



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

# THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Lords of the Plains

VOLUME 25 EDITION 12

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

Wahi Mta (December) 2024

## Nov. 23 Special General Council Meeting Draws Quorum; Voting Set for January 25, 2025

**Editor's Note:** This is an overview of the November 23, Special General Council 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 meeting can be viewed on the Comanche Nation website, [comanchenation.com](http://comanchenation.com).

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

A Special General Council Meeting was held on Nov. 23 at the Comanche Nation Complex. At 1:08 p.m., a quorum of 152 tribal members registered with the Comanche Nation Election Board. Ron Burgess motioned to begin the meeting, seconded by Glenda Goseyun. The motion carries.

The Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, Arlene Schonchin, signed the Lord's Prayer and Martin Flores gave the invocation.

The Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoahnippah, gave a Power Point Presentation to explain all of the agenda items.

### Charitable Foundation Resolution TC04-04

What is it?

A tax-exempt organization that will solicit tax-deductible donations from private parties (philanthropists, corporations, members of the public, etc.). The foundation will then (eventually) use those donations to fund cultural activities, elders' and veterans' associations, and youth sports and educational activities.

Why do we need a Charitable foundation?

See MEETING, Page 3

## Nevaquaya and Sapcut Honored at the Oklahoma AARP Native American Elders Recognition



Courtesy Photos

Edmond Nevaquaya, a renowned Comanche artist and culture advocate, and Yoneva Sapcut, a law enforcement officer and patron for elders and children, were recognized November 6 at the Oklahoma AARP Native American Elder Honoring.

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Two Comanche tribal members from Apache, Okla., Edmond Nevaquaya and Yoneva Sapcut were recognized at the 2024 AARP Native American Elder Honors, held November 6 at the First American Museum in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

AARP Oklahoma State Director Sean Voskuhl welcomed the 300 attendees and said the Native American Elder Honors was created to memorialize the work and contributions of elders who inspire future generations. Voskuhl thanked the honorees for answering the calling to contribute and lift communities.

"Our honorees' actions bring hope to the hopeless, lighten the load of the heavy, and cultivate unity in our communities while inspiring new generations to become community builders," he said.

### Edmond Nevaquaya

Edmond Nevaquaya is a two-time overall world champion and two-time world champion singer and dancer of the Native Dance Circle. He is also an award-winning graphic artist known for his studies of the Native American Indian culture. He expresses pride in his Native American

heritage and history through art, music, and dancing. Nevaquaya began attending ceremonies and powwows as a child.

Residing in the foothills of the Wichita Mountains in Apache, Oklahoma, Nevaquaya is the son of the late Doc Tate Nevaquaya, a renowned Comanche artist and traditional flutist. His knowledge of Comanche culture has taken him to all 50 United States as well as Canadian provinces, Europe, the Middle East, and East Asia. He learned early to respect and recognize traditional Indigenous art by attending Native American Church, and participating in traditional Peyote culture, sweat lodges, and sun dances. Sharing his knowledge of traditional teachings and history, Nevaquaya now devotes his time as a culture counselor for the Comanche Nation Prevention Recovery Program. He promotes wellness among his tribe and the community.

### Yoneva Sapcut

Yoneva "Yonnie" Sapcut lives in Apache, Oklahoma in the family's original allotment of 1901. She began her law enforcement career in 1979 as the first Native

American female police officer for the Anadarko Police Department in Anadarko, Oklahoma. After years of service, Sapcut applied with the Bureau of Indian Affairs Law Enforcement Service. After completing the Indian Police Academy, she became a federal law enforcement officer for the Southwestern District of Oklahoma. In 1985 Sapcut accepted the position of training sergeant for the Bureau of Indian Affairs Federal Law Enforcement Training Center in Marana, Arizona. The Salt River Pima-Miracopa Tribal Police Department on the Salt River Reservation recruited Sapcut. While at the Salt River Police Department, Sapcut completed the Arizona State Police Academy. In 1996, she returned to Oklahoma to care for a family member. She then began her work as a child and adult protection worker for the Comanche Nation Social Services Department. This year marks 28 years of service to Sapcut's beloved tribal community. Elders often look to her for advice and counsel. Sapcut has the same dedication in her work with the Comanche children, conducting home

See AARP, Page 4

## Pewewardy Inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On November 1, Comanche Tribal Member Cornel Pewewardy was inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame at Oklahoma City Golf and Country Club in Nichols Hills, Oklahoma.

He said it takes years of work in schools focusing on kindergarten through 12th grade. Inductees are also evaluated on recognitions and awards, research, community service, and leadership.

Pewewardy got his start at Sequoyah Indian School.

"It took all my life, all my career, and not just in K-12 schools, but higher education, and it's all been in Indian education," he said.

Pewewardy said Comanche Academy Charter School is important to Native American sovereignty, and learning with the community and his students has been his favorite part of education.

"Because of the opportunity to really understand where we came from as indigenous people, to know how we've been miseducated by the public school system, and how we can deconstruct and decolonize our future using critical thinking," he said.

