- ECDC Resolution to Add Merchant Terminals at Centers. The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 17-2024- NAGPRA Resolution DOI NPS Grant Application. The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 18-2024- CBC Resolution to Advertise RFP for Investment Portfolio. The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 19-2024- CBC Resolution Prohibiting Elected Officials from Serving on Other Tribes Boards or Commissions in Oklahoma. The resolution passes 5\0\1

Resolution No. 20-2024- CBC Resolution to Temporarily Close Cache Casino. The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 21-2024- CBC Resolution to Separate Smoke Shops and Retail/Wholesale from CNE. The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 22-2024- CBC Resolution to Adopt the 2024 Comanche Nation Election Ordinance. The resolution passes 5/1/0.

Resolution No. 23-2024- Resolution to Oppose Westwin. The resolution passes 6/0/0

Resolution No. 24-2024- Resolution Prohibiting Elected Official Ross Brandt From Using an Alias (failed resolution)

BINGO Fundraisers Are Now be Scheduled and Regulated through the Comanche Nation Gaming Commission



COMANCHE NATION GAMING COMMISSION
 1915 E. GORE BLVD. LAWTON, OK 73501
 PHONE: (580) 595-3300 FAX: (580) 595-3392
 WWW.COMANCHEGAMING.COM
 WWW.COMANCHEGCG.COM

Memorandum

To: Tribal Citizens
 From: Jonathon Ramirez, Commissioner
 Date: February 6, 2024
 Subject: Bingo Fundraiser Activities

Beginning February 12, CNGC will be registering and regulating Bingo Fundraisers taking place on Comanche Nation Lands. Any organization wishing to hold an event on Tribal lands will need to contact the Comanche Nation Gaming Commission at compliance@comancheegc.com to request an application. The application will be reviewed and approval or disapproval will be sent to the requestor.

At this point in time there will only be six (6) locations approved for bingo fundraiser activities. These sites are the Cache Community Center, Walters Community Center, Apache Community Center, Watchetaker Hall, Comanche Nation Elderly Center, and the Dorothy Sunrise Lorentino Education Center. If there are other locations that organizations would like to submit for consideration, these can be communicated to CNGC and a determination will be made.

Should anyone have any questions, they can contact CNGC.

Thank you,

 Jonathon Ramirez
 Commissioner
 Comanche Nation Gaming Commission
 Phone: (580) 595-3300
 Email: admindept@comancheegc.com

ENTERTAINMENT

Continued from Page 1

che Nation Entertainment property following the success of the system he installed, was one of the most advanced cleaning systems put into place by any company in Southwest Oklahoma.

"At Comanche Nation Entertainment, we are committed to offering one-of-a-kind entertainment experiences, prioritizing family, community service and innovation," said Doyle. "Leaders like Shandi and Jay exemplify our dedication to excellence and our position as leaders in the Tribal gaming industry."

For more details on Comanche Nation Entertainment and its properties, visit www.comanchenationentertainment.com.

ABOUT COMANCHE NATION ENTERTAINMENT
 Comanche Nation Entertainment operates Comanche Nation Casino in Lawton, Comanche Red

River Hotel Casino in Devol, Comanche Spur Casino in Elgin, Comanche Star Casino in Walters, Comanche War Pony Casino in Devol and Comanche Cache Casino in Cache. Its Comanche Travel Plazas, Smoke Shops and Quick Stops are located throughout Southwest Oklahoma.

True to its tribal heritage, Comanche Nation Entertainment is committed to family. It treats its team members like family and supports vital community services in the towns where it operates. Its mission at all of its properties is to provide a fun and exciting experience for guests, a safe and rewarding environment for team members and prosperity for the Comanche Nation.

For more information on Comanche Nation Entertainment properties, visit www.comanchenationentertainment.com or follow the company on Facebook.

From the Chairman's Desk



GIVING THANKS

When we learn to give thanks, we are learning to concentrate not on the bad things, but on the good things in our lives.

-Chief Enoch Kelly Haney

If you want to maintain a positive attitude, make it a priority to say something positive in every conversation. For me, it starts with those closest to me. When my wife looks beautiful (which is often), I tell her so. I compliment my children, grandchildren and absolutely pour out positive praise on them every time I see them. But I don't stop there. I sincerely compliment, praise, acknowledge, encourage, and reward people whenever I can. It's wonderful for me, as well as others. I know you can learn to do it too.

Also, make it a priority to express gratitude to others daily. Of all the virtues, gratitude seems to be the least expressed today. How often do you go out of your way to extend your things to others? I recommend you keep a gratitude journal (notebook or iPhone) to help you appreciate life. Thinking about the good things and remaining grateful helps us to have more of a positive attitude. And having a positive attitude promotes us to think about the good rather than the bad. It's a positive cycle that helps to fuel lives on a daily basis.

A generous person will prosper; whoever refreshes others will be refreshed.

- Proverbs 11:25

**Stay "Comanche Strong!"
 URA, Chairman W-**

Comanche Nation Tribal Court
 District Court
 JAN 25 2024
 Court Clerk

IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT
 DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME OF:
 VICTORIA RAE PAZ
 An enrolled member of the Comanche Nation.

Case No.: NC-2024-0001

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ALL CREDITORS or INTERESTED PARTIES

Take notice that Victoria Rae Paz has filed in the above Court a Petition to have the name changed as follows, to-wit from: **Victoria Rae Paz to Victoria Rae Parker.**

The petition will be heard on **03/14/2024 at 10:00 AM** located at the Comanche Nation Courthouse, 584 NW Bingo Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.

If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned Petition for Change of Name should not be granted by the Court you should file a written protest in the case prior to the date set for hearing or appear and present the same at the above time and place.

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this 25th day of January, 2024.

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

Kiowa Tribe Head Start Center
 24 Wildcat Drive
 Carnegie, Oklahoma
 (580) 654-6360

Little Rabbits Head Start Center
 225 E Parker
 McKenzie Road
 Anadarko, Oklahoma
 (405) 247-3740

KCA Head Start Center
 1401 NE Lawrie
 Tatum Road
 Lawton, Oklahoma
 (580) 354-1412

Dolphins Center
 Caddo Kiowa
 Vocational Center
 Fort Cobb, Oklahoma
 (405) 643-3248

KIOWA TRIBE HEAD START NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

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- ❖ Ages: 3 to 4-year-old
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- ❖ The program is open to the public.
- ❖ The Kiowa Tribe Head Start serves all children regardless of race, color, sex, national origin or disabilities.

Applications Accepted throughout the year.
 For more information call: (580) 654-6396 or (580) 654-2544

Comanche Nation Releases 2023 Audit



Independent Auditors' Report

Comanche Business Committee
Comanche Nation
Lawton, Oklahoma

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinions

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities, the General Fund, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Comanche Nation Governmental Programs Department (the "Department") as of and for the year ended September 30, 2023, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise the Department's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities, the General Fund, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Department as of September 30, 2023, and the respective changes in financial position, for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinions

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards*, issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Department and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audit. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Emphasis of Matter

As discussed in Note A, the financial statements of the Department are intended to present the financial position and the changes in financial position of only that portion of the governmental activities, the General Fund, each major fund, and the aggregate remaining fund information of the Comanche Nation that is attributable to the transactions of the Department. They do not purport to, and do not, present fairly the financial position of the Comanche Nation as of September 30, 2023, and the changes in its financial position for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Our opinion is not modified with respect to this matter.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

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

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Department's ability to continue as a going concern for twelve months beyond the financial statement date, including any currently known information that may raise substantial doubt shortly thereafter.

Auditors' Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditors' report that includes our opinions. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards* will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards and *Government Auditing Standards*, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Department's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Required Supplementary Information

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

Other Reporting Required by Government Auditing Standards

In accordance with *Government Auditing Standards*, we have also issued our report dated February 7, 2024, on our consideration of the Department's internal control over financial reporting and on our tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts, and grant agreements and other matters. The purpose of that report is solely to describe the scope of our testing of internal control over financial reporting and compliance and the results of that testing, and not to provide an opinion on the effectiveness of the Department's internal control over financial reporting or on compliance. That report is an integral part of an audit performed in accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* in considering the Department's internal control over financial reporting and compliance.

Rose Rock CPAs PLLC

Edmond, Oklahoma
February 7, 2024

COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT

MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

September 30, 2023

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

The Management's Discussion and Analysis (MD&A) of the Comanche Nation Governmental Programs Department (the "Department"), located in Lawton, Oklahoma, provides an overview and overall review of the Department's financial activities for the year ended September 30, 2023. The intent of the MD&A is to look at the Department's financial performance as a whole. It should, therefore, be read in conjunction with the Department's financial statements and the notes thereto.

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Total governmental net position increased by \$6.8 million, or 8% from the prior year. Net position classified as unrestricted represents \$40.3 million or 44% of the total governmental net position and may be used to meet the Department's ongoing obligations to its Tribal members and creditors.

Total governmental assets decreased by \$1.7 million, or 1% from the prior year. This is primarily due to a decrease in cash and amounts due from other Comanche Nation entities, partially offset by an increase in capital assets.

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

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

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

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

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

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

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

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

Continued on Page 5

Voting Results for February 8 Special Meetings

COMANCHE NATION OF OKLAHOMA
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, February 8, 2024



RECALL OF

	MACHINE 1	MACHINE 2	TOTALS	%
DR. CORNEL PEWEWARDY				
YES	139	111	250	62.03%
NO	85	68	153	37.97%
TOTALS	224	179	403	100.00%

Olak Callaban
Chemy martinez
Cornelle Westellin
Charlotte Nijal
Katey G. Lucca

Tony Ferguson

Liz Ware
Lana Chest
JW Marshall
Maude Jige

COMANCHE NATION OF OKLAHOMA
SPECIAL MEETING
Thursday, February 8, 2024



RECALL OF

	MACHINE 1	MACHINE 2	TOTALS	%
HAZEL TAHSEQUAH				
YES	115	113	228	57.14%
NO	70	101	171	42.86%
TOTALS	185	214	399	100.00%

Olak Callaban
Chemy martinez
Cornelle Westellin
Charlotte Nijal
Kimberly Lucca

Tony Ferguson

Liz Ware
Lana Chest
JW Marshall
Maude Jige

Continued from Page 4

COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, CONTINUED
 September 30, 2023

OVERVIEW OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, CONTINUED

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

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

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

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

The Department maintains individual governmental funds separately. Information is presented separately in the governmental fund balance sheet and in the governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures, and changes in fund balances for the major governmental programs department funds. The major governmental funds are the General Fund, the American Rescue Plan Fund and the Highway Planning and Construction Fund.

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

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COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, CONTINUED
 September 30, 2023

GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

Change in Net Position

For the years ended September 30, 2023 and September 30, 2022 the net position of the Department's governmental programs department changed as follows:

	Government Activities	
	2023	2022
REVENUES		
Program Revenues		
Charges for services	\$ 764,868	\$ 712,705
Operating grants and contributions	37,083,443	69,367,992
Investment gain (loss)	346,823	(369,477)
Other	3,636,087	704,076
Total Revenues	41,831,221	70,415,296
EXPENSES		
Coronavirus relief	14,540,444	53,274,742
General government	24,117,627	21,661,792
Public health and welfare	11,928,469	9,787,640
Culture and recreation	3,833,868	3,630,606
Environmental management	265,857	216,251
Public safety	2,248,813	2,346,861
Education	6,590,536	5,655,690
Public works	2,495,373	3,022,791
Total Expenses	66,020,987	99,596,373
Decrease in net position before transfers	(24,189,766)	(29,181,077)
Net transfers	31,039,498	42,638,782
	\$ 6,849,732	\$ 13,457,705

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

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COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
 SCHEDULE OF FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS, CONTINUED
 September 30, 2023

SECTION II--FINANCIAL STATEMENT FINDINGS

Compliance Findings:

There are no findings reported under this section.

Internal Control Findings:

There are no findings reported under this section.

SECTION III--FEDERAL AWARD FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Compliance Findings:

There are no findings reported under this section.

Internal Control Findings:

There are no findings reported under this section.

Questioned Costs:

There are no findings reported under this section.

PRIOR AUDIT FINDINGS AND QUESTIONED COSTS

Compliance Findings:

There are no findings reported under this section.

Internal Control Findings:

There are no findings reported under this section.

Questioned Costs:

There are no findings reported under this section.

COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, CONTINUED
 September 30, 2023

GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS

Net Position

Following is a comparative summary of net position as of September 30, 2023 and 2022:

	Government Activities	
	2023	2022
Current and other assets	\$ 77,858,029	\$ 85,391,352
Capital assets, net	44,338,424	38,466,064
Total assets	\$ 122,196,453	\$ 123,857,416
Current and other liabilities	\$ 29,451,977	\$ 38,067,573
Long-term liabilities	736,616	631,715
Total liabilities	\$ 30,188,593	\$ 38,699,288
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	\$ 44,158,933	\$ 38,354,268
Restricted	7,594,831	4,634,930
Unrestricted	40,254,096	42,168,930
Total net position	\$ 92,007,860	\$ 85,158,128

For the year ended September 30, 2023, net position for the governmental activities increased by \$6.8 million. The results indicate the Department improved its financial condition from the prior year.

