

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

THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Lords of the Plains

VOLUME 26 EDITION 1

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

Ꞗku Tooma Mta (January) 2025



BIA Secretarial Election Passes Amendments to Comanche Nation Constitution

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) held a Secretarial Election on December 18, 2024, to amend the Comanche Nation Constitution to amend Article XI, Section 1. The voting results are 423 For and 181 Against with a total of nine cast ballots found spoiled.

The Comanche Business Committee submitted Resolution No. 135-2024, to propose a Constitution Amendments ("Amendments") and request the Secretary of the Interior to authorize an election to allow tribal members the opportunity to vote on the proposed Amendments in accordance with Article XI - Amendments of the Constitution of the Comanche Nation ("Nation"). The election will be conducted by the Southern Plains Regional Office for the Nation in accordance with Article XI - Amendments of the Constitution and Part 81 of Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations ("25 CFR Part 81").

Confirming the voting results were Sherry Lovin, Chairperson of the BIA Secretarial Election Board, Tanisha Burgess and Gregory Cole of the Secretarial Election Board.

"The result of the most recent amendment to our constitution will be that our Election Board, rather than the Bureau of Indian Affairs, will administer the elections to amend our constitution. This will allow our Nation to more quickly and efficiently amend our constitution, a vital step to constitutional reform," Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoohnippah, said.

With the passing of the amendments, the Comanche Nation Constitution Article XI, Section 1 shall now read: *(Amendments to this Constitution may be proposed by a majority vote of the Business Committee or by a petition signed by two hundred (200) adult members of the tribe who are entitled to vote. Such proposals shall be submitted to the voters of the Tribe, and shall become effective when ratified by a majority vote of those who cast ballots in an election.)*

Article XIII, Section 1 shall now read: *(This constitution shall be amended by the ratification of a majority vote of the eligible voters of the Comanche Nation voting population in an election called by the tribal council, provided that at least thirty (30) percent of the eligible voters cast ballots.)*

The amendments removes the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to approve and ratify amendments to the Comanche Nation Constitution.

Comanche Nation Reaches Milestone Comanche Nation Signs Historic Fee to Trust Deed



Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoohnippah and Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Tippeconnie, sign the historic Fee to Trust Deed on behalf of the Comanche Nation on Dec. 16, 2024, at the Comanche Nation Business Center.

Story and Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff

On Dec. 16, 2024, at the Comanche Nation Business Center, the Comanche Nation reached a very significant milestone in its journey to strengthen tribal sovereignty.

Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoohnippah along with Comanche Nation Secretary/Treasurer Robert Tippeconnie signed a historic Fee to Trust Deed on two tracks of land with the BIA to expand the tribe's land base.

The first track is: Food Distribution (north side of the tribal complex grounds) which includes the Youth and Women's Shelter, the Food Distribution building, Capital Improvement building and the Transportation building. The second track is: Tax and Gaming Commission Property.

This Fee-to-Trust acquisition transfers land title to the United States, to be held in trust for the benefit of the Comanche Nation.

According to Chairman Tahdoohnippah: "We're the, what they call the fee owners of the land right now, we already have buildings on it, but to have it go from fee to trust is very significant from a legal perspective. Because it means now it is outside of the jurisdiction of the state of Oklahoma and within the jurisdiction of the Comanche Nation."

Tahdoohnippah said, "In terms of sovereignty, our sovereignty is so to our trust lands. You know,

we can make money, and we can buy land, but really, until it gets into trust, it's not truly what you would call Indian land, meaning that it's land under the jurisdiction of the Comanche Nation. So, in terms of sovereignty, this is a huge day."

"With the land being under the jurisdiction of the Comanche Nation instead of state jurisdiction, it has a few consequences," said Tahdoohnippah.

Tahdoohnippah added, "One of the most obvious is just taxes. It won't be subject to state taxes, but at a deeper level, because it's subject to the laws of the Comanche Nation, we can have more economic development opportunities. So, for example, like the Tax Commission, we are looking at maybe enacting some codes that would incentivize insurance companies or those types of private industries to incorporate with the Comanche Nation...then we would see some additional revenue from that. Really the sky is the limit."

The application for the Tax Commission land was applied for in 2006 and the application for the land containing the Food Distribution and other government buildings was applied for in 2019.

Tahdoohnippah said more land will be added to trust in the future, including the land where Law Enforcement, Prevention and Recovery, New Pathways and CNOEP are

located.

Trust land status:

- Establishes tribal jurisdiction
- Strengthens tribal sovereignty
- Provides eligibility for BIA programs and services
- Exempts the land from state and local taxes
- Restores tribal lands
- Brings into question recent court rulings that the KCA Reservations was dissolved.

Importance to the Comanche Nation

- Sovereignty: Asserts our rights and legitimacy as a self-governing nation
- Economic Development: Enables access to tax credits and financing for community improvement
- Environmental Stewardship: Allows us to protect and manage our lands using traditional practices
- Cultural Preservation: Provides space for preserving and practicing our traditions
- Education: Offers opportunities to share our culture and history with the broader community
- Collaboration: Fosters partnerships with local stakeholders for mutual benefit



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

ELDER'S DAY CELEBRATION. Elders line up to register at the annual Comanche Nation Elder Day, held December 6, 2024, at the Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton, Okla. Elder's Day celebrates the tribe's senior population and pays tribute to them. For more photos, go to Page 8.

Comanches Will Go to the Voting Polls January 25

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Comanche voters will go to the polls on January 25 to vote on resolutions from the November 23, 2024 Special General Council Meeting.

According to Charlotte Niyah of the Comanche Nation Election Board, the five resolutions on the voting ballot are:

- **TC 04-2024:** to establish a Charitable Fund
- **TC 05-2024:** to adopt Real Estate Leasing Law under Hearth Act
- **TC 06-2024:** to approve an increase in limited waivers of sovereign immunity
- **TC 07-2024:** to authorize the expenditure of the Opioid Settlement Funds
- **TC 08-2024:** to authorize the expenditure of unspent funds from previous fiscal years.

Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoohnippah, explained at the Special General Council Meeting why the Nation needs a charitable foundation.

"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." Tahdoohnippah said the Hearth Act can help the Nation generate more income."

"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. We could generate more income if we 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 we 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" he added.

Resolution TC-0624 will raise the waiver limit of 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

Happy New Year!
Tsaa Manttsu?itt Ꞗku TomoptꞖ

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See Comanche Rewards Club For Details



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JAN

Burger of the Month

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Government

A Total of 13 Resolutions Presented at the December 2024 CBC Meeting

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the December 7, 2024 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 Tahdoohnipah, called the December 2024 CBC Meeting to order at 10 a.m. The Comanche Nation Secretary/Treasurer, Robert Tippeconnie, conducted roll call.

Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 167-2024** - Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1348 Minors. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 168-2024** - Enrollment Resolution List 1349 Adults. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 169-2024** - Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List 1350 Blood Quantum. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 170-2024** - Higher Education Resolution for JP&T ARPA Extension. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 171-2024** - Injury Prevention Resolution for CNG Guidelines. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 172-2024** - ICW Resolution to BIA for PL 93-638 No Cost Extension. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 173-2024** - Prevention and Recovery Resolution to amend reintegrating guidelines. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 174-2024** - IT Resolution to purchase servers. The motion passes 5/1/0.
- Resolution No. 175-2024** - CBC Resolution to amend Election Ordinance. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Elder Council Request** - Request to use Legal Fees Budget
- Resolution No. 176-2024** - CBC Resolution to retain consultants for Phase 1 In House Accounting/Finance. The motion passes 5/1/0.
- Resolution No. 177-2024** - Fair Board Resolution to establish bylaws. The motion passes 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 178-2024** - Resolution approving 2024 holiday bonuses. The motion passes 4/2/0.
- Resolution No. 179-2024** - Resolution to approve the list of Churches eligible for annual donations. The motion passes 6/0/0.

VOTING

Continued from Page 1

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 cap will increase from \$3 million to \$15 million. The CBC requests that the cap be "indexed" to inflation, the \$15 million will automatically increase each year so that the CBC does not have to come back again and again every few years

The Opioid Settlement can only be used for certain purposes related to the abatement of the opioid crisis. Importantly, the Tribe can use culturally grounded prevention.

The proposal is to use the \$3.3 million balance for Prevention and Recovery, Equine Therapy/Horse Program, Native American Church building and ceremonial grounds, and consultants for a Comanche Nation Department of Health.

The unspent funds from Fiscal Years 2019-2023 total \$20,796,399.04. The proposal: Save about half of the money for the Rainy Day Fund and use the other half to supplement the FY25 budget, especially vulnerable populations (elders, youth shelter, social services, housing), to address persistent needs - in-house finance departments, veteran service officer, a donation to Salva-

tion Army for a 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 Tahdoohnipah noted much of this money is gaming revenue and therefore subject to IGRA and Revenue Allocation Plan, must be spent consistent with those requirements.

Voting

Early voting will take place 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. January 24 at the Comanche Nation Complex's Comanche Code Talker Room and the Comanche Nation Education Center in Lawton, Okla.

Regular voting will take place 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. January 25 at the following voting sites:

Lawton Polling Site
Comanche Nation Complex Comanche Code Talker Conference Room, 584 NW Bingo Road, Lawton

Oklahoma City Polling Site
Comanche Nation Outreach Office - OKC Office, 8014 N Western Ave. Suite D, OKC

Apache Polling Site
Comanche Nation - Apache Community Center, 309 Julia Mahseet Road, Apache

Anadarko Polling Site
Comanche Nation Outreach Office - Anadarko Office, 602 W. Virginia, Anadarko

Cache Polling Site
Comanche Nation - Cahoma Community Center, 752 NW Quanah Rd., Cache

Walters Polling Site
Comanche Nation Community Center - Walters, 905 E. Missouri St., Walters

From the Chairman's Desk



Maruaweke Numunuu:

Happy New Year. I hope your holiday season has been enjoyable. My personal New Year's resolution is to try to spend more time learning Comanche. The Language Department has online courses (you can sign up at talkcomanche.org) that I have been wanting to try out, so wish me luck. We ended the year with a Secretarial Election, and will be starting this year with a Special Election on several proposed Tribal Council resolutions. I know that this is a lot of voting, and understand there may be some voter fatigue associated with two elections back-to-back. However, I ran on a platform of empowerment of the Tribal Council. In my first "Chairman's Desk" column back in June, I pleaded with each of you to participate in our government as members of the Tribal Council, and now is when your participation is needed.

Our model of government has many naysayers—those that would disenfranchise and dispense with the Tribal Council as impractical or unwieldy. We have begun to prove these naysayers wrong, successfully holding a historic Special Tribal Council meeting in November, where we kept a quorum through the entire agenda. Now, under the Constitution, we must have a final vote, including from absentee voters, on the resolutions that were proposed and amended at the meeting in November. Please turn out to vote January 24 (early voting) and 25.

The resolutions that we will be voting on were discussed at the Tribal Council meeting, and I have been attempting to use this column to discuss them over the last several months. The first resolution concerns a charitable foundation. This foundation would be established with money left over from the old revolving loan program. The foundation would raise money for cultural activities, veterans' and elders' associations, and youth activities. The second resolution would authorize a long-term leasing law that would allow longer (i.e., more than five year) leases for renewable energy, commercial, residential, or other uses. The third resolution would raise the cap at which the Comanche Business Committee can authorize a limited waiver of sovereign immunity from \$3 million to \$15 million, and index the cap to inflation. Most Tribes do not have a cap, and raising the cap is needed to ease the financing of construction projects. The fourth resolution concerns money the Tribe received from an opioid settlement. The resolution proposes providing some of the funding to existing programs that address opioid addiction (e.g., Prevention & Recovery, New Pathways) and to creating new ways of using culture to combat addiction (e.g., horse therapy, Native American Church building and cultural center). The final resolution concerns money that was surplus in prior fiscal years. The resolution proposes using some of this money to supplement programs that serve elders and youth, and to use some of the money to create a Veterans Service Office, to upgrade the Tribe's IT infrastructure, and to build a new fairgrounds for the Tribe.