Pewewardy said it's important for the youth because they evolve

See PEWEWARDY, Page 4

## 14 Veterans Inducted into the Military Hall of Honor

Story and Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff



SSG Ramonah Davis  
Army 1983-2000



SP4 Lyman Bruce Guy  
Army 1970-71,



CMCPO Cynthia D.  
Patterson, Navy 1985-2015



SSG Frankie Patterson  
Army 1994-2016



SCPO James M. "Jimmy"  
Patterson, Navy 1988-2008



SFC Dominic Pawlowski,  
Marine Corps 1992-96 and  
OK Army National Guard  
1997-2017



QM1 Kevin Pohawpatchoko,  
Navy 1985-95 and Navy  
Reserve 1995-2008



SP4 William Clifford Red  
Elk, Army 1969-70



SFC Michael R. Squire  
Army 1986-92 and 1994-2013



S2C Clifford "Beaver"  
Takawana, Navy 1968-72



Sgt. Roger V. Tehauno  
Air Force 1965-69



1LT Michael Waddle  
Army 1966-69

On November 11, a total of 12 Comanches and two other veterans were inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor during the Comanche Indians Veterans Association (CIVA) Veteran's Day Powwow at Watchetaker Hall, Comanche Nation Complex. Not pictured: Brig. Gen. Jonathan George - Air Force 1981-2011 and SFC John Bennett McClung - Army 1988-93 and Oklahoma National Guard 1993-97 & 2007-19.

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

During the annual Comanche Indian Veteran's Association (CIVA) Veteran's Day Powwow on November 11, a total of 14 Oklahoma veterans were inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor, 12 members of the Comanche Nation, one from the Navajo Nation, and one non-Native.

The Oklahoma Military Hall

of Honor was established in August 2023 to expand the impact of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation and honor veterans. With 14 inductees on November 11, there will be a total of 77 Oklahomans in the Hall of Honor. There are about 665,000 veterans from Oklahoma. Lanny Asepermy was the ninth inductee into the Hall of Honor.

2024 Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor Inductees

- SSG Ramonah Davis, Army 1983-2000, US Army Paratrooper with 52 qualified jumps, one of the first Native American women to complete Airborne School in 1992 as a 30-year-old, served three tours in Germany, awarded Army Parachutists Badge and Army Commendation

(4) medal

- Brig Gen. Jonathan George, Air Force 1981-2011, Afghanistan War as the Deputy Commanding Officer of US and NATO forces, awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for Heroism, Defense Superior Service and Legion of Merit (4) medals, only Comanche to earn General Officer status, given the honorary title of

Numu Pukutsi by the CIVA

- SP4 Lyman Bruce Guy, Army 1970-71, Vietnam War, as a light Weapons Infantryman, with the 101st Airborne Division, awarded the Bronze Star and Army Commendation medals and Combat Infantryman Badge

- SFC John Bennett McClung, See HONOR, Page 4



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**THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS**

**Wahi Mna (December) 2024**  
 Gift 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 January 2025 Edition is 5 p.m., December 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.**

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# Government

## A Total of 10 Resolutions Presented at the November CBC Meeting

**Editor's Note:** This is an overview of the November 2, 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.

**By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff**

The Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoohnippah, called the October CBC Meeting to order at 10 a.m. The Comanche Nation Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Tippeconnie, all CBC were present.

**Resolutions:**

- Resolution No. 156-2024-** Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1344 Minors. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 157-2024-** Enrollment Resolution List 1345 Adults. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 158-2024-** Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List 1346 BO. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 159-2024-** Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List 1347 No Allottee. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 160-2024-** CBC Resolution Authorizing ARP Funds to Remediate Contractor Fraud. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 161-2024-** CBC Resolution Requiring Approval for all Bonuses. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 162-2024-** CBC Resolution for Travel. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 163-2024-** CBC Resolution Amending the Tribal Court Code. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 164-2024-** Social Services Resolution BIA No Cost Extension. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 165-2024-** Gaming Commission to Add and Remove Arvest Bank Signers. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution 144-2024 -** WW Builders Tabled The motion passes 6/0/0.

**MEETING**

Continued From Page 1

Currently, the activities that the foundation will fund are funded by tax commission/gaming revenue. Such revenue can be cyclical and inconsistent. Some are critical of using tax commission/gaming revenue for organizations that can fund their own through a 501 (c)(3) organization. However, the paperwork to start and maintain a 501 (c)(3) foundation is burdensome. Starting a foundation will allow the Nation to take care of the paperwork, and use its greater resources to market the "Comanche" name and assist cultural/youth/veteran organizations with fundraising. Why will the charitable foundation be successful? Donations to tribes are tax deductible, but many potential donors may be unaware or wary of donating to any political entity without knowing how funds will be used – creating a foundation provides clarity on tax deductions and certainty about the use of funds. The high profile of the Comanche as a tribe in the media will assist in soliciting donations.

The voting results to place TC04-24 on the ballot is 155 yes votes and 23 no votes.  
**Hearth Act – Resolution TC05-24**  
 The Comanche Nation owns ~3,862 acres of trust land. Some of the land is used for the Nation's own business – smoke shops, casinos, cow-calf. Some of the land is used for government buildings. Much of the land is vacant and/or leased for agriculture for 5-year terms. It could generate more income if the tribe leased the land for longer than five years for other purposes such as housing, commercial, and renewable energy. Long-term leasing is necessary for investors to build homes, commercial buildings, or renewable energy facilities.