Net investment in capital assets reflects the Department's investment in capital assets, less any related debt used to acquire those assets that is still outstanding. As of September 30, 2023, the net investment in capital assets amounted to \$44.2 million.

The unrestricted net position of \$40.3 million at September 30, 2023 may be used to meet the Department's ongoing obligations to its Tribal members and creditors.

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

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COMANCHE NATION GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS DEPARTMENT
 MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS, CONTINUED
 September 30, 2023

GOVERNMENTAL PROGRAMS WIDE FINANCIAL ANALYSIS, CONTINUED

Change in Net Position, Continued

The General Fund is the primary operating fund of the Department. For the year ended September 30, 2023, the General Fund's total fund balance increased by \$1.1 million, or 2%.

CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital Assets: The Department's investment in capital assets for its governmental programs department as of September 30, 2023, amounted to \$44.3 million (net of accumulated depreciation and amortization). The investment in capital assets includes land, buildings, and equipment.

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

The economy in Lawton, Oklahoma and the surrounding areas appears to be stable due to the presence of Ft. Sill and other industries. The U.S. Treasury has provided relief in the form of federal grants in recent years to assist state, local and Tribal governments in dealing with the Coronavirus pandemic. Due to considerable uncertainty, management is unable to reasonably estimate the ultimate financial impact of the pandemic.

The Department continues to look for other opportunities in the business sector to bring additional funds to the Department to serve the membership.

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION

This financial report is designed to provide our Tribal members, creditors, government and regulatory agencies with a general overview of the Department's finances and to demonstrate the Department's accountability for the money it receives. Questions about this report or requests for additional financial information should be requested from the Comanche Nation's Treasurer.

(Unaudited. See accompanying independent auditors' report.)

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RECALL
 Continued from Page 1

marizing the meeting was an injustice and an act of colonialism. The voting results were "Yes to Recall" – 62.3% (250 votes) and "No to Recall" – 37.97% (153 votes).

According to the Comanche Constitution Article VIII – Section 2 (e) - "A two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of those voting of the Tribal Council meeting shall be sufficient to effect recall providing a quorum is present. Should a quorum not be present the charges against the accused shall be declared null and void and no further action shall be taken on this petition, nor shall the same charges be allowed within the accused officer's term of office."

The vote to recall failed. Chairman Woommavovah adjourned the meeting around 2:30 p.m.

There was a total of 420 tribal members present for the second special General Council Meeting to recall CBC No. 1, Hazel Tahsequah.

The petition was taken out by tribal member Ron Red Elk and it was read by his representative, tribal member Britney Atavich. The Bill of Particulars cited against Tahsequah .

"Unconstitutional De-Facto" Removal of Committeeperson #3: Hazel Tahsequah did willingly violate the Constitution of the Comanche Nation by voting yes to Resolution 101-2023 "Resolution to Suspend CBC No. 3 Alice Kassanavoid for Violations of the Comanche Nation Constitution and Other Pertinent Laws" in the September 9, 2023 Monthly Business Meeting. Article VIII - Vacancies and Removals From Office of the Constitution does not provide any avenue to suspension ("de-facto removal") by the CBC. The only constitutionally provided way to remove a member of the CBC is the take out a recall petition following all the required steps pursuant to the authority in the Comanche Indian Tribe's Constitution, Article V -Tribal Council/ Powers Clause; Article VIII - Vacancies and removal from Office; and Article XI - Amendments for the following purposes: B. To Request the Tribal Chairman to call a Special Meeting of the Tribal Council to remove an officer of the Comanche Business Committee from office for neglect of duty or conduct that has brought disrepute on the tribe, Article VIII Section 2. Hazel Tahsequah willfully acted to violate the Constitution Article 11, Sections 1 &

She failed to define, establish and safeguard the rights, powers and privileges of the tribe and its members. She refused to care for the common well-being of the tribe and its members and also harmed the Comanche Nation and the Comanche Nation People by taking away the direct representation of the Tribal Council by the suspension ("de-facto removal") of Committeeperson #3.

Dereliction of Duty and Violation of the Constitution: Hazel Tahsequah did willingly and knowingly violate the Comanche Nation Constitution and was derelict in her duty as a member of the CBC by bringing forward a resolution to establish the Office of the CBC and voting yes to Resolution 102-2023 that created the Office of the CBC as witnessed in the meeting on September 9, 2023. She violated Article VI - Business Committee, Section 7, (e) which states that the duties of the CBC include: "To develop proposals which are in the interest of fulfilling the purpose of the Comanche tribal organization including, but not limited to, programs involving employment, health, education, public relations, social, recreational, and historical activities of the tribe. Such program proposals shall be presented to the tribal council for final consideration as to adoption or rejection." The Office of the CBC was not presented to the Tribal Council for final consideration as to adoption or rejection. This is in direct violation of the Constitution."

In her rebuttal, Tahsequah stated as a former Comanche tribal employee, she listens to the people and brings their concerns to the CBC and she will stand by her decisions because she is there to represent all tribal members, not just a few.

The voting results were "Yes to Recall" – 57.14% (228 votes) and "No to Recall" – 42.86% (171 votes). The vote to recall failed.

Chairman Woommavovah adjourned the meeting around 3:30 p.m.

Programs

Child Support Services Announces Court Dates

In the Comanche Nation Tribal Court

- **Derek Harjo:** CNC-SP-16-25; Application for Indirect Contempt
- **Quin Heminokely:** CNC-SP-23-45; Petition to Register Foreign Order

- **Wynterashia Beasley:** CNCSP-23-45; Petition to Register Foreign Order
- **Michael Zunk:** CNC-SP-19-12; Application for Indirect Contempt

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

Please take note that all Comanche Nation tribal court child hearings will be conducted in person.

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

March 2024 Adult Education Student of the Month Jennifer Rosado



Courtesy Photo

Rosado

Jennifer is the daughter of the late Elvira Nieto and the granddaughter of the late Theodore & Lydia Nieto.

Rosado is the founder and CEO of Steps to Healing and Recovery Counseling, STHAR. She is a Licensed Professional Counselor in the states of Oklahoma, Alabama, and Texas.

Rosado received a Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Alabama at Birmingham and a Master of Education in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from the University of Montevallo. She has recently completed her certification in Eye Movement Desensitization and Reprocessing (EMDR), where she uses this modality to help break through emotional blocks that keep individuals from living an adaptive emotionally healthy life. She currently serves her community rendering counseling services to local Veterans, Native Americans, and individuals in Comanche County.

Rosado enjoys working with individuals, assisting youth in college, and being around her large family. Mostly she enjoys being a mother and raising her son, Aaron. She hopes to inspire Comanche youth to build and pursue a healthy way of life for generations to come.

March 2024 Higher Education Student of the Month Emma Tippeconnic

Comanche Nation member Emma Tippeconnic is the daughter of Dr. Eric Tippeconnic, granddaughter of Norman Tippeconnic Sr., great-granddaughter of John Tippeconnic, and great-great-granddaughter of Tippeconnic and Wimmerchy.



Courtesy Photo

Tippeconnic

Tippeconnic is a first-year undergraduate student at the University of California Irvine. She is majoring in environmental science and policy. She plans to pursue a career in environmental activism.

Tippeconnic is a member of a student activism organization at UCI called the California Public Interest Research Group (CALPIRG), which is currently working to secure a California statewide ban of plastic bags in all retail stores.

March 2024 Higher Education Student of the Month Harrison Guy



Courtesy Photo

Guy

Harrison Guy is currently pursuing his Master of Science in Business Analytics at The University of Oklahoma.

Guy also works full time as a Program Analyst at Indian Health Service - Oklahoma Area Office.

Guy's parents, Lyman (Apache, Comanche) and Lavina Guy (Tlingit), are retirees of the Indian Health Service (IHS). Together he and his parents have a combined total of over 80 years at IHS.

After graduating, Guy plans to continue his career in Federal Government.

Thanks to the assistance of the Comanche Tribe, Guy has been able to receive two bachelor degrees from the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma and a Master of Business Administration degree from

Oklahoma City University.

He is very thankful for the support of the Comanche Tribe and their assistance in helping him pursue his goals.

Environmental Program Create Kayak Rack



Courtesy Photo

The Comanche Nation Office of Environmental Programs, solid waste and water quality departments teamed up to upcycle two bed frames to create kayak rack. The kayaks are utilized to investigate contaminated water.

March 2024 Job Placement & Training Student of the Month Nansuwuhkai Gutierrez



Courtesy Photo

Gutierrez

This is Nansuwuhkai Mendenhall. She attends Elite Academy of Cosmetology.

Gutierrez so close to graduating and achieving her goals of becoming a cosmetologist.

Every day Gutierrez works hard to obtain her dream of owning a salon and creating a safe environment for her family, tribal members, and friends.

Gutierrez could not have gotten this far without her biggest support: her mother Ginger Gutierrez.

Comanche Nation Prevention & Recovery's Annual

EASTER Egg hunt

OPEN TO THE COMMUNITY FREE ADMISSION

March 23, 2024 11 AM - 2PM

Janice Pewewardy Softball Fields
Comanche Nation Tribal Complex

Egg Hunt Age Categories: (0-2), (3-5), (6-8), (9-12), (13-15), (16-19), (20-49), (50-61), Elders 62 and up.

Egg hunts will be inclusive and made accessible for those with disabilities and limited mobility. For more information, please contact the CNP&R Outpatient Office at 580-357-3449.

The Comanche Nation will not be liable for any accident, injury, or theft that may occur at this event. Drugs, alcohol, and weapons are strictly prohibited.

COMANCHE ACADEMY CHARTER SCHOOL
2nd Annual
TAMARO?I N?HKAN
Youth Led

Sunday, April 14, 2024
Watchetaker Hall
NW Bingo Rd, Lawton, OK 73507

MC- N?m?n?n? Ruvalcaba & Martin Flores
Head Singer-Emanuel Tahhahwah & Ed Tahhahwah Jr.
Head Man - Modesto Schonchin
Head Lady- LeAnn Tahsequah
Head Little Boy- Amaras Karty
Head Little Girl- Nahmi Poafpybitty
Contest Coordinator-TBD

12-3 Gourd Dance
3 pm Intermission / Supper break
3-30 Calling Song
Crowning Princess & Brave Contest & Social Dancing
8 pm Closing Prayer

CONTEST CATEGORIES WILL BE COMBINED BY AGE GROUP

- *Tiny Tot 0-6 yrs
- *Jr. Boys 7-12 *Jr. Girls 7-12
- *Teen Boys 13-17 *Teen Girls 13-17
- *Lulu & War Cry (School Age)
- *Potato Dance
- *Specials at this event are reserved for Head Staff only.

Arena Directors- Michael Foye, Alex Wright, Cayden Travis

Co-Hosts: Comanche Homecoming, Walters Service Club

Special Invitation
Comanche Nation Youth Dancers

VENDOR SPACE AVAILABLE \$25 + RAFFLE ITEM
For vendor information please contact Tiffany Wright Via Email- CACG@comancheacademy.com
ABSOLUTELY NO DRUGS AND/OR NO ALCOHOL ALLOWED
THE COMMITTEE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT OR DAMAGE TO ANY PERSONAL PROPERTY

Lucky to Be Alive

Health & Wellness Fair

Location
Watchetaker Hall

Date & Time
Wednesday March 13, 2024
Join Us From 9am-3pm

For More Information: 580-699-5534
prescriptionassistance@comanchenation.com

Featuring
Health Information, Prevention Information, Interactive Events, Health Tutorials, Food, Prizes



COMANCHE NATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOTLINE (580) 492-3628

DIVORCE? WRITS? WILLS/CODICILS? ATTESTATIONS? Notary Services

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

REASONABLE PREP FEES
Contact: Jewell Laurenzana Tieyah
(580) 678-2052 or (580) 492-5455

Military News

Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/CIVA

CIVA Activities

Military Funeral Details

At the request from Major Kent Tomah, the Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) was called upon to help coordinate a Memorial Service for U.S. Army Specialist, Nicholas Kendall Chavez who was a tribal member of the Zuni Nation from New Mexico.

The Memorial Service was conducted on January 18, at the Cache Creek Chapel on Fort Sill. A Drum was provided by Kevin "Bubba" Sovo, Louie Pohawpatchoko, and Robert Tehauno as an appropriate memorial song was provided to the Chevez Family. CIVA Officers, Veterans and Auxiliary members rendered a final saluted at the end of the service.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary seated prior to the start of the service.



Courtesy Photo

Drum and singers pictured with Comanche Nation Chairman Mark Woommavovah are Louie Pohawpatchoko, Kevin "Bubba" Sovo and Robert Tehauno.