This is a summary, so please review the resolutions and also go back and re-watch the Special Tribal Council meeting.

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

THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS
Ꞥku Tooma Mea (January) 2025
New Year 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 February Edition is 5 p.m., January 15.
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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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584 Bingo Rd., Lawton, OK 73505

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Member of the Society of Professional Journalists since 2010

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This month's financial tip brought to you by **CITY NATIONAL BANK & TRUST**

Financial Tip: SMART Goals

The new year means a lot of things for a lot of people. One thing a new year can mean is the chance for a new start. One area in particular is setting of goals. These goals can range from health (want to drop some weight) to financial (I want to take a trip). One way to reach your goals is by using the SMART Goal method. Before you will find a simple template that you can use to set your own SMART Goals for 2025!

SMART Goal Template	
S Specific	How much do I want to save? Why do I want to save it?
M Measurable	How will I measure my progress? When will I know I have accomplished my goal?
A Achievable	What are the logical steps to take to meet this goal?
R Relevant	Is now the time for this goal? Do I have the resources to meet this goal? Will this goal help me reach my long-term goal(s)?
T Time Bound	How long will it take to accomplish this goal? Is the timeframe reasonable?

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Programs

**January 2025
Adult Education
Student of the Month
Blakely Portillo**



Courtesy Photo

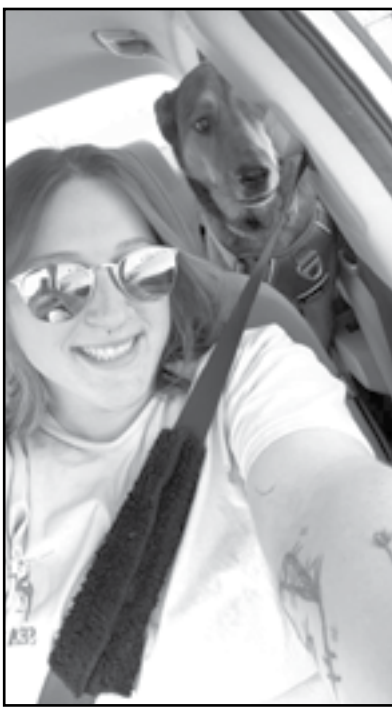
Portillo achieved her goal of becoming a Doctor of Physical Therapy two years ago.

Portillo is currently a travel physical therapist and enjoys outdoor adventures like running, hiking, climbing, skiing, and playing with her dog.

Portillo loves to travel, spend time in nature, and sip a good cup of coffee.

Portillo is grateful for the opportunities she has been given as a health care provider and lifelong learner and for the support from the Comanche Nation Higher Education Office.

**January 2025
Higher Education
Graduate Student of the Month
Velma Turner**



Courtesy Photo

Turner graduated from Apache High School in 2017. Turner continued her post-secondary education at Haskell Indian Nations University, earning an A.S. in Community Health in 2019, and a B.A. in Indigenous and American Indian Studies in 2022.

Shortly after graduation, Turner began working at Comanche Academy Charter School in Lawton, Okla. Turner participated in the Oklahoma State Department of Education's boot camp to become a Special Education teacher. By April of that year, Turner became the school's Special Education Teacher.

Turner is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Special Education at East Central University. Turner is on track to graduate in August 2025. Turner is now teaching English/Language Arts to 7th and 8th grade students with mild to moderate disabilities at Hale Middle School.

**January 2025
Higher Education
Undergraduate Student of the Month
Martin Cook**



Courtesy Photo

Cook is a dedicated professional, currently pursuing a Bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering. Cook successfully obtained his Associates degree in Engineering from Central New Mexico Community College in December 2024.

With a strong interest in industrial automation, Cook plans to pursue a career in this field upon completing his studies.

Cook is a devoted husband and father of two, and in his personal time, he enjoys engaging in strategic board games such as Chess and Blokus.

**January 2025
Job Placement & Training
Student of the Month
Jennifer Felan**



Courtesy Photo

Jennifer Felan is the granddaughter of the late Ozzie Red Elk, and daughter of Pamela Red Elk-Hernandez.

Felan graduated from Medical Assistant school in 2019, and currently works as a Medical Assistant instructor. Upon graduation she was awarded the leadership award and maintained a 4.0 GPA.

Felan's goal is to continue her education in nursing. She requires two more prerequisite classes and she will apply for nursing school.

Felan is a mother of three children, and unfortunately lost her oldest son in 2023 due to a neurological disorder.

Felan states, "I am thankful for all of the support I have received from family and friends through this journey. It has not been an easy road and I just want to express my gratitude to the Comanche Nation during the difficult times and during my educational journey. One thing I would love to share with everyone is keep pushing through to the end. I was once told by my lovely aunt Tonya Red Elk, 'there is a time and place for everything.' I am 37 years old striving to get my nursing degree that I have wanted all of my life. Despite the struggles thrown my way, the good Lord above has always provided. I leave this with you, KEEP GOING! Someone loves you and is rooting for you, ALWAYS. Thank you again to everyone that has been by my side through this journey! Nothing is more honorable than a grateful heart. Stay blessed."

JANUARY 2025
COMANCHE LANGUAGE COMMUNITY CLASSES

06 & 20 CACHE, OK CAHOMA BUILDING 6 - 8 PM 752 NW QUANAH RD

06 & 20 APACHE, OK COMANCHE COMMUNITY CENTER 6 - 8 PM 309 JULIA MAHSEET RD

09 & 23 LAWTON, OK JAMES COX AUDITORIUM INSIDE DOROTHY SUNRISE LORENTINO EDUCATION CENTER 6 - 8 PM 1608 SW 9TH ST.