However, the "transaction costs" of entering into these leases are high because leases for more than five years require both approval of the General Council and BIA. If the General Council approves a Leasing Ordinance to the BIA for approval, if the BIA approves, then the tribe can enter into long-term leases without any additional levels of approval needed for individual leases. This will hopefully encourage greater development of our lands by third parties (at their own cost) who will pay rent to the Nation.

Comanche tribal attorney Mike McBride added Congress passed this over a decade ago to lease lands that had been locked up and is form of self-determination, compliant with Federal Law.

The voting results to place TC05-24 on the ballot is 158 yes/15 no

**Sovereign Immunity**  
 To borrow money, the Nation must provide a limited waiver of sovereign immunity. The limit of the waiver is generally the amount of the loan, no lender is going to make a big loan without an enforceable promise of repayment

Tribal Council Resolution 01-06 – caps limited waiver at \$3 million. It also has unclear verbiage. \$3 million has been eroded by inflation, especially after COVID-19. The inability to borrow money means that casinos must self-finance any renovations, new construction, etc.  
 In order to facilitate more renovations and new improvements to our properties, the CBC requests that the cap be increased from \$3 million to \$10 million. The CBC further requests that the cap be "indexed" to inflation, the \$10 million will automatically increase each year so that the CBC does not have to come back again and again every few years.

Tina Emhoolah makes a motion to raise the cap to \$15 million. It is seconded by Donnie Ramos. The motion to raise passes.

The Voting results to place TC06-24 on the ballot is 146 yes/18 no

**Opioid Settlement Resolution TC 07-24**  
 Comanche Nation (and hundreds of other tribes) sued pharmaceutical companies related to the opioid epidemic

A settlement was reached, but it can only be used for certain purposes related to the abatement of the opioid crisis. Importantly, the Tribe can use culturally grounded prevention.

The Comanche Nation has a \$3.3 million balance. Previously, money was spent on the Prevention & Recovery Program and land acquisition. The iteration of the CBC believes it's important for the Tribal Council to approve because the Comanche Constitution requires the Tribal Council to authorize the expenditure of funds deposited to the credit of the Comanche Nation.

**Prevention and Recovery –** Equine Therapy/Horse Program – Comanche people are horse people, equine therapy has shown great benefits in treating substance use disorders and mental health, returning so our horse culture can heal

Continued on Page 6



**Maruaweke Numunuu:**  
 In a couple weeks we will be having a Secretarial Election regarding whether to amend our Comanche Constitution to remove the section in the Constitution that requires a Secretarial Election to amend the Constitution. If removed, we would amend our Constitution in the future through a Tribal election rather than Secretarial Election (so called because conducted by the Secretary of Interior through the Bureau of Indian Affairs or "BIA"). Many Tribes have been taking similar steps, and it is now our turn to decide what is right for our Nation—should the Bureau of Indian Affairs conduct elections to amend our Constitution (if so, vote "no") or should the Nation itself conduct elections to amend our Constitution (if so, vote "yes")?

The primary benefit of having the Bureau of Indian Affairs conduct elections is that the Bureau then pays the costs of that election. Elections are not cheap and this benefit should not be ignored. However, this is likely the only benefit. I have discussed this amendment with some Tribal members, who have voiced concern about whether the amendment will allow corruption by elected officials by removing the Bureau of Indian Affairs' supervision of the Tribe. I do not think this will be the result. The amendment does not eliminate the Bureau of Indian Affairs' trust responsibilities, it speaks only to which organization (the BIA or the Nation) will actually conduct the elections. Furthermore, and unfortunately in some circumstances, the Bureau's supervisory role isn't all that it is cracked up to be. In most instances of election disputes, charges of corruption or malfeasance, the Bureau will simply tell Tribes that it is up to them to resolve their own issues through the political process.

There are several benefits of having the Nation conduct its own elections to amend its Constitution. First and foremost is consistency, with the requirement for a Secretarial Election there are two election processes (one that is solely by absentee ballot (BIA elections) and another that has both absentee ballots and in-person voting (Tribal elections)) with two separate registrations. Second is speed, federal regulations provide the Bureau up to 90 days to conduct elections, whereas the Tribe could enact an ordinance providing a quicker turnaround. Finally is the intangible human quality, which I believe favors having the Tribe conduct its own elections. This election cycle, there was confusion at the Bureau that resulted in them erroneously listing a second proposed amendment in the registration materials. While no one is perfect, I think it is less likely that our own Tribal members would make such an error because they are more likely to be invested in the outcome of the election and more likely to be familiar with our own Tribal laws for proposing amendments to the Constitution.

As always, vote your own conscience, and send your ballots in as soon as you can so that they get to the BIA by the December 18 deadline.