Courtesy Photo

U.S. Army Specialist, Nicholas Kendall Chavez memorial.

Benefit Taco Sale

On January 19, the CIVA France Delegation held a Benefit Indian Taco Sale at the Comanche Nation Police Department.

The Indian Taco Sale was a big success and money raised to off set the cost to attend the 80 D-DAY Anniversary and to honor our Comanche Code Talkers on Omaha Beach. Future Indian Taco Sales will be advertised along with upcoming Bingo.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno being interviewed by KSWO.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Auxiliary members, Shirley Pohawpatchoko and Jolene Schonchin preparing the to-go orders.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Auxiliary members, Linda Tehauno, Elizabeth Plata and CIVA Auxiliary Leader Tavia Torralba on the Fry Bread assembly line.

Fort Sill's Commanding General Holiday Reception

On January 20, the Fort Sill Commanding General's New Year Reception was held at the Fort Sill historic Sherman House.

Attending the event was CIVA Secretary, Dominic Pawlowski, CIVA Veteran Lymon Guy, Auxiliary Leader Tavia Torralba and Comanche Nation Chairman, Mark Woommavovah.

CIVA was welcomed with open arms by Brig. General Brooks and his wife. This event was attended by Community Leaders in the Lawton Fort Sill Community.



Courtesy Photo

Fort Sill's Commanding General Winston and Lori Brooks



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Secretary, Dominic Pawlowski, CIVA Veteran Lymon Guy, Auxiliary Leader Tavia Torralba and Comanche Nation Chairman, Mark Woommavovah with the Comanche Nation Flag.

CIVA Color Guard

On January 20, CIVA Color Guard was invited to open the 2024 Comanche County Basketball Tournament which was held at the Comanche County Coliseum in Lawton, Oklahoma. The National Anthem was played as the Colors were presented. CIVA Princess, Arlene Schonchin also signed the National Anthem during the opening ceremonies.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veterans, Princess and Auxiliary preparing to parade the colors.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Princess Arlene Schonchin signing the National Anthem followed by the CIVA Color Guard Detail and Auxiliary.

Firo Benefit Fund Raiser

On January 24, the CIVA France Delegation held a Benefit at the FIRO's in Lawton, Oklahoma. 25% of the sales proceeds that evening was donated to the CIVA France Delegation.



Courtesy Photo

Patrons ordering pizza and donating to the CIVA France Delegation.

Benefit Taco Sale

On January 27, the CIVA France Delegation held a Benefit Indian Taco Sale at the Hunting Horse Methodist Church in Lawton Oklahoma.

The Indian Taco Sale was a big success as money raised to off set the cost to attend the 80 D-DAY Anniversary and to honor our Comanche Code Talkers on Omaha Beach.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Auxiliary members, Suzanne Patterson, Jolene Schonchin, and CIVA Princess Arlene Schonchin preparing the Indian Taco orders.

CIVA Monthly Meeting

On February 1, CIVA held its monthly meeting in the Patriot Room.

A call to order was conducted by CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno. A prayer was given by CIVA Co-Chaplain Lyman Guy followed by a Pledge of Allegiance by the CIVA Auxiliary member, Danielle Tomah.

Before the serving of the meal, a birthday recognition was given to Tavia Torralba and Nona Gail Mihecoby. After the evening meal which was provided by CIVA Auxiliary members Nona Gail Mihecoby and Cheryl Takawana.

CIVA conducted their monthly meeting as old and new busi-



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Auxiliary members Tavia Torralba and Nona Gail Mihecoby receiving birthday recognition. Prayer given by CIVA Veteran Lyman Guy.

Fort Sill National Prayer Breakfast 2024

CIVA was invited to attend Fort Sill's National Prayer Breakfast at the Patriot Club on Fort Sill.

The event kicked off with a prayers and breakfast setting the tones for reflection and inspiration.

CIVA was honored to hear from John Arroya, combat veteran & author, sharing his story as a survivor from the 2014 mass shooting at Fort Hood, Texas.

John Arroya rose through the enlisted ranks and obtained the rank of Captain. His inspiring words emphasizing the importance of resilience and faith amidst adversity.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary preparing for the morning meal.



Courtesy Photo

Guest Speaker John Arroya



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno with guest speaker John Arroya

Co-Host for the Kiowa War Mothers Valentine's Dance

CIVA were the Co-Host for the Annual Kiowa War Mother's Chapter 18 Valentine Dance which was held at the Kiowa Community Building in Carnegie, Oklahoma.

CIVA had the honor of honoring Veterans during the Gourd Dance session.

Former Comanche Nation Princess and Air Force Veteran, Lannette Chibitty served as the Head Lady Dancer.

CIVA Veterans, Princess and Auxiliary would like to thank the Kiowa War Mother's for their hospitality and serving as Co-Host.



Courtesy Photo

Head Lady and Air Force Veteran Lannette Chibitty being honored.

CIVA Seeking Princess Candidates



Courtesy Photo

The Comanche Indian Veterans Association is currently accepting nomination packets for the Princess candidates until March 31.

Our current princess Arlene Schonchin term will end on Armed Forces Day May 18.

Candidates must:

- be an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation
- be a direct descendant of a Comanche Veteran
- be of impeccable character
- have never been married or cohabitated
- have no children
- be between the ages of 13 – 17 years
- they must provide their own regalia
- able to sing Comanche Hymns and sign language is a plus

Nomination packet must include a 5X7 photograph in regalia; copy of their CDIB; bio which can include news articles, school records or any other pertinent information.

Nomination packets should be submitted to:

Dominic Pawlowski CIVA Secretary by email: mymantees@gmail.com

Any Questions should be directed to the CIVA Commander, Roger Tehauno, at (580) 583-4082 or by email; rogetehauno@yahoo.com.

CIVA France Delegation

All of the CIVA France Delegation Fund raisers will be posted in all media outlets. The CIVA France Delegation will be having Indian Taco Sales, Bingos so keep checking the media outlets.

A GO FUND ME account has been setup to help deter the cost. Please help and support the GoFund-Me, <https://gofund.me/780f5af8>.

Even a small donation could help reaching our goal. And if you can't donate, it would be great if you could share the fundraiser to help spread the word.

Mark your calendar for upcoming Bingo Fund Raisers:

- March 8 – Farmers Market, Lawton, Oklahoma
- March 22 – Comanche Nation Elderly Center, Lawton, Oklahoma
- May 3 – Farmers Market, Lawton Oklahoma

Flyers on these events will be posted.

Comanche Nation Veteran Information is Needed

The Comanche Indian Veterans Association are updating the Comanche Veterans Master List.

If you are a Honorably Discharged Veteran and you would like your military service updated and documented, please email Kevin Pohawpatchoko at k_pohawpatchoko@yahoo.com. Your military service history, documents, records, photographs and your DD-214 will be forwarded to Dr. Bill Meadows, Missouri State University, Department of Sociology-Anthropology/Native American Studies. He and his staff will digitize your military documents and update our Comanche Veterans Master List. Our Comanche Veterans military history and documents received will also help in the event of a Veterans passing.

In closing, this is voluntary for the Comanche Nation Veterans and their families. Thank you!

Outgoing 2023 Comanche Nation Princess, McKenzie Sovo Thanks the Nation; Invites All to Honor Powwow

“*Haw Maruawe!* I am very honored to present this statement to all of the *Numunu* People. As I approach the one-year mark of holding the title of Comanche Nation Princess, I would like to express myself. I have held this title with great honor, value and respect and I am very grateful for the opportunities this year has brought me. I have traveled to many states, and visited different tribes, and learned of their cultures and traditions.

Being the Comanche Nation Princess has changed my outlook on life, gaining self-respect and confidence, everything I have done is a reflection of the *Numunu*, myself, and my family. I am honored to have such amazing support from my family and the Comanche Nation. I appreciate everyone within our tribe, everywhere I traveled I have always received endless love and praise. I am thankful for this opportunity to continue our family royalty, and traditions.

This has been an amazing year, I will always be thankful for being able to become closer with our elders, the youth, the community and the Comanche Nation as a whole. Being the ambassador is more than just a “title”; everywhere I traveled I remembered that I not only represent myself, but I represent my family and the 17,000+ Tribal Members and that I will consistently be a positive example for our nation.

As my reign comes to an end, I am honored to be able to hand this title to the next Comanche Nation Princess, I want to wish her the best of luck, praise and support. I will continue to be a role model for all and remember where I came from throughout my future endeavors. Therefore, I have never been prouder and more humbled to say that I was the 2023 Comanche Nation Princess. Comanche Nation I love you. God Bless each and every one of you.”

Urako Mesena!



Outgoing 2023 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, Vivien Parker Addresses the Nation; Invites All to Honor Powwow



Mariaweeka!

My name is Vivien Michelle Parker. I am the 2023-2024 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess. I would like to express what an honor it has been for me to serve as the Jr. ambassador for our Comanche Nation. Being your Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, it gave me opportunities that I might not have been able to achieve on my own. An example of this is when I attended an event hosted by Fort Sill National Historic Museum. The event’s purpose was to heal and strengthen bonds by reaching out to local tribes. I felt such pride and appreciation in seeing my great grandfather’s things that it strengthened my resolve to serve my people well. I also had the honored to represent our nation at the Shoshone Language Reunion at Ft. Duschene in Utah. I learned of the powerful connection between the Utes and *Numunus*. I am very grateful for the opportunities to represent our people at many events such as parades, powwows, banquets and community events throughout Oklahoma, Utah, and Nebraska

I want to thank my family, friends and the Comanche Nation community that helped me throughout my reign. Without them this would not have been possible. I can’t believe that my reign is coming to an end. I want to wish the incoming Jr. Princess a successful year. I hope she will make as many memorable memories as I did.

Era

Comanche Nation Princess McKenzi Denese Sovo

2023 - 2024
HONOR POWWOW
MARCH 9, 2024
COMANCHE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS EXPO BUILDING, LAWTON-OK

HONORED ELDERS
Pat Tahdoahnippah
Tommie Leader
Virginia Wauqua (First Lady of the Comanche Nation)

HEAD STAFF
MC's - Eugene Blackbear & JR Ross
Head Drum - Sovo Family
Head Man Dancer - Edson Yellowfish
Head Lady Dancer - Michelle Nevaquaya (Comanche Nation Princess 2022-2023)
Head Gourd Dancer - Terrance Tsonetokoy
Head Little Boy - Dominic Guiterez
Head Little Girl - Scarlett Codynah
Arena Directors - Travis Codynah & Ashley Kerchee

Co-Hosts: Comanche Little Ponies, Comanche Princess Sorority & CIVA-Colors

Invited Princesses: Comanche Nation Jr. Princess - Vivien Parker
Kiowa Tribal Princess - Kyla Tsoodle
Apache Tribal Princess - Amaya Bonilla-Harris
Cheyenne Tribal Princess - Madelynn Byrd
OKC Powwow Club Princess - Aubrey Berry
KCA Veterans Princess - Jaselyn Thompson
Eugene Whitehunder Descendants Princess - Kendal Hamilton

Special Invitation: Comanche Nation Chairman - Mark Woommavovah

Events: Bear Dance Presentation (From Fort Duchesne, Utah)
Chiefs Game (Sponsored by IAMNDN) (During supper break)

CONTESTS
Switch Dance (Make your own regalia!)
One man and one woman Winner!

Men's Straight Dance
1st, 2nd and 3rd (One consolation)

Princess Contest (Must wear banner)
1st, 2nd and 3rd (One consolation)

Tiny Tots (Sponsored by Wallace and Hedge Families)

Men's Lulu (One Winner!) (During supper break)
Women's War Cry (One Winner!) (During supper break)

SCHEDULE
12:00 Scalp and Victory Dance
1:00 Gourd Dance
5:00 Supper Break
6:00 Gourd Dance
7:30 Colors/Calling Song, Contests and Social Dancing

Comanche Nation Jr Princess Vivien Michelle Parker

2023-2024
Honor Pow wow
March 16th, 2024
Watchetaker Hall-Comanche Complex
Lawton Oklahoma

Schedule
12:00 pm Blessing & Cedering
1pm Gourd Dance
5:30 Supper Break
7:00 pm Grand Entry & Contest Dances

CONTEST
TINY TOTS
JR GIRLS 6-12
CLOTH/BUCKSKIN
FANCY/JINGLE
JR BOYS 6-12
SOUTHERN STRAIGHT
GRASS/FANCY
TEEN GIRLS 13-17
CLOTH/BUCKSKIN
FANCY/JINGLE
TEEN BOYS
SOUTHERN STRAIGHT
GRASS/FANCY
WOMEN
CLOTH & BUCKSKIN
MENS
SOUTHERN STRAIGHT
GRASS/FANCY

Head Staff
COLOR GUARD; RIVERSIDE INDIAN SCHOOL
HEAD SINGER: DEVON WERMY
MC: COY MCLEMORE
HEAD MAN: CECIL GRAY
HEAD LADY: CATHERINE HOWELL
HEAD BOY: REIGNEN YELLOWFISH
HEAD GIRL: CHRISSIE LONELODGE
AD: ASHLEY KERCHEE
CO-HOST COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES

Special invitation to
McKenzi Sovo Comanche Nation Princess
Graison Yellowfish Comanche Little Ponies Princess
OKCPS NASS students

**Special Contest
Scrub Dance**

All Comanche Organization Princesses are invited
All other Tribal Princesses are invited

Vendor's please contact Nicole Parker @ 405-778-1913 or email at Parker10486@gmail.com. Family is not responsible for accidents, injury or theft. NO DRUG OR ALCOHOL ALLOWED.