**CN Election
Board Meeting
January 21
6 p.m.
Comanche Complex
Code Talkers Room**



Grasshopper Program January Schedule

Grasshopper Winter Work "It's for the Elders" 2024-2025

January 2025
Tree trimming/yard clean up

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			CLOSED	Idaho	Idaho	
	Idaho	Idaho	Cache	Cache	Cache	
	Cache	Cache	CLOSED	Cache	Cache	
	Cache	Cache	Cache	Cache	Cache	
	Lawton	Lawton	Lawton	Lawton	Lawton	



Comanche Language Department Hosts Honor Powwow for the Comanche Code Talkers and Descendants

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On November 24, 2024, Comanche Nation Language Department held a Code Talker Honor Dance at Watchetaker Hall.

Comanche Nation Language Department Language Consultant, Lloyd Heminokky, said the idea of hosting a powwow came when he talked about his grandfather at work.

"After we got through visiting over it, I said it'd be a good idea we could have something during the month of November for them, code talkers, being Indigenous Month and memorialize the memory in them for what they've done for this country and how our language is involved with it," he said. "How it went over there, as I said earlier, on the European side during World War II and our language was carried that way with it, and it helped win a war."

Heminokky said some veterans weren't able to receive items in Washington.

"I wanted to do something for them because he wasn't here to receive that when it was given in Washington. He looked forward to it, but he wasn't here," he said. "So, what better other way than to have something like this and share with our families that come in and be a part of this, and that's where it started from about two months ago."

Heminokky said it's very important to honor Code Talkers.

"And what they stood for and what they sacrificed for us to have what we have today and the families that they've come from were well-respected families and known for their leaderships in our Comanche tribe," Heminokky said. "And the importance of it is to continue on the

memories that they did, the sacrifices that they went through and endured, you know, the life-death situation that we encountered over there, and to maintain that for all of us because, like I said before, they don't belong to certain families, they belong to the Comanche Nation, and that's where it all comes down to."

He said the focus of the dance for himself was honoring Wellington Mihecoby. Lanny Asepermy, Leonard Chibitty, Jimmy Ray Caddo, and Eleanor McDaniel were honored at the dance, as were descendants.

"Along with all the other code talkers, but it was him we focused on," Heminokky said. "His flag being flown today and being with the family coming and being presented...but being willing to give it to us so we could do that for him."

He was proud and thankful to be at the dance and be a part of life.

"It's overwhelming, you know, to be a part of this and to be a part of the Comanche language department, and I'm just thankful," Heminokky said. "We're very thankful to be at this time, place, and age, you know, to still carry on and get away from it."

LaNora Parker is a daughter of Code Talker Simmons Parker and said the day was emotional.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The children of Comanche Code Talkers, from left, Nona Mihecoby, daughter of Wellington Mihecoby, LaNora Parker, daughter of Simmons Parker, and Amaryliss Kassinavoid Frazier, daughter of Forrest Kassinavoid, were honored November 24, 2024, at Watchetaker Hall, along with other descendants of the Comanche Code Talkers at their honor powwow.

Follow the Comanche Nation Public Information Office



Comanche Law Enforcement Hosts Annual Shop-With-A-Cop December 18

Story and Photos by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On December 18, 2024, Comanche Nation Police and Fire Departments hosted their annual Shop-With-A-Cop, which began at Nacho Mamas and ended at Walmart.

Lt. Robert Chavez held a bowling fundraiser to help provide the experience to 15 youth.

"I've done it in the past. It's a little chaotic," he said. "Kids are really, really happy. They don't get this every day."

This was the first Shop with a Cop for Comanche Nation Fire Chief Kyle Tahpay, who also participated in the bowling event and received several donations.

"My favorite part was watching Santa Claus and the Grinch, which I want to say a shout out to Liberty National Bank for actually purchasing a Santa suit for us. It was a really fantastic job," he said. "My guys did really good as playing the parts of Santa and the Grinch. It was just seeing the faces and all the pictures getting taken"

They also received help from the Citizens of Potawatomi Nation.

Chavez said it felt good to provide the Christmas event. "It always feels good making kids happy, making them smile. That's what Christmas is all about," he said. "It's making them kids happy, making them smile. You can't, it's almost like Santa Claus, you know, you're just trying to make them all happy."

Tahpay said he enjoyed working with law enforcement.

"Puts a smile on my face when I see the kids getting gifts and wanting to take pictures, like I said, again, with the Grinch and the Santa," he said. "It's really fantastic actually being in this position to work with law enforcement and get this done."

Tahpay said Santa will still be available throughout the Christmas season.

"Santa Claus ain't done yet, so I mean, we'll be out tomorrow and be out and about, so you can actually try to look for us or follow us on Facebook," he said. "We're always putting a post out there and we'll have Santa available anytime if there's anybody that needs him before Christmas is over with."

Chavez said the holiday is for people to get together.

"A lot of people can't at this time due to medical, people lose loved ones, so all we have left is sharing time together, making the kids happy and being with family," he said.

Chavez said the Nation, Fire Department and ICW helped put on Shop-With-A-Cop.

The departments also delivered presents on Thursday, December 19.



After an evening of Shop with a Cop, a youth finds a comfortable spot to relax before it's time to leave. Youth were scattered across the isle to find their perfect presents.



Officers and shoppers wrap up their night. Participants were able to check off their wish lists.



Officer Lt. Chris Kennedy helps a child find their dream present. On December 18, 2024, the Comanche Nation Police and Fire Departments held a Shop with a Cop event. The youth who participated were able to purchase items up to \$150 and ate at Nacho Mama's before the event.



Comanche Nation Fire Department brings Grinch and Santa along for Shop with a Cop. The pair had several photo opportunities during the event.



Officers Charlene Childers and Christy Crane enjoy some of the items at Shop with a Cop.

IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME OF

TASHIA LEIGHANN PATTON TASHIAWICKIAC

Case No. NC-2024-001

DEC 22 2024

FILED

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ALL CREDITORS OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Notice is hereby given that Tashia Leighann Patton Tashia Wickiac has filed in the above Court a Petition to have her name changed as follows: Tashia Leighann Patton Tashia Wickiac to Tashia Leighann Tashia Wickiac.