Comanche Nation ELECTION OFFICE	
SPECIAL ELECTION TIMELINE DATES 2024-2025	
Special General Council	November 23, 2024
Last day to request an absentee ballot for the Special Election	December 13, 2024
Early In-Person Voting Special Election Friday	January 24, 2025
Special Election Saturday	January 25, 2025
Absentee Ballots due at the Lawton Post Office by 12:00pm	January 25, 2025
Election Certification by 5:00pm Tuesday	January 28, 2025

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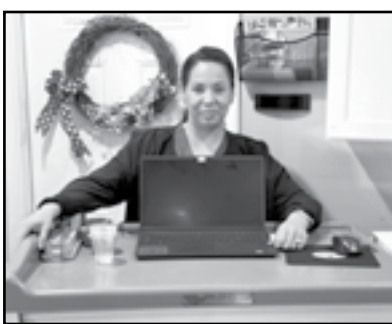
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# Programs

## December Adult Education Student of the Month Christy Foster



Courtesy Photo

Christy Foster is currently enrolled in the classes needed to start her Nursing degree.

Foster is a proud member of the Comanche Nation and she is also of Kiowa decent. Her grandmother is the late Geraldine Hawkins Poahway and her great-grandparents are the late Nestler Poahway and Jenny Geimaussaddle.

Foster plans to finish her current courses and then pursue her career working with Elders in a Skilled Nursing Facility. Foster has patience and compassion. Foster feels like these are the two key elements needed when working with elders.

While furthering her education in nursing school, she will continue to learn and better herself.

Special thanks to her husband and family who always believed in her and kept pushing her to do what God had planned for her.

## December Higher Education Student of the Month Alec Green



Courtesy Photo

With the tremendous help from the Comanche Nation Higher Education Department, Alec Green, graduated from the University of Central Oklahoma in May of 2021 with a Bachelor's degree in Occupational Safety and Health.

Following graduation, Green's career began with several internships leading to a pivotal role with the Department of the Air Force, where Green supports the Occupational Safety and Health program as a civilian.

After completing his internship this September, Green transitioned to a full-time position, focused on developing his leadership skills while pursuing a Master's degree in Business Administration.

Green's goal after graduate school is to use his newfound skills to drive valuable organizational improvements and meaningful change.

## December Higher Education Student of the Month Kayla Nieto



Courtesy Photo

Kayla-Renee Molina-Nieto is a descendant of Chief Quannah

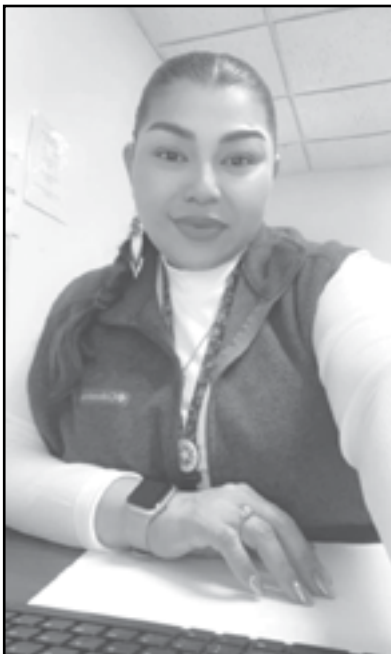
Parker and Chief Lookingglass.

Nieto is currently working as a nursing assistant before entering nursing school. Nieto receiving a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree from Murray State College.

Nieto's future plans are to keep taking classes and working towards becoming a registered nurse.

Nieto will further her education to another level working towards becoming a Family Nurse Practitioner.

## December Job Placement / Training Student of the Month Stephanie Landeros



Courtesy Photo

Stephanie Landeros has been a Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) for 18 years.

She graduated from the Comanche Nation College's LPN program in 2006. Landeros is currently enrolled at OSU-OKC.

Landeros works full-time at

a community mental health clinic in Lawton. She provides essential care and support to the local community.

This spring, Landeros plans to apply to OSU-OKC's LPN to RN program, taking the next step in her nursing career.

As a mother of four children and as a proud member of the Comanche Nation, Landeros is honored to have the opportunity to further her education and serve her community.

## "Grades for Games" Academic Incentive Trip



Courtesy Photo

Pictured from L: Emily Kiesecker, Savannah Kiesecker, Elgin HS Student, Lulu Tahdoahnipah, Nika'la Miller, Michael Miller, Modesto Schonchin, Jimmie Wildcat, Vann Wildcat.

In recognition of their exceptional performance throughout the first nine weeks of the school year, Comanche Nation Youth Services took nine Comanche-enrolled students in grades 7-12, to the OU vs. Maine football game on November 2. This was an amazing display of academic excellence

"We believe in recognizing and rewarding our students' hard work. By allowing them to have these experiences, we hope to motivate them to continue to keep their education as a priority," said Dena Landers, Youth Services Director.

Continued from Page 3

Projected Use	Projected Amount
In-House Finance & Accounting	\$250,000
Legal Fees	\$250,000
IT Upgrades	\$2MM
New Business	\$4.2 MM
Youth Shelter	\$76,000
Housing	\$1.5MM
Elder Center	\$83,000
Higher Education	\$70,000
Social Services, New Services/Homelessness Mitigation	\$73,000
Student Services Including New Counselor(s)	\$320,000
Comanche Homecoming	\$10,000
Walters Service Club	\$5,000
Veterans Service Officer	\$80,000
Salvation Army Homeless Shelter Donation	\$50,000
Comanche Fairgrounds	\$2MM

The projected use of the unspent funds from previous fiscal years will go vote on January 25, 2025.