Invitation to All Tribal and Organizational Princesses. All other Tribal Princess Sororities.
Vendors: \$25.00...Please contact Margaret Wallace: margwall1960@gmail.com / 405-400-4124
Not responsible for theft, accidents or injuries, No drugs or alcohol

Keahbone Nominated for President of the Southern Baptist Convention

Story from The Baptist Press/ January 30, 2024



Courtesy Photo
Keahbone

The pastor of The First Baptist Church, Mike Keahbone is the second name to be presented as a planned SBC presidential nominee at the 2024 Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Annual Meeting in Indianapolis. California pastor Victor Chayasirisobhon announced his intention to nominate

“Mike Keahbone is the real deal, a leader who loves the Lord, loves the SBC, and strives every day to make it better. He is a son of the SBC, and I am convinced he is more than ready to step up and step into the role of president,” Chayasirisobhon said.

Keahbone is the

senior pastor of FBC Lawton, Okla. He has served as a member of the SBC Executive Committee since 2021 and is the vice chairman of the SBC’s Abuse Reform Implementation Task Force. He was a member of the Sexual Abuse Task Force.

“Mike led student ministries for more than two decades before spending two years as a full-time evangelist speaking at local churches throughout the country as well as multiple camps including Falls Creek and state evangelism conferences,” the release said.

The fiscal year for FBC Lawton ends on March

31. Therefore, the last completed year on record with the Annual Church Profile is 2022. During that year, FBC Lawton received \$1,401,565 in undesignated receipts and gave \$88,057.87 to the Cooperative Program, according to the ACP. The church also gave \$45,762 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering and \$18,337.94 to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering in 2022.

A church staff member told Baptist Press on January 30, “The 2023-2024 fiscal year has an approved undesignated receipt budget of \$1,690,973 with Cooperative Program giving of \$102,483.”

The church recorded 623 people in average weekly attendance in 2023 and 54 baptisms, according to the church staff member.

On January 28, Keahbone asked church members for their blessing regarding his nomination. A release from the church unanimously stated, “It is our joy to affirm God’s leadership in this decision, and we prayerfully commit to supporting our pastor in this endeavor.”

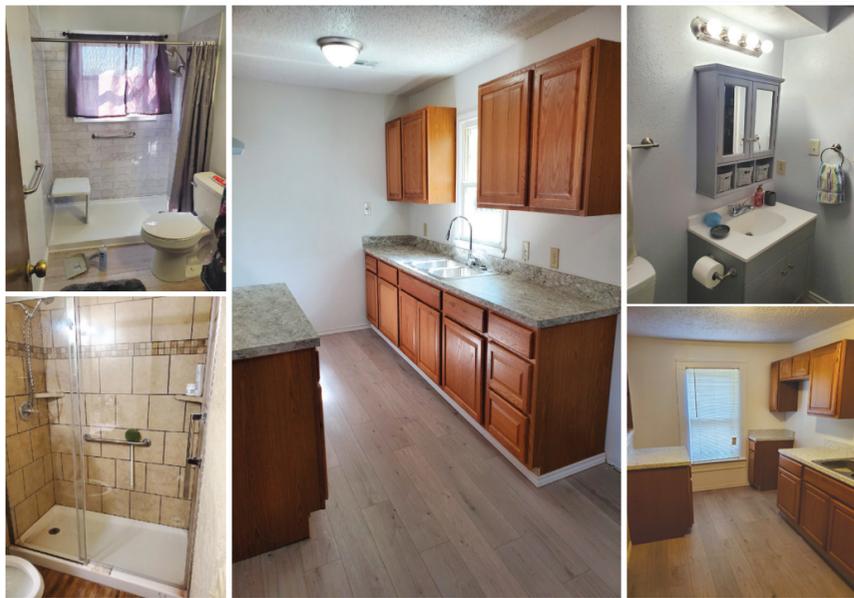
Keahbone served on the Oklahoma Baptist Board of Directors from 2015-2021, according to the release, serving as vice president from 2017-2021.

A Native American with heritage from the Comanche, Kiowa, and Cherokee tribes, Keahbone served on the 2023 SBC Resolutions Committee and helped write the resolution titled, “On Religious Liberty, Forced Conversion, and the Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative Investigative Report,” which was adopted by SBC messengers.

One other anticipated presidential nomination has been announced thus far - North Carolina Pastor Clint Pressley. The 2024 SBC Annual Meeting is set for June 11-12 at the Indiana Convention Center in Indianapolis.

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Vote for Arlene Schonchin

Candidate 2024 Comanche Nation
JR. PRINCESS

- * From the Wockmetoah, Tomahsah - Pratt Families
- * From the Kwaharu & Yaparuhka Bands
- * Descendant of Chiefs Wildhorse & Whitewolf
- * Raised in Powwow Arena
- * Can Sign The Lord’s Prayer, National Anthem, and other songs
- * Can lead Comanche Hymns
- * Member of National Jr. Honor Society & Varsity Soccer Player for Elgin High School

“I would love the opportunity to serve the Comanche Nation as the 2024 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess. I appreciate your vote and support April 12-13, 2024. URA”

-PAID ADVERTISEMENT-



Vote Vivien Michelle Parker 2024 Comanche Nation Princess



My Name is Vivien Michelle Parker, I am currently the reigning Comanche Nation Jr. Princess 2023-2024.

I am the daughter of Jennifer Parker. Jennifer is the daughter of Nicole and Richard Parker Sr.

I am a descendant of the following chiefs: Quanah Parker, Mow-way, Whitewolf, and Iron Jacket. I come from the bands Quahada and Noconi.

My paternal great-grandmother was the late Peggy Jean Parker Walenberg. Peggy is the daughter of Alice Mowatt Parker and Roy Parker Sr. Roy is the son of Nora and Baldwin Kootsequetah Parker Sr. Baldwin is the son of Choney and Quanah Parker. Quanah is the son of Cynthia Ann Parker and Peta Nocona. Peta Nocona is the son of Iron Jacket.

Alice Mowatt Parker is the daughter of Eunice Whitewolf Parker and Samuel Mowatt. Eunice is the daughter of Whitewolf. Samuel is the son of Mow-way.

Cynthia Ann Parker was the daughter of Silas Parker and Silas was the son of Elder John Parker. Elder John Parker was a documented American patriot soldier of the American Revolution. Because I am a descendant of Elder John Parker, when I become 18, I can register and become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

When I was elected as Comanche Nation Jr. Princess on April 2, 2023, it gave me opportunities that I might not have been able to achieve on my own. An example of this is when I attended an event hosted by Fort Sill National Historic Museum. The event’s purpose was to heal and strengthen bonds by reaching out to local tribes. I was able to view personal effects of Baldwin Parker Sr. I felt such pride and appreciation in seeing my great grandfather’s things that it strengthened my resolve to serve my people well. I was also honored to represent our nation at the Shoshone Language Reunion at Ft. Duschene in Utah. I learned of the powerful connection between the Utes and Numunuhs. I am very grateful for the opportunities to represent our people at many events, parades, powwows throughout Oklahoma, Utah, and Nebraska.

I am running for Comanche Nation Princess because I have faced many challenges and I want to mentor the young women of our nation by showing them that it is possible for them to achieve their goals no matter what they are.

Uraako!!!

This month's financial tip brought to you by

City NATIONAL BANK & TRUST

MEMBER FDIC | EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

Let's Buy A House

One of the biggest purchases you can make is a **HOUSE!** Whether it is your starter home or your forever home, there is a lot of planning that goes into making this purchase.



Tips to buy a house

- **Save Money for the Down Payment**
This amount is a percentage of the purchase price.
- **Save for Upgrades**
New appliances, fresh paint, etc...
- **Set a Budget**
Ask yourself, "What Can I Afford?" Don't forget to include homeowner's insurance, property taxes, homeowner's association fees, utilities, etc...
- **Check Your Credit**
The better your credit score is can save you money. If it's low, you can work on that by paying bills on time and paying past due bills.
- **Look and See What Type of Mortgage Works for You**
Compare rates and fees that are associated with each type.
- **Gather Documents to Provide the Lender**
W-2's, Tax Returns, Bank Statements, a list of what you owe, etc...
- **Get Pre-Approved**
This will let you know how much you can borrow & how much house you can afford.
- **Find a Realtor**
Make sure they have good references.
- **Decide What You Want**
What area you want to live in, how many bedrooms, what you can afford.
- **Look At Homes In Person**
Looking online can't take the place of being inside the house.
- **Get An Inspection**
You don't want unexpected problems, causing buyers remorse.
- **Make An Offer**
- **Have Good Home Insurance**

Scan & learn more
about buying
a home.



COME PLAY WITH US!

\$100,000 COLLECT & GO!

MONDAY-THURSDAY
MARCH 4-APRIL 25

WIN UP TO \$100,000 CASH & MORE!

Hurry In To Play For \$100K!
Come in to play and earn 25 points, then swipe our promotional kiosks to get a sticker for your gameboard. Collect all the letters to form the winning words to win up to **\$100,000 in CASH** or up to \$500 Comanche Credit!

Start playing at 4AM-3:59AM, March 4-April 25. Come in to play, collect and win BIG!

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

REELIN' AND WHEELIN'
2024 POLARIS SPORTSMAN 570 PREMIUM GIVEAWAY

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
NOW-MARCH 30
7PM-11PM
GRAND PRIZE
SUNDAY, MARCH 31

Win a 2024 Polaris Sportsman 570 Premium!
Get 4 on the floor and head out the door with a 2024 Polaris Sportsman 570 Premium - Grand Prize drawing on Sunday, March 31 at 11PM! You can win \$350 Cash or up to \$100 Comanche Credit every weekend when you earn E-drawing entries for every 5 for points on your Comanche Rewards Card 10AM-11PM February 1-March 31. Drawing every 30 minutes. Play at the Spur and ride out a winner!

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

MIDWEEK HOT SEATS

WEDNESDAYS & THURSDAYS
MARCH 6-28
5PM-10PM

IT'S MIDWEEK MANIA SO TAKE A SEAT!
Sit in our hot seats for your chance to win \$50 in Comanche Credit. Play with your Comanche Rewards card for 2 minutes on your favorite slot machines to qualify - you can even win twice! Drawings every 30 minutes.

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

Shamrock 'N' Rollin'

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
MARCH 1-30 • 7PM-11PM

We See You Rollin' & Winning at Nation!
Come get your Cash or Comanche Credit when you spin to win on our Progressive Jackpot Wheel! The jackpot starts at \$2,000 Cash and grows by \$1,000 each night until someone wins! You can win up to \$200 in Comanche Credit with drawings every 30 minutes. Just earn E-drawing entries for every 5 points on your Comanche Rewards Card from 8AM-11PM, Feb. 25-March 30.

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

st. Paddy's lucky pick

SUNDAY, MARCH 17
10AM-11PM

Come Get Lucky At The Spur!
There's up to \$100 in Comanche Credit up for grabs when you earn 50 points then swipe the promotional kiosk to see how much you've won - and you can even win 3 times! It's time to Paddy!

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

COMANCHE SPUR CASINO

TAKE A TRIP WITH TETON

MONDAYS
MARCH 4-APRIL 1
10AM-11PM

Travel Made Simple & Stylish
Earn 200 points on Mondays to receive a gift beginning March 4-April 1.

While supplies last. See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

Comanche Elder's Day

EVERY SUNDAY!

Comanche Rewards Club Members who are Comanche Tribal Elders receive \$20 Comanche Credit on your Comanche Rewards Card every Sunday.

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

COMANCHE NATION CASINO

HEROES DAY

COMANCHE NATION CASINO TUESDAYS
COMANCHE SPUR CASINO MONDAYS

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

COMANCHE NATION ENTERTAINMENT

ComancheNationEntertainment.com

SENIOR DAY

COMANCHE NATION CASINO MONDAYS
COMANCHE SPUR CASINO TUESDAYS

See Comanche Rewards Club for details.