The petition will be heard on 12/26/2024 at 10:00 AM located at the Comanche Nation Courthouse, 500 NW Stage Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.

If you have any claims or debts due to the above named Petitioner, you should file a claim with the Court and serve a copy of your claim on the Petitioner and the Petitioner's attorney no later than 10 days before the date of the hearing or you will be barred from asserting your claim.

Witness my hand and the seal of said Court this 22nd day of December, 2024.

By: *Natascha Mercadante*
Court Clerk
Comanche Nation Tribal Court
500 NW Stage Rd
Lawton, OK 73505
(580) 492-3628

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Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

JANUARY 2025

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

Corn Bread
Ingredients
1 1/4 Cup flour
3/4 Cup cornmeal
3 Tsp baking powder
1/4 Cup sugar
3/4 Tsp salt
1 1/4 Cups buttermilk
1 egg
3 Tbs sour cream
1/4 Cup shortening, melted

Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Combine the flour, cornmeal, baking powder, sugar and salt in medium bowl. Add milk, shortening, sour cream and egg. Mix well. Pour into greased 8 x 8 pan. Bake 25 to 30 minutes until top is golden brown.

Southern-Style Black-Eyed Peas
Ingredients
1 Pound dried black-eyed peas
1 Tablespoon vegetable oil
1 Medium onion, chopped
5 Cloves garlic, minced
1 Pound smoked ham hocks
6 Cups water
1 Tablespoon seasoned salt

1 Teaspoon onion powder
1 Teaspoon ground cumin
1 Teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
1/4 Teaspoon crushed red pepper
3 Bay leaves

Gather all ingredients. Soak black-eyed peas in a bowl of water for at least 2 hours, or overnight.

Heat oil in a large, heavy saucepan over medium heat. Add onion and garlic; saute until onion is translucent, about 5 minutes.

Add ham hocks and water; bring to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer and cook for 1 hour.

Drain peas; add to the pan along with seasoned salt, onion powder, cumin, black pepper, red pepper, and bay leaves. Bring to a boil. Cover, reduce the heat to a simmer, and cook 1 hour.

Uncover the pan and cook until peas are tender, about 30 more minutes. Remove bay leaves and ham hocks before serving.

Old Fashion Peach Cobbler

Ingredients
8 fresh peaches - peeled, pitted and sliced into thin wedges
1/4 C white sugar
1/4 C brown sugar
1/8 Tsp ground cinnamon
1/8 Tsp ground nutmeg
1 Tsp fresh lemon juice
2 Tsp cornstarch
1 C all-purpose flour
1/4 Cup white sugar
1/4 Cup brown sugar
1tsp Baking powder
1/2 Tsp Salt
6 Tbs Unsalted butter, chilled and cut into small pieces
1/4 C boiling water
3 Tbs white sugar
1 Tsp ground cinnamon

Gather all ingredients. Preheat oven to 425 degrees. Combine peaches, 1/4 cup white sugar, 1/4 cup brown sugar, 1/4 tsp cinnamon, nutmeg, lemon juice and cornstarch in a large bowl; toss to coat evenly, and pour into a 2-quart baking dish. Bake in preheated oven for 10 minutes.

Meanwhile, combine flour, 1/4 cup white sugar, 1/4 cup brown sugar, baking powder and salt in a large bowl. Blend in butter with your fingertips or a pastry blender until mixture resembles coarse meal. Stir in water until just combined. Remove peaches from oven, and drop spoonfuls of topping over them.

Mix 3 tbs white sugar and 1 tsp cinnamon together in a small bowl; sprinkle over entire cobbler. Bake in the preheated oven until topping is golden, about 30 minutes.

Serve topped with vanilla ice cream.

Winter Season

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across:

- cold
- cardinal
- pine
- handgame
- snowhair rabbit

Down:

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

WORD BANK

TAKABI	ĤTSĤ?ITĤ	KWITNETĤ	WOTS'IA
WOKOBI	NARĤMUI	KOĤTÓORĤ	NAHIWETĤ
EKAHUUTSÚU	PIĤĤSĤ?IMĤA		

HAPPY COMANCHE CONSTITUTION DAY JANUARY 20

How Well Do You Know the Comanche Constitution?

Test yourself to see how well you know the fundamental laws and rights of the Comanche Nation and it's members. Answer the below questions with or without the Comanche Constitution. The Answers are on Page 12.

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



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2024 Comanche Elder Day Has Biggest Attendance in Years

571 Elders Attended the celebration that included entertainment, vendors, and a holiday meal

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Comanche Nation hosted its annual Elders Day on December 6, 2024, at the Great Plains Coliseum in Lawton, Oklahoma.

The day began with flute music from Travis Komahcheet and a Comanche-translated version of The Star-Spangled Banner, sung by Yolonda Ramos and signed by Comanche Nation Princess Bluesky Tosee and Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin.

Elgin High School Comanche language students also recited the Lord's Prayer while Comanche Academy students sang Comanche hymns.

Brian Teyeah also sang Christmas songs.

Comanche Youth Dancers showed their skills for the Comanche elders, and Sarah Pohawpachoko sang hymns before the day closed out.

Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoahnippah, who hosted his first Elder's Day, said the day celebrates the elders and their families.

"The elders are the main focus and celebrating them and their contributions, but something that's been impressive to me is how it goes beyond that..." he said. "It's about the families too, you know, and they bring their children and their grandchildren, and that's, you know, one of the reasons why we do celebrate our elders is because they are that kind of glue that holds our families together. So, it's just, it's about the elders but it's also about our families too."

Tahdoahnippah said they faced adversities in the past.

"You think about... these are people that some of them were born in the 30s or the 40s, the 50s, you know, at time periods when there was so much poverty and discrimination...decades before we had gaming or those sorts of things," he said. "... They've had hard lives, but they persevered, they, you know, they raised us up, they gave their money, their effort, their time to give us good lives that we have. So, you know, we're just trying to pay it back and out of our recognition, respect for everything that they gave us despite all the hardships and adversities that they faced."

Tahdoahnippah said he enjoyed his first time hosting Elders Day.