Native American Church Building and Ceremonial Grounds – the Native American Church is the tribe's remaining traditional ceremony, it has shown great efficacy in treating substance use disorders. Unfortunately, tradition is waning, and need to reinvigorate the tradition by providing a centralized location for people to learn

Consultants for Comanche Nation Department of Health. Self-determination requires the Comanche Nation to take greater control over their own health. Issues such as over-prescription of opioids can be addressed if the tribe has control over hospitals and clinics. Need to move in that direction with a Department of Health with residential treatment, behavioral health clinic, third-party billing, and other services.

- Law Enforcement
- ICW

There is much discussion to include the New Pathways Halfway House, and Law Enforcement funds.

The voting results to place Resolution TC07-24 on the ballot is 131 yes/30 no.

### FY 2025 Budget and FY2019-2023 Unspent Funds – TC08-24

Each year the General Council approves budgets, but the general council never receive feedback – did the tribe go over budget or under budget? Here are the numbers for prior years:

FY2020 - \$1,924,063

FY2021 - \$2,391,788.98

FY2022 - \$16,987,521.85

FY2023 - \$10,270,276.53

FY2023 - (\$4,110,319)

Some of this unspent money has been dedicated as carryover via CBC resolutions, and some is needed for quarter one (Q1) of FY2025 until the January distribution of gaming revenue

The tribe has \$20,796,339.04 in excess.

### CBC Proposal

The CBC proposed to save about half of the money for Rainy Day Fund, and to use other half to supplement FY25 budget, especially vulnerable populations (elders, youth shelter, social services, housing), to address persistent needs - in-house finance departments, veteran service officer, donation to Salvation Army for homeless shelter, enhancing education through student services, also investment in economy and community: new businesses (Gore Blvd., in Lawton, Okla., in Texas) and Comanche Nation Fairgrounds.

Chairman Tahdoahnipah noted much of this money is gaming revenue and therefore subject to IGRA and Revenue Allocation Plan, must be spend consistent with those requirements.

The voting results to place Resolution TC08-24 on the ballot is 140 yes/7 no.

The meeting is adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

**The Comanche Nation Offices will be closed December 24 and December 25 for Christmas, and will re-open for regular business Dec. 26.**

Comanche Nation Tribal Court District Court

NOV 12 2024 FILED

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME OF: ANGELO DAMIAN ALEXANDER AVITIA Case No.: NC-2024-0007

As enrolled member of the Comanche Nation.

**NOTICE BY PUBLICATION**

To: Angel David Avitia

Take notice that Patricia Telamano has filed in the above to have the name changed as follows, to-wit: from: Angel Davian Alexander Avitia to Angel Davian Alexander Telamano. The petition will be heard on 12/12/2024 at 11:09 AM located at the Comanche Nation Courthouse, 584 NW Biago Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.

If you have any cause to show why the above mentioned Petition for Name Change should not be granted by the Court you should file with the court a written answer 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 12th day of November, 2024.

*Theresa Combach*  
Court Clerk/Deputy  
Comanche Nation Tribal Court  
584 NW Biago Dr.  
P.O. Box 646  
Lawton, OK 73502  
Ph: (580) 280-4744

# Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

DECEMBER 2024						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Frederick 1st Day	2 Frederick 2nd Day	3 Walters 1st Day	4 Walters 2nd Day	5 CLOSED Elders Day	6
7	8 Cache 1st Day	9 Cache 2nd Day	10 Cache 3rd Day	11 Cache 4th Day	12 TRUCK DAY	13
14	15 Lawton 1st Day	16 Lawton 2nd Day	17 Lawton 3rd Day	18 Lawton 4th Day	19 Lawton 5th Day	20
21	22 Make-Up Day	23 CLOSED Christmas Eve	24 CLOSED Christmas Day	25 Make-Up Day	26 Inventory	27
28	29 Inventory	30 Inventory	31			

## Candid Kamu'uta (Sweet Potatoe)

- 4 Pounds Sweet Potatoes quartered
- 3 Cups miniature marshmallows, divided
- 1 1/4 Cups butter
- 1 1/4 Cups brown sugar
- ground cinnamon to taste
- ground nutmeg to taste

Directions  
Gather all ingredients. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Grease a 9x13 inch baking dish.

Bring a large pt of water to a boil. Add sweet potatoes and boil until slightly underdone, about 15 minutes, drain and peel when cool enough to handle.

While potatoes are cooling, combine 2 cups marshmallows, butter, brown sugar, cinnamon and nutmeg in a large saucepan over medium heat; cook stirring occasionally, until marshmallows are melted.

Stir potatoes into marshmallow sauce, mashing about half of the potatoes and breaking the other half into bite size chunks. Transfer into the prepared baking dish.

Bake in preheated oven for 15 minutes.

Sprinkle remaining marshmallows evenly over top and continue to bake until marshmallows are slightly toasted and golden brown, about 15 minutes.