2024 - 2025 Comanche Nation Princess Candidates (In Alphabetical Order)

Voting is 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. April 12 & 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. April 13 at Watchtaker Hall

Barbara Monoessy



Because I am a descendant of elder John Parker, when I become 18, I can register and become a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

When I was acclaimed as Comanche Nation Jr. Princess on April 2, 2023, it gave me opportunities that I might not have been able to achieve on my own. An example of this is when I attended an event hosted by Fort Sill National Historic Museum. The event's purpose was to heal and strengthen bonds by reaching out to local tribes. I was able to view personal effects of Baldwin Parker Sr. I felt such pride and appreciation in seeing my great grandfather's things that it strengthened my resolve to serve my people well. I was also honored to represent our nation at the Shoshone Language Reunion at Ft. Duschene in Utah. I learned of the powerful connection between the Utes and *Numunuhs*. I am very grateful for the opportunities to represent our people at many events, parades, powwows throughout Oklahoma, Utah, and Nebraska.

I am running for Comanche Nation Princess because it has been a dream of mine as long as I can remember. I have faced many challenges and I want to mentor the young women of our nation by showing them that it is possible for them to achieve their goals no matter who they are.

Uraako!!!

Former titles I've held

- Quannah Parker Descendants Society Princess
- Comanche Nation Jr. Princess

Isabella Tahdooahnippah



Nuh nahnia tsa Isabella Tahdooahnippah, *nu nahnumunuu tsa Tahdooahnippahnuu tuasu Tippeconnicnuu.*

My name is Isabella Tahdooahnippah, and I am of the Tahdooahnippah and Tippeconnic families. My parents are Michelle Kauahquo, Lance Tippeconnic, and Forrest and Brianna Tahdooahnippah. Along with being an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation, I am also of Kiowa and Cheyenne and Arapaho descent. My Comanche blood is from my father, Forrest Tahdooahnippah, whose grandmother was Esther Tahdooahnippah Onco, and great-grandparents were Mikey Tahdooahnippah and Martha Monetathchi. As well as being a Tahdooahnippah, I am also a Tippeconnic. From the Tippeconnic's, my grandparents are Charles and Janet Tippeconnic. My great-grandparents are Norman and Kirsten Tippeconnic. I am Kiowa from my mother's father, the late Franklin Kauahquo. It was from his sister, Beverly Kauahquo Caddo in which I received my name, Ah Tape Komah. Lastly, my Cheyenne and Arapaho blood is from my mother's mother, Thelma Kauahquo (Hoffman), who was married to Franklin Kauahquo, and my great-grandparents were Fred and Kathryn Hoffman.

Coming from so many families, especially ones whom I have a lot of respect for, has meant a lot to me and those who have come before me. To represent them and my Tribe is an honor to the greatest extent. I represented the *Numu Turetuu* Early Childhood Development Center as princess when I was four years old. Along with having represented them, I was brought into the dance arena with a traditional Cheyenne and Arapaho give away in KCA country. The title of "Comanche Nation Princess" means that I can represent both the present and the future of the Comanche Nation. It means that I can be a cultural ambassador that encourages our traditions, but I can also be an ambassador that is successful in mainstream society. To have the opportunity to teach Indian country and our country as a whole. Saying this, I plan to represent our tribe within our community through tribal gatherings, powwows, and the Native American Church. I plan to represent outside of our community, in other tribes, activities, and events. To represent not only those close to us, but to represent in places we do not usually get representation in. I say this because my uncle, Eric Tippeconnic, does such a respectable job representing us. He represents through learning our history and condensing it into art. Art that is shown everywhere, representing us in a broader region. He has played a big part in teaching me our culture and our language.

I am always looking to learn more of what is important, whether that is through school, culture, or sport. I am motivated with my education because my family and I hold education to a high standard, as both my parents graduated from Stanford University. Along with sporting a high GPA, I am also a 4-sport varsity athlete. I have lettered in fast-pitch and slow-pitch softball, basketball, and cross country. I am also on a competitive travel softball team, in which I get the opportunity to travel throughout the country. Lastly, I am a runner. Running motivates me to live a healthy lifestyle. A lifestyle that encompasses physical, mental, and spiritual health. A lifestyle that helps me lead by example to those who come before and after me.

Bluesky Tosee



Haa Maruaweka,

My name is Jaylene Bluesky Tosee. I am a candidate for the 2024 Comanche Nation Sr. Princess.

I am the 16-year-old daughter of Don Tosee II of Elgin and Tarah Nelson of New Mexico. My grandparents are Lynn and Curtis Munoz and the late Donald (Bud) Tosee I. My paternal great grandparents are the late Andrew B. and Eunice (Sovo) Tosee, Thomasina Tsoodle Leader and Leslie Gachot. My paternal Great-great grandparents are the late Ione Nipker and Moque Tosee, the late Ernest and Sally (Nahsequas) Sovo, the late Oscar and Hattie Tsoodle, and the late Louis and Lola Gachot. My maternal grandmother is Jolene Nelson of New Mexico.

I am a descendant of Big Lookingglass (Comanche), Chief Ten Bears (Comanche), Silver Broach (Comanche), Ten Bears (Comanche), Tenavuaka (Comanche), Red Teepee (Kiowa), and Chief Stephenson (Wichita).

I come from the Comanche bands; *Yamparika* (Root Eaters) and *Penateka* (Honey Eaters).

I am an emailed member of the Comanche Nation, and my Comanche name is *Wu mutsia-kot Nahuu* (Sharp Knife). I was named by my *Taa-kaw* Morgan Tosee Sr. I was given the name because at an early age I began carrying a knife and have become a skilled hunter and can butcher my kills.

I am also of Kiowa, Wichita, Southern Paiute, and Tewa descent.

I have been raised to know and respect our Comanche ways, especially our dances, Native American Church, and horse culture. I carry on my family's horsemanship traditions by participating in parades and rodeos.

I served as the 2022 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess. It was an honor to represent my Comanche People in this capacity.

I also served as the N8V Generation Princess from 2017 to 2022. N8V Generation is an inter-tribal youth lead organization that promotes cultural ways and traditions to prevent drug and alcohol addiction. I have also attended the Unity Conference four times where I had the honor to represent both titles that I have held.

I also participate in our *Tuu-wii* Society dances with my Tosee and Sovo families. I also dance with the Apache Blackfoot Society. I have been dancing in the arena since I was a toddler.

At a young age, I attended Princess Bootcamp and still strive to carry out what I was taught. My Tosee and Sovo Families have a great history of Comanche Princess royalty. It has always been a dream of mine to follow in that way. If I am elected to represent our Comanche people, I pledge to do my best to serve as a positive role model for the younger generations. I always focus on our youth and encourage them to partake in our Comanche culture.

In addition to my Indigenous upbringing, I am a 10th grader at Elgin High School where I am active in the Elgin Athletic Training program, and I am also a member of the slow-pitch softball team. I was the starting pitcher for the N team. I also have been selected to serve as the very first Native American Youth Ambassador for the Toys for Tots Foundation for the past two years. I am the first ever Native American youth to hold this title. I also enjoy attending Comanche language classes.

I am a member of the Carnegie Rodeo Roundup Club, where I had the opportunity to run for rodeo queen but finished short of a win. This opportunity gave me the chance to branch out and compete in other arenas and areas of my life.

I have been volunteering for the past four years at the Southwest Veterinary Clinic, working with large animals such as cattle and horses. I plan to attend and complete college and become an Athletic Trainer and obtain an agricultural business degree from Oklahoma State University. I also enjoy collecting items to give out while going with my dad to feed the homeless and the less fortunate. I give support to the Narok County Peace Association for overseas missions that assist young at-risk girls in the Kenya, Africa area.

My hobbies include bead working, making regalia, playing softball, painting, hunting, fishing, riding horses, camping out, watching football, and hanging out with all my family.

My family and I would be honored to represent our Comanche people as the 2024 Sr. Princess.

Vivien Parker



My Name is Vivien Michelle Parker, I am currently the reigning Comanche Nation Jr. Princess 2023-2024.

I am the daughter of Jennifer Parker. Jennifer is the daughter of Nicole and Richard Parker Sr.

I am a descendant of the following chiefs: Quannah Parker, Mow-way, Whitewolf, and Iron Jacket. I come from the bands Quahada and Noconi.

My maternal great-grandmother was the late Peggy Jean Parker Walenberg. Peggy is the daughter of Alice Mowatt Parker and Roy Parker Sr. Roy is the son of Nora and Baldwin Kootsequetah Parker Sr. Baldwin is the son of Chaney and Quannah Parker. Quannah is the son of Cynthia Ann Parker and Peta Nocona. Peta Nocona is the son of Iron Jacket.

Alice Mowatt Parker is the daughter of Eunice Whitewolf Parker and Samuel Mowatt. Eunice is the daughter of Whitewolf. Samuel is the son of Mow-way.

Cynthia Ann Parker was the daughter of Silas Parker and Silas was the son of Elder John Parker. Elder John Parker was a documented American patriot soldier of the American Revolution.

2024 - 2025 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Candidates (In Alphabetical Order)

Voting is 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. April 12 & 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. April 13 at Watchetaker Hall

Tatum Burgess



My name is Tatum Mallory Burgess, and I am 15 years old and in the 8th grade at Indianoma Public Schools. I am currently serving as the Walters Service Club Jr. Princess for 2023-2024. I was previously the Walters Service Club Princess for 2022-2023. I live in Cache, Oklahoma with my parents, Kenny and Tanisha Burgess, my sister Rebecca, my brother Cruz, and my niece Taleah. I have an older brother, Kaelan Burgess, who is currently serving in the United States Army and stationed at Ft. Carson, Co. I am a proud enrolled member of the Comanche Nation and of Otoe-Missouria and Kiowa descent.

My maternal grandparents are Retired U.S. Army SFC Richard and the late Norma (Cable) Adame of Mayetta, Kansas. My great-grandparents are Lavera Belle of Mayetta, Kansas and the late Vernon Sr. and Gloria (Wermly) Cable. My great-great grandparents are the late Josie and Bert Cable Sr. and the late

John D. Wermly and Agnes (Ataув-ich) Wermly.

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

I am currently Cheer Captain for Indianoma Jr. & HS Cheer Team and I also play volleyball. My hobbies are listening to music, singing hand drum songs, singing Comanche Hymns and dancing at powwows. I am fan of North Carolina, Go Tarheels!! I know my traditional Comanche ways and I attend Comanche Language Classes.

Why do I want to be Jr. Comanche Princess? I would like to be Jr. Comanche Princess because I want to be a good role model for my

peers. I want to encourage all youth that nothing is impossible if they put their mind to it.

Why would I want to represent the Comanche Nation? I will be present at all Comanche Tribal events as needed. I will attend Comanche Tribally hosted powwows. I will do my best to help educate my peers and community about our Comanche People and our culture.

What does the title mean to me? I have represented one of the original Comanche Veterans Organization for the past two years and that has been an honor. My next goal is to be Jr. Comanche Princess and eventually Comanche Princess because I want to represent the Comanche Nation People and my community. Both of my parents come from large Comanche families and have been raised Comanche through my teachings in song, dance language and other teachings. It would be an honor to represent my nation for the upcoming year.

Arlene Schonchin



My name is Arlene Schonchin, and I am the 14-year old daughter of Lynn and Jolene (Jimenez) Schonchin (1988 Comanche Princess), the granddaughter of the late Arlene Wockmetooah Jimenez (1945 Comanche Princess) and Joe "Papa Joe" Jimenez on my maternal side, and the granddaughter of the late Lynn Schonchin Sr. (Modoc) and Linda Jimenez (1962 Klamath Tribal Princess) on my paternal side. I am an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation. My maternal great-grandparents are the late Roy Wockmetooah and Lillie Tomahsah Pratt Teyah. My maternal great grandma is the late Anna Wockmetooah Tahmahkera, who gave me the Comanche Name, *Nai?bi Nuukawapu* (Pretty Dancer) when I was an infant. My great great grandparents are Charles Pratt and Rose Nahwats, and Judd (Wockmetooah) Komah and Edith Kowenoah. I am a descendant of Comanche Chiefs Wildhorse and Whitewolf.

I am from the *Kwahada* band and *Yapuruka* Comanche bands. I have been in the powwow arena since I was an infant, and learned how to sign the 'Lord's Prayer' in Native Sign Language when I was a toddler. I have represented my family and tribes at celebrations and powwows in Washington, D.C., Texas, New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon, Oklahoma and other states. I was the American Indian Catholic Outreach Princess in 2019-2022. In 2022, I was crowned the Comanche Indian Veterans Association Princess (CIVA) and held the title for two years.

Since I was little, I planned for this title since I was six years old. I knew one day I would run for the Comanche Nation Jr. Princess title. I am running because I want to represent the Comanche Nation and serve the Comanche Nation as Jr. Princess. I understand the title is a way to serve and represent my Comanche tribe and I am ready to do so in the most humble, respectful, and positive way I can.

Words cannot express what this title means to me. I want to follow in the footsteps of my mother and *Kaku* and other family, who were Comanche Princesses, and continue their legacy. I have learned from all of them, and they have taught me how to conduct myself in the arena and everywhere I go in a respectful and humble way.