"I'm really enjoying myself. It's great to, you know, visit with friends, old and new, you know, seeing people that I know," he said. "Seeing some of...my relatives, but then, you know, getting to meet new people for the first time is great, too."

There were also raffle prizes



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Over 1,000 people attended the 2024 Comanche Elder Day celebration, held December 6, 2024, at the Great Plains Coliseum. Several were on hand to cater to the elders, including Comanche Nation employees, students from the Cache JOM, IAMNDN, and Elgin JOM, along with several family members of the Nation's elders.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Sam DeVenney



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Virgie Kassaravoid



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Gary Tahmahkera



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Arlene Joyce Roach Wilson



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

It was a special moment at Elder's Day when Yolonda Ramos sang the National Anthem in the Comanche language while the, from left, Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin, Jemma Z., and the Comanche Nation Princess Bluesky Tosee signed it. Ramos said the Comanche Nation Language Department helped her translate the song.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Comanche Academy Charter School sang Comanche hymns and Christmas carols at the 2024 Elder Day celebration.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Ba'E'zronie Saupitty traditional dances during the Comanche Youth Dancers' exhibition at the Elder Day celebration.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Sylvia Wermey



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Robert Tehauno



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Linda Roach



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal elder, Carla Wild Cat, receives a goody bag from Comanche Enrollment Director, Jon Wauqua, at the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal member, Linda Minthorn, gives a grin while attending the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day at the Great Plains Coliseum.

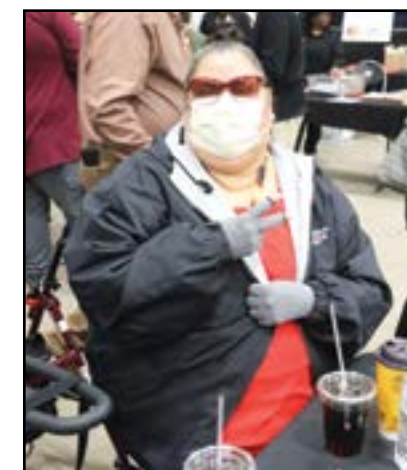


Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal member, Stephanie Poemoceah, poses for a quick picture at the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoahnippah, joins the Comanche Youth Dancers during the Gourd Dance portion of their performance at the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal member, Cheryl Pewewardy, enjoys a snack while attending the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder with her daughter Samantha, held at the Great Plains Coliseum.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal elder and veteran Eleanor McDaniel attending the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day, held at the Great Plains Coliseum.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal elder, Bonita Paddyaker, smiles for the camera at the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day on Dec. 6, 2024, held at the Great Plains Coliseum.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Rosie Pennah and daughter, Civa Hill, pose for a quick picture while attending the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day held at the Great Plains Coliseum.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal elder and former Tribal Chairman, Wallace Coffey, attends the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

CHRISTMAS TOY GIVEAWAY. Thousands of toys, books, games, and clothing were given away December 17, 2024, at the Comanche Nation's Christmas Toy Giveaway, held at the Comanche Nation's Watchtaker Hall. TOP: Children pick from an array of guns, dinosaurs, cars and super heroes at the toy drive. BOTTOM: Parents and grandparents leave with boxes of toys at the Comanche Nation's Christmas Toy Giveaway.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Siblings Gary and Mary Chasenah attend the 2025 Comanche Nation Elder on Dec. 6, 2024, held at the Great Plains Coliseum.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Tribal elder, Rita Coosewoon, waves Good-bye to friends after attending the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day, along with her daughter Beth Giles.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Sisters Zenia Niedo and Dorthea Niedo pose for a quick picture while they enjoy each other's company at the 2024 Comanche Nation Elder Day held at the Great Plains Coliseum.

Comanche Elder's Council Christmas Gathering

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On December 9, 2024, Comanche Nation Elders Council held a Christmas event at Watchetaker Hall. The event featured Travis Komahcheet on flute, a fashion show and vendors, as well as a meal served by Lil Darlin's.

Comanche Nation Princess Bluesky Tosee and Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin signed the Lord's Prayer while Sarah Pohawpatchoko sang.

Elder Council Chairman Rosalind Asetamy said much work goes into the Elders Council and its events.

"We started talking about this probably in July and just would throw in ideas every now and then, and then we finally really started trying to pull it together," she said. "Probably in October, September, October, we started actually contacting people."

Asetamy said her mother participated in the meetings every month; Asetamy said the event brings the elder community together.

"We know that there are shut-ins," she said. "We know that there are elders that don't have a lot of family involvement, so we try to make each monthly meeting special, and that's our goal. We want them to enjoy."

Asetamy said it's a special time for elders.

"My favorite part is just seeing the elders enjoy the meetings," she said. "I don't know how things were in the past because, like I said, I couldn't ever attend, but I just feel like it's a really good opportunity to show the elders that we care."

Asetamy said it's important for elders to participate more and share their family history.

Over 200 people participated in the event.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Over 200 elders attended the Elder Council's Christmas celebration, held December 9, 2024, at Watchetaker Hall. Each elder received a gift from the Elder's Council, watched a fashion show of both traditional and contemporary genres, and sang Christmas songs in Comanche with the Language Department.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Comanche Elders Council Officers and the fashion show coordinators gather for a photo. From left, Verna Cable Burgess, Edmond Nevaquaya, Yolanda Ramos, Hayden Cable, LaNora Parker, Rosalind Asetamy, and Ruth Factor.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Richard Chibitty, with Leonard and Rose Marie Chibitty enjoy the Elder's Council Christmas celebration.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The models for the Elder Council Fashion Show, from left, Beth Giles, Bluesky Tosee, Dominic Gutierrez, Modesto Schonchin, Arlene Schonchin, Danny Niedo, Vivien Parker, Lisa Brown, Nahmi Poafpybitty, Travis Komahcheet, Elizabeth Williams, Amiah Phillips, Dorothy Tahah, Holly Harvey, Martina Minthorn, Lisa Dawsey, Kyleigh Davidson, and Rita Coosewoon.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Language Department sang an array of Christmas songs in Comanche while the lyrics were presented on the projector for all to join in.