**COMANCHE NATION** **LODS OF THE PLAINS**

## Winter Season

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

**Across:**

- cold
- cardinal
- pine
- handgame
- snowhair rabbit

**Down:**

- tell a story
- December
- build a fire
- snow
- Winter

**WORD BANK**

TAKABI    ʁTSʁ?ITʁ    KWITNETʁ    WOTSIA  
WOKOBI    NARʁMUI    KOHTOORʁ    NAHIWETʁ  
EKAHUUTSʉU    PIAʁTSʁ?IMʁA

**Tʉsoona mahani**  
Make your plate

A kuyunli turkey  
B mubi pocco ham  
C kooko chicken  
D atakw35H cooked dried corn with meat  
E paapasi potatoes  
F natsipom?i meat gravy  
G pihura beans  
H wo?aru?kapy wild rice  
I tabukinatuhkapy salad ("rabbit food")  
J tʉehna?kw35j squash  
K haniibi corn  
L yuhu nohkopy frybread  
M no?a nohkopy pie  
N pihna?nohkopy cake  
O otu nohkopy cookies  
P kamʉuta sweet potato (casserole)

**Food and Drink Word Search**

Can you find the words hidden in the puzzle?

Y U U S A N I T M T S U P E  
U U F A B O W I H U B A E R  
T W I I N E S U T T A U P  
Y U S M T U M I E U H U Y S  
? W T A U S H O P K K I T U  
A K I B H ? I T H O P T I  
N Y P U K Y U P Y M S A U W  
E O U S A U E I H A U A E E  
Y A R O P U T H U H W U S H  
U K U K O B U O A Y I R U U  
I W Y A O N A B I A M Y R B  
U A E ? R P U A I S A P A P  
E S W T M S U E H U N Y A ?  
T U ? P I H I N A U Y P I U

FAA - WATER    TUTURKMANYA - PEPPER    HUBA - COFFEE  
ONABI - SALT    PITSPU - MILK    PAFASI - POTATO  
NOHKOPY - BREAD    YUHU PITSPU - BUTTER  
TUHKAPY - FOOD, MEAT    TUPIHNA - BLACK PEPPER



2024 COMANCHE NATION  
**Arts and Crafts  
 EXTRAVAGANZA**  
 FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2024  
 9:00AM-3:00PM  
 Watchetaker Hall  
 Comanche Nation Complex  
 584 NW Bingo Road, Lawton, OK 73507  
 OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
 Vendors:  
 Contact Ritchie Felix: 580-591-0203  
 Office: 580-699-7202

Comanche Nation  
**Elders  
 Day 2024**  
 Friday, Dec. 6  
 Entertainment | Vendors | Sit Down Meal  
 Doors Open at 9am  
 Event Starts at 10am  
 Meal Served at 11:30am  
 Great Plains Coliseum  
 920 SW Sheridan Rd.  
 Lawton, OK, 73507

**Elder's Day**  
 December 6, 2024  
 Comanche Nation Transit  
 will provide two FREE  
 destination rides for  
 all Comanche Elder's.  
 Please contact  
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 580-492-3389  
 to schedule your pick up.



OLDEST MAN AND OLDEST WOMAN OF THE COMANCHE NATION. The oldest man of the Comanche Nation is Leroy Esadoah, who is 102 years. The oldest woman of the Comanche Nation is Pauline Kowena who is 100 years, according to the Comanche Nation Enrollment Department. The Comanche Nation honors all elders of the Comanche Nation.

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**COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES  
 NEW YEAR'S  
 Celebration**

Saturday, December 28th, 2024  
 Comanche Nation Complex, Watchetaker Hall- Lawton, OK

*Head Staff*

Master of Ceremonies- JR ROSS  
 Head Singer- LEONARD COZAD JR.  
 Head Lady Dancer- AMAYA BONILLA-HARRIS  
 Head Man Dancer- DAVID PEREZ  
 Head Little Boy Dancer- CJ TOSEE  
 Head Little Girl Dancer- NAHMI POAPFYBITTY  
 Arena Directors- TRAVIS CODYNAH  
 MODESTO SCHONCHIN

*Program*

12:00 noon- Cedar Ceremony  
 1:00 PM- Gourd Dancing  
 5:00PM- Supper Break  
 6:00 PM- Gourd Dance Resumes  
 7:00PM- Grand Entry

*Special Invitation:*

Comanche Nation Princess  
 Bluesky Tosee  
 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess  
 Arlene Schonchin  
 Otoe-Missouria Princess  
 Emmary Rose Elizondo

*Contest*

Tiny Tots (boys & girls Combined)  
 SPONSORED BY THE ATAUVICH FAMILY IN HONOR OF  
 DAKOTA KAY UNAH

Jr. Girls Old Style Comanche Cloth  
 Contest (12 years & under)  
 1st \$100, 2nd \$75, 3rd \$50  
 SPONSORED BY ROBERT & BETTY TIPPECONNIE

Women's Buckskin (16 years+)  
 Men's Straight (16 years +)  
 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100

Teen Boys Straight (12 years - 17 years)  
 1st \$200, 2nd \$150, 3rd \$100  
 SPONSORED BY CLP CHAIRMAN LOWELL NIBBS IN HONOR OF  
 BRANTLEY KERCHEE

Women's Cloth (16 year +)  
 1st \$300, 2nd \$200, 3rd \$100  
 SPONSORED BY THE TAPEDO FAMILY

Men's Fancy (16 years +)

All Singers, Dancers, and Princesses are cordially invited. The event is Free and Open to the public.  
 For general powwow information, please contact Lowell Nibbs @ (580) 583-5279 or via email: lowellnibbs@yahoo.com  
 Vendors: Arts & Crafts vendor fee is \$30. First 10 paid vendors will be reserved a space. You must provide your own tables and chairs. NO FOOD VENDORS. ARTS & CRAFTS VENDORS CANNOT SELL FOOD, SMACKS OR DRINKS OF ANY KIND. Vendor contact is Betty Tippeconnie (580) 695-8010 or via email: bettytippeconnie@yahoo.com  
 Security on Premises. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages allowed. Not responsible for any accidents, thefts, or injuries. Please watch your children.