I've been in the powwow arena since I have been in diapers. I always loved dancing at powwows. It is my comfort zone. I always find it relaxing and fun. I also danced for my school's dance team, the Elgin Owlettes. I danced ballet for several years. I danced with my Church's youth dance group, the Mexican Folkloric Dancers. I also dance with the Comanche Youth Dancers. I have played soccer for several years, and I play for my school's soccer team both in Middle School and High School.

I have all straight A's in school and am a part of the National Jr. Honor Society and in the Gifted & Talented group when I was younger.

I have been signing Native

American Sign Language since I was 4 years old. My very first performance was in Washington DC, at the Smithsonian's American Indian Museum in 2014. I have also signed at numerous events like the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame for the past two years, and I signed at Indigenous People's Day in the city of Lawton, Okla., and at many Comanche events. I can sign the Lord's Prayer, the Hail Mary prayer, and the Star Spangle Banner. I take Comanche language classes at my school and this is my second year. My mom and family talk Comanche to me and I also know many Comanche Hymns and start them at various places.

My hobbies include reading, being active at my Church, and playing board games with my family and friends.

I want to represent the Comanche People because I love being Comanche, I love my family. They have taught me our Comanche ways. I love our songs, dances, traditions, language, history, and the way we dress. I want to represent all that is Comanche and be a positive portrayal of the Comanche people as the 2024 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess.

Follow the Comanche Nation Public Information Office on Social Media:



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People, Places, & Things Happening

Young Comanche Artist Wins Second Place in Art Show



Parker

Courtesy Photos



Sandra J. Parker, an enrolled Comanche, won second place in the James H. and Madalynne Norick Youth Art competition. Parker's pottery piece was named "Indigenous Ways." All the artwork that was submitted will be on display until March 9.



Courtesy Photo

Williams

Comanche Actor Appears in Upcoming Movie

Tribal member, Ike Williams, recently finished his movie project named "Keep Quiet", starring Lou Diamond Phillips. In the film, Williams plays Lou Diamond Phillips and Kimberley Norris-Guerro's son, Jeffery. The movie does not have a release date set yet.

Last year Williams was in Season 3, Episode 3 of the popular show "Reservation Dogs" as the Kiowa boy. Williams enjoys acting and wants to be the face of the Native American film industry and represent the Comanche Nation and his family name, Pocowatchit/Kopaddy.

Athlete Competes at the University of Oklahoma



Courtesy Photo

Berry

On January 20, tribal member, Aubrey Berry, who is on the Cameron University track and field team competed against several Division 1, Division 2, and NAIA programs Berry ran in several events including the 200m and 4 x 400 relay. Berry will continue to be a part of several more events this spring as the track season continues.

Comanche Gets Awarded Prestigious Rangel Fellowship



Courtesy Photo

Johnson

On December 8, 2023 Tribal member, Nicole Johnson was awarded a 2024 Charles B. Rangel International Affairs Fellowship following a highly competitive nationwide contest. A distinguished panel selected her out of 1,267 outstanding candidates. The Rangel Fellowship, funded by the U.S. Department of State and administered by Howard University, supports extraordinary individuals who want to pursue careers in the Foreign Service of the U.S. Department of State. The Rangel Fellowship will support Johnson through a two-year master's degree in an area of relevance to the Foreign Service. It will also provide extensive professional development opportunities, including internships, mentors, and skills training. As part of the Rangel Program, Johnson will work for a member of Congress on issues related to foreign affairs in the summer of 2024. In the summer of 2025,

the U.S. Department of State will send her overseas to work in a U.S. Embassy or Consulate to get hands-on experience with U.S. foreign policy and the work of the Foreign Service. Upon successful completion of the program, Johnson will become a U.S. diplomat in the summer of 2026, embarking on one of the most challenging and rewarding careers of service to her country. She will work to promote peace, prosperity, and human dignity around the world.

Johnson was born in El Paso, Texas and raised in Las Cruces, NM, where she graduated from Mayfield High School. She is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation. Johnson earned an Associate in Criminal Justice (Meritorious) and an Associate of Arts (Meritorious) in 2021 from New Mexico State University - Dona Ana Community College. Johnson will graduate in May 2024 from New Mexico State University with Honors Distinction with a Bachelor of Arts in Social Work with minors in Government, Public Law, and American Government and Politics. was a distinguished El Puente de Encuentros Fellow (2022-2023). She studied abroad and completed a work-study in Munich, Germany in the summer of 2022 and in Amman, Jordan in the summer of 2023. Wife of Wylie Johnson, Johnson is a mother of four and is employed by All Faiths Children's Advocacy Center. Her journey has now led her to the Rangel Fellowship, and she is excited to prepare for her career in diplomacy.

Comanche Owned Businesses

By Paula Karty/News Staff

Tim Johnson, a tribal member is trying to create a legacy in the construction business.

Johnson comes from the Johnson/Whitewolf families on his mother's side and the Monetatchi family on his father's side was born and raised in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Johnson moved to Lawton after college playing basketball for Haskell.

Johnson has been in construction since he was 16-years-old and he has over 25 years experience specializing in remodeling and plumbing.

He has been doing a lot with the fitness community for the past 15 years, while also holding a full time construction job. Johnson is a single father of five, he takes care of his children and loves them very much.

Johnson started getting into his own construction business after Covid. He was superintendent for several big companies in California and Oregon, once covid hit all the work stopped. Once the work stopped he had to do something to



support his family, so he started doing kitchen and bathroom remodeling in Albuquerque, NM, at the same time he was part of the Plumber's Union in Albuquerque.

He began traveling back and forth to Oklahoma to help his uncle with bathrooms, the next thing he knew he got more and more work, that's how he ended up back in Oklahoma.

Johnson started the company with his second oldest son, Gabriel and hopes his two other sons will join the company.

He wanted to start something that he could leave behind once he is gone, that's why he called his company Johnson & Sons.

One of the main reasons Johnson started the company is because he was traveling around making different companies a lot of money doing supervising jobs, building casinos and metal buildings. Johnson thought that he could be making that money for himself and his family.

Johnson has completed eight successfully ARP homes and 10 commercial ARP jobs for the Coman-

che tribe. Johnson has done three or four jobs for the Comanche Housing.

He offers elder discounts to each and every elder tribal and non-tribal. Johnson has done two bathrooms free of charge for tribal members which paid him with food. Johnson said that it didn't matter it just felt good to help those tribal members.

Johnson does provide free estimates and he will travel to rural areas for the estimates.

He is extremely proud of the work his company did at the Coman-

che Charter School. Johnson & Sons was involved with the charter school since day one.

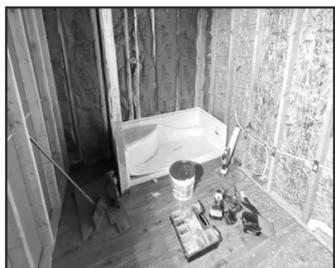
Johnson's company built the school's deck, they did the school plumbing, they turned a empty metal building into a full functional kitchen for the charter school. The company also did the toilets, the sidewalk, the water and drains and they spread the rock for the partitions.

He said, deadlines had to be met and working through extreme conditions such as heat, cold and rain, his company got the job done.

Johnson has partners with Classic Carpet on the corner of Sheridan and Lee. Johnson does 90% of their construction jobs.

He makes sure his employees are qualified to do the work. Johnson sends his employees to training in the construction field.

For good quality work, guaranteed call Johnson & Sons at (580) 291-3256.



Courtesy Photo

Before remodeling of a bathroom.



Courtesy Photo

After remodeling of a bathroom.



Courtesy Photo

Remodeling of a kitchen for one of the ARP homes for the Comanche tribe.



Courtesy Photo

Completed deck for the Comanche Charter School.



Courtesy Photo

Completed kitchen with granite counter tops.

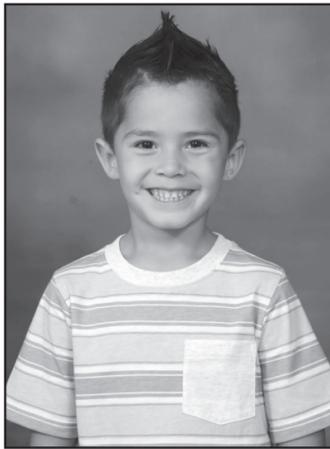
Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday!

February 7 - Gwen Kerchee
 February 16 - Joseph Goseyun
 February 16 - Claudia Choney
 February 19 - Emerson Goseyun



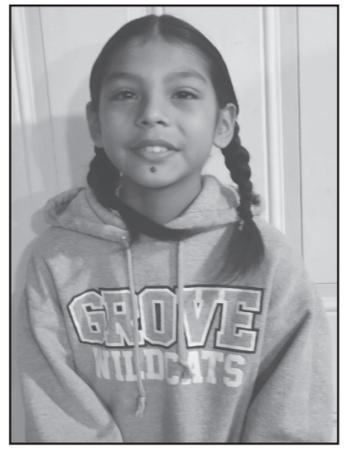
Happy 4th Birthday
 Kobe Allen White
 March 3



Happy 6th Birthday
 Braven Red Elk
 March 9



Happy Birthday
 Zylie Johnson
 March 11



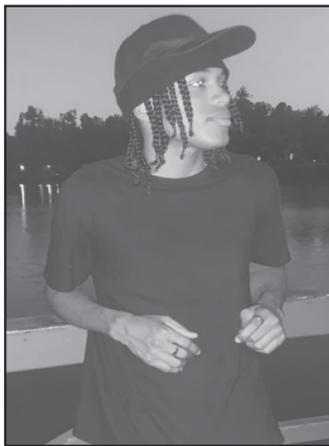
Happy 10th Birthday
 Brandon Wahpepah
 March 11

~ Happy Birthday, Sis! We love you!

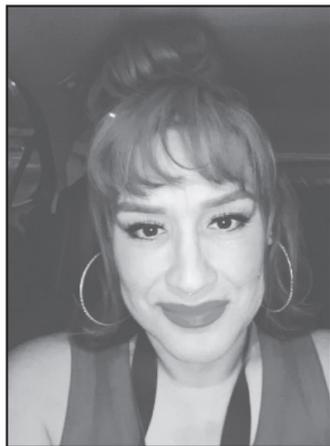
Happy Birthday!



March 1 - Matthew Asetamy
 March 3 - Kobe Allen White
 March 5 - Margaret Clark
 "Happy Blessed 92nd Birthday."
 March 9 - Braven Red Elk
 March 11 - Rose Edith Nauni
 "Happy 95th Birthday. Praise GOD for HIS Blessing our Family."
 March 11 - Brandon Wahpepah
 March 11 - Zylie Johnson
 March 12 - O'Neda Heminokeky
 "Happy Birthday!! Love, your family! ♥"
 March 17 - Ricky Royce Poahway
 March 19 - Tallie R. Large
 March 20 - Doni Poahway
 March 22 - Raphie J. Coosewoon
 March 22 - Alyssa Wahahrockah
 March 23 - Cassandra Harrison
 March 26 - Sofia Bermudez
 March 26 - Cheryl Tahpay
 March 26 - Rachel Collins
 March 27 - Hayley Winter Moon Howlingwater
 "Happy Birthday. From, Auntie Ju Ju Mata."
 March 27 - Jerome Howlingwater
 "Happy Birthday. From, Auntie Ju Ju Mata."
 March 31 - Dewan Poafpibitty



Happy 18th Birthday
 Ricky Royce Poahway
 March 17



Happy Birthday
 Doni Poahway
 March 20



Happy Birthday
 Cassandra Harrison
 March 23



Happy Birthday
 Cheryl Tahpay
 March 26



Happy Birthday
 Rachel Collins
 March 26

~Happy Birthday to our sweet, sweet beautiful Rachel! You are loved by so many! From, Mom, Ariane and Precious too!

Sisterly Shenanigans

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The Comanche Nation News
 April Edition
 Deadline: March 15
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 Mail: Comanche Nation/PIO
 P.O. Box 908
 Lawton, OK 73501
 Contact: (580) 492-3385

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COUPONS

The Resurrection of Jesus

“But at the daybreak on the first day of the week they took the spices they had prepared and went to the tomb; They found the stone rolled away from the tomb; but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were puzzling over this, behold, two men in dazzling garments appeared to them. They were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground. They said to them,

“Why do you seek the living one among the dead? He is not here, but he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was still in Galilee, that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners and be crucified, and rise on the third day.”
 And they remembered his words.

Luke 24: 1-8

Obituaries

Richenda Jean Hatfield



Courtesy Photo

Hatfield

Richenda Jean Hatfield "Rickie" went to be with her Heavenly Father on Jan. 17, in Lawton. She was born to Howard Cox and Rachel Poco on June 4, 1936.