Prayer Breakfast Gives Donation to area Comanche Churches

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On December 11, 2024, Comanche Nation hosted its Prayer Breakfast for Comanche churches to receive donations at Watchetaker Hall.

Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoahnippah, said the event was an open invitation and celebrated the Christmas season.

"Anyone could come, but it was specifically for the churches that are receiving donations to come and pick up their donations and then to celebrate the tribe's support," he said. "Every year, the Tribal Council approves donations that go to churches, and so we come up with an eligible list that is based on membership with the tribe, like, you know, churches that serve tribal members, and so that's both kind of your traditional Comanche Christian churches but then also chapters of our Comanche Native American church."

Tahdoahnippah said the Prayer Breakfast celebrates those churches.

"That, you know, do so much for our community as far as being a spiritual backbone for our community," he said. "Giving their time and effort to our community members and then; also, one thing that I touched on in my speech today was just the way that they help preserve our culture. Because so much of our language and culture is embedded

within the church hymns that are sung by these churches and then in the peyote songs that are sung by the Native American church chapters."

Tahdoahnippah said it was nice to be a part of the festivities, which included the Lord's Prayer, signed by Comanche Nation Princess Bluesky Tosee and Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin, who also signed Amazing Grace; Christmas Carols by Prevention and Recovery; and meal served by Indianoma High School and Walters Service Club Jr. Princess Tiana McClung, Comanche Academy Brave and Princess sang Comanche Hymns. Pastor Kenneth Laurenzana delivered the sermon. A family remembrance slide show was also played.

"It's nice to be able to take a pause out of kind of the paperwork and issues that you deal with on a day-to-day basis and just take a little bit of time out, just spend a morning fellowship with friends and family, hearing the sermon, celebrating you know our culture, our traditions and each other, and so yeah it really felt good," he said.

Tahdoahnippah said this year was the highest monetized amount of donations to the churches.

Comanche Business Committee Members Alice Kassanavoid, Robert Tippeconnie, and Vice Chairman Diana Gail Sovo were also in at-



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Paul Tate of the First Baptist Church in Ft. Cobb and Glenna Niedo of Petarsy Church, along with several church representatives, receive a monetary donation from the Comanche Nation during the Prayer Breakfast held December 11, 2024, at Watchetaker Hall. Comanche Business Committee No. 3, Alice Kassanavoid and Comanche Nation Vice Chairwoman, Diana Gail Doyebi Sovo, help issue the checks.

Military News

Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/CIVA



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Indian Veterans Association New Year Greetings

Greetings to all of the Comanche Nation. It has been a pleasure to serve you this past year, 2024, as the Commander of the Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA). The CIVA had a very eventful year in which they participated in numerous activities throughout the year. The Veterans of the CIVA look forward to serving you this next year.

The CIVA provides funeral and memorial details, setting military headstones, honoring veterans, home visits (Curtailed due to the COVID epidemic), co-host pow wows, assist veterans as needed, Meet with Fort Sill Officers and other details as needed.

For assistance you can reach him at (580) 583-4082. Thank you, and CIVA looks forward to seeing you in the coming 2025 year. CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno.

Season's Greeting From CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie



Courtesy Photo

Yazzie

As a New Year begins, I would like to send my warmest greetings to everyone. I hope that the new year welcomes you all with a renewed spirit and excitement for things coming in 2025.

2024 was a great year for me. Although I stay busy with school and organization commitments, I have tried my best to attend many community and tribal events. Looking back at 2024, a few events stand out to me. Walters Homecoming and Comanche

Nation Fair are always special events for many of us and I enjoyed seeing and dancing with everyone. Also, I received a Mayoral Citation from Lawton City Mayor Stan Booker in June for my work during Memorial Day events. I also accepted a proclamation from the City of Lawton in November for Native American Heritage Month. Attending the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Banquet in November was also a highlight for me. I also held a Blue Star Campaign that sent service flags to Comanche Active Duty Families stationed around the country. Academically, I continue to be active in the National Junior Honor Society, and continue my endeavors in the band and choir.

Most recently, I was cast in Elgin's High School musical production, "The Addams Family", and continue to rehearse and learn my lines and choreography. It has definitely been an exciting school year for me!

In 2025, I wish everyone prosperity, good health and happiness. May we all continue to love one another and be helpful to each other. To our Comanche Veterans, thank you all for a wonderful year! I am looking forward to serving and representing you in 2025.

With love,

Clara Tee-Ohms Yazzie
2024-25 CIVA Princess

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!

Edwards Plateau Archeological Research Group Internship Opportunities

Join the Paint Rock Project's media team or education team. On-site positions will be available March 16 - 22, with additional pre- and post-excavation week involvement.

What you can expect:

- Opportunity to learn from a diverse community of leaders
- Gain meaningful hands-on fieldwork experience
- Engage in team collaboration throughout the project

The Paint Rock Project also has on-site Archeology team positions available March 16 - 22, with additional pre- and post-excavation week involvement.

What you can expect with the Archeology team position:

- Opportunity to learn from a diverse community of leaders
- Gain meaningful hands-on fieldwork experience
- Engage in team collaboration throughout the project

What the Paint Rock Project is looking for:

- Detail-oriented individuals
- Ability to record data
- Excitement to learn about archeology methodologies

For questions or more information about the Paint Rock Project contact: Maddy Whitley (512) 970-8399, email: August17mw@gmail.com

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DATES

JANUARY 8: 10 AM - 2 PM
 JANUARY 15: 10 AM - 2 PM
 JANUARY 22: 10 AM - 2 PM
 JANUARY 29: 10 AM - 2 PM

JANUARY 24
 EXTRA WEEK DAY CLINIC
 11 AM - 1 PM
 (COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURTHOUSE)

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION CALL
 COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT AT (580)492-3822



Courtesy Photo

CONGRATULATIONS. Tribal member Sandra Parker-Fields was accepted to attend the Youth Enjoy Science (YES) Oklahoma at the University of Oklahoma in the summer of 2025. She was accepted for the Summer Cohort and will move to campus for eight weeks. It is a STEM opportunity for Native high school students interested in healthcare careers. The emphasis is cancer, and is funded by the National Cancer Institute.