# COME PLAY WITH US THIS DECEMBER!



**GETTIN' JIGGY AT CAC**

**TUESDAY & WEDNESDAY  
DECEMBER 31-JANUARY 1**



6PM-2AM • DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES TO WIN  
**\$5,500 CASH AT MIDNIGHT,**  
 \$2,600 CASH AT 1AM, \$2,550 AT 2AM, AND  
 \$1,025 CASH FOR ALL OTHER DRAWINGS!

RECEIVE 1 ENTRY FOR EVERY 50 POINTS EARNED  
 8AM, DEC 31 THROUGH 2AM, JAN 1.

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
See Comanche Rewards Club For Details.

**SOCK HOP  
ON INTO 2025**

**TUESDAY, DEC 31  
8PM-MIDNIGHT**



8PM-11:30PM DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES  
 TO WIN \$100-\$300 COMANCHE CREDIT.  
**MIDNIGHT DRAWING FOR  
\$2,025 CASH!**

RECEIVE 1 ENTRY FOR EVERY 5 POINTS  
 EARNED 10AM-MIDNIGHT.

**EXCLUSIVE!**  
See Comanche Rewards Club For Details.

**COMANCHE CARES FOUNDATION TOY DRIVE**

**TUESDAYS THROUGH THURSDAYS  
NOW-DEC 12  
NOON-10PM**



**IT'S THE SEASON OF GIVING!**  
 DONATE BRAND NEW TOYS AND BRING IN  
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**EVERY SUNDAY!**

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Comanche National Museum & Cultural Center brings you

# HONORING COMANCHE ROYALTY

An Exhibition Celebrating the Honor, Culture, and Beauty of the Comanche Nation Princess

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## FREE ADMISSION!

**MUSEUM HOURS:**

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Saturday	10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sunday	Closed





# Obituaries

## Robert Gooden Sr.



Courtesy Photo

**Gooden**  
Father, Husband, Son, Brother, Grandfather, and Great-Grandfather. Gooden was more than loved—he was cherished beyond words by those who knew him best.

Gooden was a man of quiet strength, a stoic presence whose few but impactful words were often regarded with the respect given to timeless wisdom. His insight, earned through years of hard work and steady character, was a guiding light for all who were fortunate enough to know him. Those closest to him often called him “the wizard,” “G-papa,” or simply “Gandalf,” as his quick wit, unassuming ways, and wise counsel lit their paths. In Gooden, we saw a beautiful soul—someone whose gentle spirit and warm presence made every moment spent with him memorable.

As a farmer, a family man, and a friend, Gooden exemplified the values of loyalty, dedication, and love. His love for his family was boundless, especially for his children and grandchildren, whose lives he touched with unwavering kindness and wisdom. He was a man who found fulfillment not in grand gestures but in the simple, profound joy of spending time with family and watching his loved ones grow. Each story he shared, each memory he created, will live on in the hearts of those he leaves behind.

Born on December 17, 1958,

in Clovis, New Mexico, Gooden embodied loyalty, having worked his entire life with only two employers. As a skilled diesel mechanic at Doles for 18 years and later as a dedicated Service Manager at C.L. Boyd, Gooden’s reliability and work ethic earned him the respect of all who worked alongside him. Even in retirement, he upheld the legacy of the Gooden name, continuing to farm the land with the same love and commitment he poured into all aspects of his life.

Gooden is preceded in death by his father, Rex Gooden, brother, Kenneth Gooden and his loving grandparents.

He is survived by his devoted wife, Barbara Gooden, of the home. Barbara was not only Gooden’s devoted wife since 2002, but his greatest confidante and closest friend. Together, they built a life rooted in love, laughter, and a deep mutual respect, a bond that will forever be cherished by all who witnessed it.

Alongside Barbara, he leaves behind his beloved children; Robby and Heather Gooden, Eric and Christina Wilson, Cody and Katie Lafferty; his mother, Karen Gooden; his brother Dennis and wife Carla Gooden; and cherished bonus children, Jerame and Shana Mink, Thomas and Ashley Culbertson, and Anthony and Kristy Mink. His grandchildren—Tanner Johnson, Aubree Reeves, Koby Gooden, Kelbie Mink, Kayla Gooden, Madison Mink, Aust’n Reeves, Kelsie Mink, Kayden Gooden, Autumn Darnell, and Hazel and Silas Lafferty,—were a source of joy for Gooden, and he was blessed to meet his five great-grandchildren.

In his quiet, steadfast way, Gooden also forged bonds of lasting friendship. His closest friends, Russ Roach and David Allen, stood by him through life’s ups and downs. And on the farm, Rodrick Sovo and Caley Gonzales were more than helpers; they were family, always ready to lend a hand in Gooden’s trusted work. With wisdom, patience, and an ability to fix anything, Gooden lived up to his nickname, “Gandalf.”