Hatfield was a loving mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sister, daughter, and friend. She shared her talents and stories with anyone wanting to learn. She loved traveling and studying history. She loved playing games and had a wealth of trivia knowledge. She was a philanthropist and was known for her elegant handmade gifts. Throughout her lifetime she called many places home. Wherever she traveled she made lifelong friends. Hatfield loved watching old movies, reading, crochet, sewing, cooking, and spending time with her family.

She was a member of the Order of the Eastern Stars, Daughters of the Nile, Comanche Elders Council, and Eastside Baptist Church. And was also a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

She is survived by her children and their spouses: Carol Ober (Travis), David Myers (Sandie), Jimmy Myers and Darryl Hatfield; grandchildren and their spouses: Kevin Myers (April), Eric Myers (Jessie), Lawrence Tomah (Janna), Laura Green (Aaron); great-grandchildren: Isabella, Gabriel, and Reese; siblings and their spouses: Lonnie Poco (Laverne) and Alice Cox McDonald (Richard); siblings: Leonard Poco, Dusty Poco, and Dora Ann Poco.

She was preceded in death by parents: Howard Cox and Rachel Poco; maternal grandparents: Lemuel and Margeart Pebeahsy; siblings: Marcus Poco, Denver Poco, Carlos Poco, Carmelita Poco, Marie Pebeahsy-Watson, Milton Pebeahsy, and Evelyn Cox-Tally.

Anna Hui-Min Duy



Courtesy Photo

Duy

Anna Hui-Min Duy, 43, of Denton, Texas was called to her Heavenly home on Jan. 17.

Duy was born July 26, 1981, to Cony and Jean (Tahchaw-Wickah) Wang in Lawton. Growing up, she attended Lake Dallas ISD and graduated from Lake Dallas High school in 1999. She was involved in many sports and activities including soccer, cheerleading, high steppers, National Honor Society and even became a Dallas Cowboy Jr. Cheerleader.

After high school, she attended Midwestern State University, Texas Woman's University and North Central Texas College where she obtained her Associate degree.

On Nov. 4, 2005, Duy married her soulmate, Phillip Duy, and they had one beautiful daughter, Tru Duy. Duy was a proud member of the Comanche Nation and loved helping people. While in high school, she was part of the Peer Assistance and Lead-

ership Program acting as a friend and mentor to younger classmates. That altruism transferred to her career as she became the Director of the Comanche Nation Outreach Center in Dallas, Texas. Here, she facilitated and supported her fellow tribal members in getting the assistance needed.

Duy is survived by her husband, Phillip J. Duy Jr.; daughter, Tru Duy, of the home; mother Jean Wang of Hickory Creek, Texas; siblings: Datsun Wang of Euless, Texas and sister Daphne Wang of Oak Point, Texas; brother-in-law, Sean Flynn, sister-in-law, Bethany McKinney; family dog Lexi Wang; aunts: Sue Fallahzadeh of Hickory Creek, Texas, Sonya Tahchaw-wickah of Cache, and Deya Tahchaw-wickah of Hurst, Texas; uncle Nick Fallahzadeh of Hickory Creek, Texas; great uncles: George Werny, and Pete Coffey Jr.; great aunts: Rose Nauni, and Velma Kimble; cousins: Kip, Wendy, Rebecca, Jerry, Tyler, Dylan, Myles, Felicia, Freddie Jr., Daniel, Nicholas, Nathan, Jessica, Nick Jr, Vanessa, Demi, and Jeff, and many extended loving family members in Illinois, California, Michigan, Florida, New Jersey, Colorado, Japan, Australia and Taiwan.

Duy is preceded in death by her father, Cony Wang; family dog, Buster Brown Wang; great-grandparents: Agnes and Donald Werny Sr.; grandparents Nick and Peggy Tahchaw-wickah; great uncles: Donald Werny Jr., Glen Werny and Vernon Cable; great aunts: Gloria Cable, Leatrice Werny, Roberta Werny, Betsy Werny and Gerri Werny; uncles: Nick Tahchaw-wickah, Freddy Hernandez, and Tommy Joe Frazier Jr.; aunt Flora Hernandez-Shaw; cousin Neil Tahchaw-wickah.

Angela Josephine Marie Yackeyonny



Courtesy Photo

Yackeyonny

Angela Josephine Marie Yackeyonny "Angie" went to her heavenly home on January 18. She was born to Lena Marie Yackeyonny on January 30, 1981. She was affectionately raised by Feliciano Neito and Tom Martinez.

Yackeyonny graduated from Chattanooga High School, Class of 2000. She was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Yackeyonny had a vibrant, loving, and outgoing presence. She was always willing to help anyone in need. She loved being an Auntie, and enjoyed time spent with her nieces, nephews, and great nephews. She loved all genres of music from Comanche hymns to Hispanic. And she also thoroughly enjoyed playing pool. She was unique, and greatly loved by her family.

Yackeyonny is survived by mother Feliciano Neito; sister DeAnna Garcia; nephews Michael T. Lopez Jr, Angel Garcia, Anthony Garcia, Marcus Yackeyonny and Jalen Yackeyonny; nieces Yesena Garcia, Krista Yackeyonny and Taylor Yackeyonny; great nephews Jiraiya Merriman, Victor Merriman, and Kai Merriman; aunts Linda Yackeyonny, Eva Gordon; uncles Ricky Yackeyonny, Roy Lee Yackeyonny; cousins Jonathan Yackeyonny and Gary Yackeyonny; And many cousins and friends.

Yackeyonny was preceded in death by father Tom Martinez; mother Lena Yackeyonny; step father Dale Russell; brothers Michael T. Lopez Sr. and Daniel Rodriguez; Uncles Wayne, CE, and Brownie Yackeyonny.

Barbara Edwards Cook



Courtesy Photo

Cook

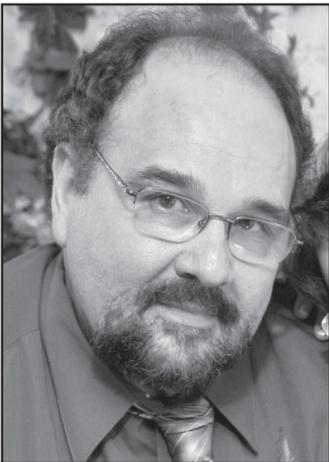
Barbara Edwards Cook, loving sister, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother passed away on January 20, at the age of 69.

She is survived by her two children, Tamera Wilson and Sean Cook of Lawton, Oklahoma; her brother, Johnny Tiddark of Forney, Texas; her sister and brother-in-law, Nora Lynn & Gene Sovo of Sterling, Oklahoma; Grandchildren Dakota, Darian, Brooke, Yolanda, Onassis, Ruby, Serenity; many great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Cook was born April 8, 1954, in Lawton, Oklahoma and attended MacArthur High School and studied at Eve's College of Hair-styling in Lawton, Oklahoma. Cook spent many years as a licensed barber/hair stylist in Lawton working in both beauty salons and for Ft. Sill military base before retiring.

She was preceded in death by her father, Howard George Edwards; mother, Bernice Tiddark; her sister, Brenda Edwards Tahah; two brothers Johnny Edwards and Frank Edwards; her grandparents George and Nancy Edwards and Gracia Wuckweah Pahdopony and John Pahdopony.

John Lester "Bobby" DeVine



Courtesy Photo

DeVine

John Lester "Bobby" DeVine, aged 66, of Lawton, Oklahoma, passed away on January 27, surrounded by his loving wife and daughter. He was born on February 17, 1957, in Lawton, Oklahoma, to Sharon Rose Pesewonit Hart and Billy Lewis DeVine Sr. DeVine spent his early years in Mineral Wells, Texas, and Geronimo, Oklahoma.

DeVine graduated from Geronimo High School in 1975 and pursued higher education at Mohave Valley Community College. He embarked on a career in the power plant industry, starting at Mohave Generating Station in Laughland (Mojave Valley), Nevada. He served as an energy trader at the U.S. Department of Energy in Dallas and as a power generation dispatcher. DeVine's expertise led him to positions as an Electric System Operator and Energy Trader at Xcel Energy and Northern States Power, where he oversaw electric generating plants across several states.

DeVine was known for his laid-back demeanor, hardworking nature, and entrepreneurial spirit. He loved his family. He loved the Arizona Diamondbacks and the Cardinals and was passionate about classic rock

music and vinyl records. DeVine could often be found jamming out to his favorite bands, especially ZZ Top. In his younger years, he enjoyed staying active, working out, and playing golf whenever he could. Proud of his heritage, DeVine was a member of the Comanche Nation and a descendant of Chief Ten Bears, Chief Quirts-quip of the Yamparika, Pesewonit, and Big Cow.

DeVine will be deeply missed by his family, friends and all who knew him.

He is survived by his wife, JoEllen DeVine of Lawton, siblings Billy Lewis DeVine Jr. of Fort Worth, Texas, Ronda Runyon of Geronimo, half-siblings Richard and Curtis DeVine, Uncle Victor Hart of Lawton, and children Kellie DeVine of Lawton, Nicolas DeVine, Cody and Marina DeVine, and Daniel DeVine, of San Marco, Texas, and his nine grandchildren.

DeVine is preceded in death by his father, Billy Lewis DeVine Sr. of Bull Head City, Ariz., mother, Sharon Rose Pesewonit Hart and his two sisters Donna Kathleen Gill, and Rose Anne DeVine, from Geronimo, Oklahoma. Also preceded in death by grandparents Lester and Bessie Hart and his Uncle Donald Lester Hart of Geronimo.

Ahdora Lynn Niedo



Courtesy Photo

Niedo

Ahdora Lynn Niedo, passed away peacefully on February 3. She was born on January 16, 1995, to Timothy Walker and Meleia Niedo.

Niedo graduated from Cache High School, Class of 2013. She loved music and played the violin. She loved her family, and enjoyed spending time with her daughter Cherish and grandmother Fedora. She also loved having good conversations with her uncle Jr. Niedo was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Niedo had a beautiful and contagious smile and was always a joy to be around. As a child she was always serious. At one point she wanted to be tweety bird. She loved the color pink. Her daughter Cherish said, "my mom was my twin". Niedo's spirit will always live on through her daughter.

She is survived by mother Meleia; daughter Cherish; sisters Keirra, Mia, and Amanda; grandparents Luis and Fedora Correa; uncles Nilio Correa; Theo Niedo (Melissa); aunts Fedora Correa(Leroy), Stacy Crawford; Cousin LaRon Correa, Daniel Crawford, and Damien Crawford; nieces and nephews Harmani, Lyric, Neiyhla, Nyonna, Maijor, and Aunnesti.

She is preceded in death by father Timothy Walker, brother Timothy Niedo; great grandparents Theodore and Lydia Niedo, great aunt Elvira Niedo and great uncle Malcolm Niedo.

John Keel



Courtesy Photo

Keel

John Allen Keel, 59, departed from this world on February 4, in Grant, Okla., at his home with his wife by his side. He was born to his parents, Norman and Claudette Keel Sr. in Claremore, Okla., on December 3, 1964.

He was a proud member of the Comanche Nation, Pawnee Nation and Otoe Missouri Tribe. He is a descendant of Chief Wildhorse of the Comanche Nation and of the Quahada band. He is also a member of the Kitkehahki clan with the Pawnee Nation and the Owl Clan of the Otoe-Missouria Tribe and the Bravesout Family.

Keel was widely known as Comanche John Keel. He attended Riverside Indian School and later the Great Plains Technology Center where he proudly obtained his Welder Certificate. His most recent jobs were with Choctaw Defense and Turner Pipe. His work as a welder he loved as a profession and as a hobby. He loved making metal objects out of nothing but his true spirit came alive when he was dancing. Dancing was in his blood and you can see this when he was in the arena. The love of the songs and the joy of dancing.

He was an iconic beloved figure of the Oklahoma State Fair where he performed for over 30 years, delighting audiences with his energy and talent. He was selected to represent Oklahoma Tribes at the opening for the National Museum of the American Indian in Washington D.C. He performed in many Native American Dance Troops that took him across the United States and across the globe to countries such as Spain, Portugal, Italy, Turkey and Greece. Comanche John was asked to perform at the premiere of the movie, "The Lone Ranger" in Lawton, Okla. This is where he met Johnny Depp. Keel was viewed in magazines, book covers and billboards. Keel was a giant OU Softball and OU Football fan.

Keel leaves behind a loving family that includes his wife, Lorie Keel of the home, stepchildren Shelby Johnson, Jessica Johnson and Christopher Johnson, sister Charlotte Keel Juarez and her husband, Lee, Elvis Keel and his wife, Rachel and a legacy of nephews and nieces-Cody Loman, Ashley Keel, Aaron Keel, Amber Keel, Dayton Keel, Charlee Juarez, Cecilia Juarez, Anthony Norman Hoahwah, Tripp Keel, Nonee Keel, Nita Tonips, Mycala Brave-Heart- Keel, Dayze BraveHeart and many more nieces and nephews, his adored grandchildren Kinsley, Allison, Bryce, Tommy and Sutton Grace.

He is preceded in death by his father, Norman Dayton Keel Sr., Mother, Claudette "Tink" Tooahimpah Tate Keel, Brother Norman Dayton Keel Jr, Sister Michelle Yvette Tooahimpah Tate, Sister Norma "Liz" Keel Hoahwah, Paternal Grandparents, Iva Pratt and Sidney Moore Sr, Maternal Grandparents, Ernest and Virginia Tate Sr. and numerous aunts and uncles.

Keel was a man who could light up any room with his warmth, leaving a lasting impression through his loving, kind and funny nature. He had a gift for making others feel valued and was often the source of joy and laughter among friends and fam

Continued from Page 17

ily. His spirit will be deeply missed, but his legacy will continue to inspire those who knew him. As we remember the life and laughter that Keel bestowed upon us, let us celebrate the memories and honor the journey of a humble man who is truly larger than life. Comanche John Keel's story is one of love, laughter and cultural pride—a story that will be told for generations to come.

A celebration of life was February 9, at the Comanche Community Center and the funeral was February 10, at the Comanche Community Center, 300 Julia Mahseet Rd., Apache, OK 73006 under the direction of Whinery-Huddleston Service.

Derek Murrow



Courtesy Photo

Murrow

Derek Murrow, passed away on February 7, in Lawton, Okla. He was born on June 4, 1963, in San Jose, Calif., to Catherine Williams and Bracy Murrow Jr.

Murrow spent most of his childhood going back and forth between Oklahoma and California. He

spent a lot of time with his brother Vince and grandmother Ruth, and cherished all the memories made with them.

In his teen years Murrow lived in Grass Valley, Cali., and graduated from Placer High School Class of 1981.

In 1997 Murrow moved back to Oklahoma and married his first wife Jolie Gray. From this union he welcomed two children; son Dekota Murrow and Kylen Murrow. In his later years he married Kimberley Moore. Murrow was an excellent handyman, painter, mover, electrician, and also had a lawn mowing business with his son Blaze. He was also a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. Murrow was a compassionate person and helped those in need. Murrow enjoyed watching Oklahoma Sooners college football, going on trips, and attending concerts. Murrow spent a lot of time with his grandson Jociah. Murrow also grew up in the truth as a Jehovahs Witness he was baptized July 7, 1984, in Reno, Nev. He most recently served at the West Lawton Congregation.

He is survived by wife Kimberley Murrow; son Dekota Murrow of Lawton, Okla.; daughter Kylen Murrow of Lawton, Okla.; Mother of his children Jolie Gray of Lawton, Okla.; Grandson Jociah Hurst; mother Catherine Key of Anadarko, Okla.; sister Cheri and husband Kevin Hodgson of Oklahoma City, Okla.; brother Vincent Murrow and wife Valerie Key of Anadarko, Okla.; sister Ladonna and husband Curtis of Lawton, Okla.; sister Cynthia Key of Anadarko, Okla.; along with numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, and nephews.

He is preceded in death by father Bracy Murrow Jr.; brother Blaze Key; grandmother Ruth Williams; greastep father Alf Key.

George Laurenzana



Courtesy Photo

Laurenzana

George Laurenzana, age 83, moved his residency from Richard Spur, to his home in heaven on Feb. 11, to be with his mother, Julia Tieyah and father, Leon Laurenzana.

A Marine veteran who served four years with time served in Okinawa. Laurenzana was a Radiologist by trade. Laurenzana was an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation Tribe. He graduated from El Centro College in Dallas. Laurenzana enjoyed hunting, fishing, target Shooting and riding motorcycles.

Laurenzana was also a brother to eight siblings: Ramon Laurenzana, Timothy Tieyah Laurenzana, Valoris Laurenzana Stroup, Lavenia Fern Laurenzana, Jewell Laurenzana Tieyah, Larry "Cobb" Laurenzana, Thomas Laurenzana, Chester Tieyah and Arza Tieyah.

Laurenzana was the father to: Pete, Steven, and Teresa Laurenzana of Winterhaven, Cali. Laurenzana was blessed with 14 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren. Laurenzana spent the rest of his retirement at the old homeplace in Richards Spur.

Kenneth Rex Gooden



Courtesy Photo

Gooden

Kenneth Rex Gooden, went to his heavenly home on February 13, in Duncan, Okla., after a lengthy illness. He was born to Rex and Karen Gooden on July 7, 1961, in Anadarko, Okla.

He attended school in Fletcher, Okla., and graduated from Fletcher High School, Class of 1979. He attended Southwestern State University and obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting.

He married Debbie on October 19, 1998, and whole heartedly became an amazing bonus dad to four children.

He enjoyed playing pool and dominos. He loved the NFL and played in many fantasy leagues. His favorite team of the week was whom ever beat the Dallas Cowboys. Debbie tried to convince him for 28 years that the Cowboys and country music weren't that bad, but to no avail. He enjoyed harvesting wheat and spending time out on the land. He also enjoyed spending time with his dog Bailey, his kids, and his grandkids.

Gooden's career of 40 years

began and ended in the casino industry, starting in Las Vegas fresh out of college in 1985 at Circus Circus and ending in Lawton at Comanche Nation Entertainment. He helped open the Luxor in Las Vegas and another casino in Louisiana. His many positions included dealing and managing anything with dice and cards, surveillance, consulting, General Management, and anything in between that was asked of him. In the past years, he has had the title of General Manager at Comanche Nation Casino, Comanche Red River Casino, Apache Casino Hotel, and Golden Eagle Casino.

He met many, many friends and colleagues through the years and he established a strong relationship with most of them. They referred to him as Ken, Kenny, or Kenneth. The Comanche Nation Surveillance Team even referred to him as the Bald Eagle, which he admired. He had two best friends he met during his casino career, AKA brothers from another mother. One was Dana Rideout, whom he met when he started his career in Vegas and they remained friends until this day. The other was J.R. Gibson whom he met 20 years ago at Comanche Nation Casino, and he was there to welcome him to Eternity. I'm sure the two of them are already getting into trouble together.

He is survived by his mother Karen Gooden of Elgin Okla.; wife Debbie of the home; three sons Robert Meehan and Tati of Texas, Chris Meehan and Barbie of Pennsylvania, Michael Meehan of Oklahoma; one daughter Brandy Pendergrass and Lucas of Lawton, Okla.; two brothers Dennis Gooden and wife Carla of Fort Worth Texas, Robert and wife Barbara of Elgin Okla.; six granddaughters: Hayden, Na'Viyah, Addison, Preslee, Tatum, and Kalena; three grandsons: Caleb, Dylan, and Trae; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

He is preceded in death by father Rex Porter Gooden; mother in law Colleen Newton; father in law Patrick Newton; paternal grandparents Homer and Virginia Gooden; Maternal grandparents Spencer and Pauline Greathouse.

Westwin Proceeds with Pilot Plant Construction

By Paula Karty/News Staff

On February 3, during the February Comanche Business Committee meeting (CBC), the CBC passed a resolution introduced by Vice Chairman Cornell Pewewardy, opposing the Westwin Elements Cobalt-Nickel Refinery. Exerting the environmental jurisdiction they established decades ago to protect the region and standing firm on their traditional boundaries.

Local tribal members and residents question the dangers of the refinery such as the health of humans, the well being of animals and wild life and the danger to the environment such as the air, the land and the water.

After a long and heated discussion and debate on the cobalt refinery, the resolution was unanimously approved to oppose the Westwin Elements Cobalt Refinery.

Passing the resolution is historic not only for the Comanche Nation, but for all Indigenous and tribal communities who are fighting for the land and who are standing up for tribal sovereignty.

"The Indigenous Environmental Network supports the Comanche people's opposition to the Westwin Elements refinery in Kiowa, Comanche and Apache (KCA) territory. We oppose green colonialism and using Indigenous communities as guinea pigs for the first cobalt refinery in the country. Communities have the right to say no to harmful and extract projects, and the Comanche community in Oklahoma has said 'no' to Westwin and toxic industries," Jordan Harmon, Policy Analyst/Legislative Advocate at Indigenous Environmental Network said.

This first ever U.S. Cobalt-Nickel Refinery will be on the homelands of the Kiowa, Comanche and Apache people. It will be located just miles from the Wichita Mountains and the historic Deyo Mission Church.

On February 14, Westwin officials along with Westwin CEO KaLeigh Long attended the KCA Land Use Committee meeting.

Tribal leaders stated that it is a law that Westwin or any type of construction being built within tribal land, provide consultation to the tribes.

One of the main issues within the KCA is that Westwin did not provide consultation to the tribes.

Tribal leaders stated: "You do not start a construction without consultation, how do you explain that?"

Westwin replied: "We are doing our best and we will do what we need to do."

Comanche Business Committeeman No. 1 Hazel Tahsequah asked Long: "If you truly respect our tribal sovereignty, would you publicly agree to stop the project today?"

Long replied: "If I understand the progress towards a resolution. I'm not going to shut down, we're at a business status. If there is a path, if we pause and I can understand there are steps to create a resolution, I would be open to that, but I need to understand what that process would be."

Long said, "I'm not opposed to pausing things for a limited amount of time, if I knew that would bring a resolution. I can't shut down my company."

Tribal leaders informed Long, that if Westwin is not following the law, which is not providing consultation to the tribes, they can be shut down.

"What I want to understand from each of the tribes represented, are we at a place where you say, 'We don't want industry.' 'We don't want anything that Westwin is working towards.' 'It's not going to happen.'" Long said. "I'll respect that because I respect your sovereignty. Or, is it a case of, 'No we agree, we just want to do it in a right way, and we are willing to work with you to make sure you're doing it the right way.' To me that's a progressive path. At that point I would say, 'Let's find the right way.'"

According to the *Lawton Constitution*, Westwin has treatment-related permits for the pilot plant. Long told Comanche County Industrial Development Authority (CCIDA).

CCIDA is stepping back from its prominent role in the Westwin pilot plant project after providing \$2 million and 40 acres of land as part of the local economic incentive package granted for a project estimated at \$14 million to \$16 million.

Long told the Lawton Constitution that company experts are ready to launch the permitting process which is expected to take 18 to 24 months.

According to the *Lawton Constitution*, Westwin is in the running for a \$185 million grant from the Department of Energy. Westwin has received approval of its concepts without any identified deficiencies, which means Westwin can begin the final application phase. The grant application is due on March 8, the federal officials are expected to announce their selection in August.

Westwin is seeking letters of support from local entities such as CCIDA, Lawton Economic Development Authority (LEDA), and the City of Lawton. CCIDA indicated it's support while the other entitled are expected to address the issue before Westwin's self-imposed March 1 deadline.

According to Long, the letters of support are part of the community engagement process, which is important to the grant application.

Westwin is also looking at another \$80 million grant from the Department of Defense for this grant the application process will be longer because it requires an environmental impact analysis.

"Those are the most extensive reviews on the planet," Long said.

Westwin is working on obtaining a Letter of Intent (LOI) from the State of Oklahoma showing it's support.

Westwin has yet to announce a firm location for its commercial refinery.

"Our full intention is to have Lawton as the site of that commercial plant," Long said.

The \$24 million local incentive package being offered to Westwin is based on that commercial refinery, with \$3 million in cash and 40 acres of land coming from that full package. The remaining will be held in escrow until the full plant is built in Lawton.

Construction has been under way at the Lawton site for weeks, with steel structure for the 53-foot-high control process area done, said Project Manager A.J. Arends. All steel work is expected to be done by the end of the

month. Work progressing on a 20-inch water main installation project that will supply water to the plant. That \$2.44 million project, coordinated by the City of Lawton, is being done by M&T Septic & Backhoe, with a 90-day completion time.

Arends said all the permits needed for the processing, to include air quality permits issued by the Department of Environmental Quality, have been completed for the pilot plant. Those permits were just part of the series of permits needed for the plant, ranging

for this needed for construction, issued by the City of Lawton, to the plant's process, issued by state and federal officials. The final piece in the process was a permit needed for the generator, which has been in place.

That means all but the final fire marshall inspection and the certificate of occupancy has been obtained for the pilot plant.

"Both are part of the City of Lawton's Construction process and can't be done until construction is done," Arends said.

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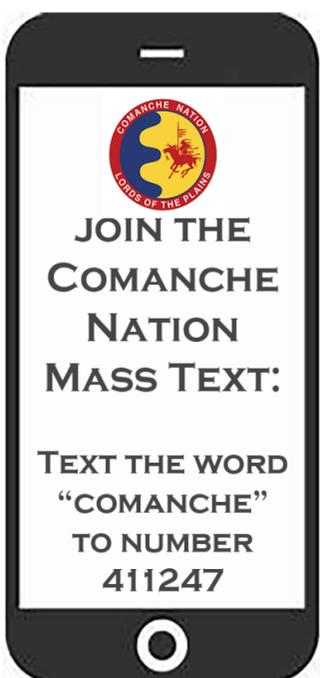
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