There was truly nothing he

couldn’t mend or make better. But it was his selflessness, his grace, and his unending generosity that truly set him apart. He was a man of deep integrity and class, who lived for others as much as for himself. While we mourn his passing, we take solace in knowing he is now in the embrace of our great Savior, at peace in a place of eternal light and love.

## Thomas Blackstar Jr.



Courtesy Photo

### Blackstar

Thomas Blackstar Jr. was born on Sept. 30, 1955, to Thomas Blackstar Sr. and Margie Pahdocony in Lawton, Okla. He passed away peacefully at home on Nov. 10, with his beloved wife Liz by his side. He was a proud full blood member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Blackstar complete his education through Walters Elementary and Walters Junior High School. He graduated from Ft. Sill Indian School Class of 1975. Blackstar worked for the City of Lawton in the Lake Division. He spent his work days at Lake Lawtonka and Lake Ellsworth, he retired after 22 years. Blackstar loved and embraced being outdoors, even after retirement he stayed busy mowing the lawn and taking care of his families dance ground and campsite on 4 mile. Blackstar was also an

avid Dallas Cowboys and Oklahoma Sooners fan. Blackstar is survived by his wife Lizzie Marie Blackstar; his sons Thomas Blackstar III (Rewa) of Chickasha, Okla.; Little brother Benjamin Blackstar (Amanda) of Anadarko, Okla.; daughter Margie Tahdoohannah of Marble Falls, Tex.; grandchildren Stefan and Dakota Wahkinney of Lawton, Okla.; Sydney Wahkinney of Big Spring, Tex.; Gabriel Blackstar, Michael Blackstar, Gideon Blackstar, Daniel Creepingbear-Blackstar, Benjamin Blackstar Jr., Brooke Blackstar, and Aja Blackstar; Great grandchildren Kyson, Andrus, Kinsley, Kendric, and Maximus; siblings Laverne, Laverna, Michael, Oliver, Carmela, Dorcas, Rodney, and Dawn. As well as numerous uncles, aunts, and sisters.

Blackstar is preceded in death by his father Thomas Blackstar Sr.; mother Margie Pahdocony; brothers Tommy Lee and Frankie; sisters Francetta and Christina.

## Shalene Renee Aitson "Baby Girl"



Courtesy Photo

### Aitson

Shalene Renee Aitson "Baby Girl" entered into her eternal rest on November 13, in Oklahoma City, Okla., with her loving family by her side.

She was born on October 27,



Courtesy Photo

1997, to Hattie Shalain Aitson, she was lovingly raised by Timothy Ototivo and Lola Ototivo. Aitson was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. Aitson grew up in Walters and completed her education through Walters Public Schools. She was a life-long member of the Brown Church Indian Baptist Church, where she formed a trusting and loving relationship with her Lord and Savior. Aitson enjoyed playing Fortnite on X-Box and spending time with her family. She also adored her pets, and all animals.

Aitson thrived as a mother to her baby boy Kai'den. Her loving nature created an unbreakable bond between them. She loved to take Kai'den to the park and they enjoyed walks together, her greatest joy was being able to provide Kai'den with a safe and happy home.

Aitson is survived by siblings Joseph Aitson, Porscha Aitson, Summer Aitson, Brandy Ototivo, Terence Ototivo, Lanette Ototivo, Timothy Ototivo, Emily and Makayla Horse; aunts Tiffany Marie Tahsequah, Kristi Lynn Tahsequah; uncles Justin Morgan Tahsequah, Rudy Earl Ototivo, C.O. Ototivo; and the mother that raised her Lola Ototivo.

Aitson is preceded in death by her mother Hattie Aitson; grandmother Carmen Ototivo; uncle Glen McCarthy; aunt Linda Ototivo; aunt Jan Ototivo.



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Please join us for a

**Christmas POW·WOW**

DEC · 21<sup>st</sup> | 2 · 10 PM

Watchmaker Hall | Supper at 5:30pm

M-C	Lloyd Heminokeky
H-S	Bubba Sovo
H-M	Forrest Tahdoohannah
H-L-D	Lisa Brown
CO-HOST	Comanche Little Ponies
A-D	Ashley Kerchee
SEC	Jim Wade

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(580)713-8715

And it came to pass that in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that the whole world should be enrolled. This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, every one into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem: because he was of the house and family of David. To be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass that when they were there, her days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first born son and wrapped him up in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger: because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds watching and keeping the night watches over their flock. And behold an angel of the Lord stood by them and the brightness of God shone round about them: and they feared with a great fear. And the angel said to them: Fear not; for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy that shall be to all the people: For, this day is born to you a Savior,

who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And this shall be a sign unto you. You shall find the infant wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God and saying: Glory to God in the highest: and on earth peace to men of good will. And it came to pass, after the angels departed from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another: Let us go over to Bethlehem and let us see this word that is come to pass, which the Lord hath shewed to us. And they came with haste: and they found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger. And seeing, they understood of the word that had been spoken to them concerning this child. And all that heard wondered: and at those things that were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

Luke 2:1-20

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