Dear TCNN Letter to the Editor

Dear TCNN,

I talked to Kevin Wahnee about a feeding tube. Prescription Assistance and Food Distribution are the only things keeping me alive to this day. Anytime I needed anything, no questions asked. They're great programs. I hope our elders know about this; they go above and beyond. If it weren't for Food Distribution or Prescription Assistance, I wouldn't be here today. I just want to give my thanks to Food Distribution, Kevin Wahkinney and his program and the tribe.

Bradley Wahnee

SONIA AND PATRICK ATTOCKNIE (580) 483-9326

Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday

December 27 - Fernando Zavalva
December 29 - Carl Monoessy

Happy Birthday!



January 1 - Tiana Werito
January 5 - Nathan Lopez Jr.
January 8 - Blake Heminokky-Gayton "Happy 16th Birthday, Baby! Love, your family!"
January 12 - Kathryn Harris Tyerine
January 12 - Jace Rodriguez
January 15 - Lillie Pennah
January 23 - Kristina Sovo
January 30 - David Ridgway Jr.
January 30 - Mason James
January 31 - William Grant Williams



Happy Birthday David Ridgway Jr. January 30
~ We ♥ You, Son! Mom & Dad!



Happy Birthday Lucas Adrián Levi Owens January 14
~ "LucasWithoutLimits" You are my hero. Daddy Loves You.



Happy 26th Birthday Fernando Zavala December 27

~ Happy 26th Birthday, Son! We love you! From the whole fam!!



Happy 82nd Birthday William Grant Williams January 31

~ We love you! From, your family in American Fork, Utah.



Happy 11th Birthday Mason James January 30

~ "Love, Nana & Papa."



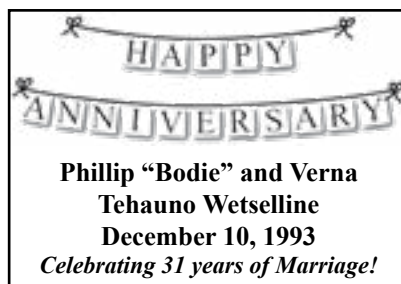
Happy 8th Birthday Jace Rodriguez January 12

~ Happy 8th Birthday, Jace! Love, your family.



Happy 15th Birthday Nathan Lopez Jr. January 5

~ Love you, Mom & Dad!



Happy Anniversary Phillip "Bodie" and Verna Tehauno Wetselline December 10, 1993 Celebrating 31 years of Marriage!

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

Obituaries

Walter "Junior" Kosechata Jr.



Courtesy Photo

Kosechata
Walter "Junior" Kosechata Jr., went to be with his lord and savior on Nov. 19, 2024, with his daughter Misty by his side. Kosechata was born on June 5, 1951, to Walter "Bat" Kosechata and Evelyn Tosee Kosechata. Kosechata was a proud full blood member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Kosechata attended school in Chattanooga and graduated from Chattanooga High School. Kosechata was the proud father of four. Two children born from the union with Geraldine "Chockpoyah" Gray, Christina Kosechata and David Kosechata. And two children from the union with Marsha, Misty Kosechata and Wesley Kosechata. He was a true family man, he enjoyed spending time with his family. He loved to grill for them, and enjoyed creating memories. He also occasionally enjoyed a good cigar.

Kosechata was a genuine father, brother, friend, and uncle; and he never met a stranger. His absence within his family is already felt tremendously.

Kosechata is survived by wife Marsha McCarty; his daughters; Misty Kosechata and Christina Kosechata; sons David Kosechata and Wesley Kosechata; like his daughters Crystal Juarez and Lea Ann Hargrove; brother Roland Kosechata; grandchildren Antonio, DQuareon, Tynasia, Ashley, Koby, Ryan, Ciera, Dakota, Jeremiah, Anthony, Adriana, Ivan, Deirdre, Britney, Nathan, and Jenny; four great grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Kosechata is preceded in death by both parents; sisters Doris Dunlap Rayban and Olivia Kosechata Wiedeman; older brother Ferrell Kosechata and great granddaughter Ava Morgan Spence.

Russell Boysi Black



Courtesy Photo

Black
Russell Boysi Black, born on August 17, 2024, at Comanche Memorial Hospital. He resided at Richard Spur, Oklahoma.

He was the 6th generation of the Chasenah Family and the 5th generation of the Black, Schirtzinger, and Ware Family.

He is the son of Darien Black and Sierra Silverhorn, and the youngest brother to Lomsi and Liona Black. He was also the beloved little

brother of Julia and Jayla Rossetti, Naomi and Jacob Chappell, Julien Walton Jr.; Lewis and Mabel Cozad.

He was the grandson to Linda and Lamey Silverhorn, Nicole Schirtzinger, Johnny and Sunny Black. He was the great grandson to Gayle "Chee" Bearshield, and Judith and Terry Ware, Kim Gordan and Kevin Schirtzinger.

Black loved being held while watching his favorite shows; "Despicable Me 4, Minions, Land Before Time, and The Grinch That Stole Christmas." He liked to watch his sisters play, and they adored their baby brother. Black was an early bird, he loved to spend the mornings with his grandma and grandpa. He was the boss and made it known that whatever they were watching, needed to be changed.

Black was named by his dad, in memory of his late uncle Russ. Who we know greeted him in heaven.

Black departed unexpectedly and his absence leaves the families hearts heavy.

Black is survived by his parents and siblings, his maternal and paternal grandparents; his auntemom's Mariah Silverhorn, Unsee Silverhorn, Annessa C., Richinda B., Daj Brown, and Lauren W.; big brothers and sisters: Lewis and Mabel Cozad and Gayla "Chee" Bearshield; grandpa's and grandma's: John Jr., Ronald, Gerald, Gary, Donald, Kent, Tom, Carney, Thomazine, and Amy.

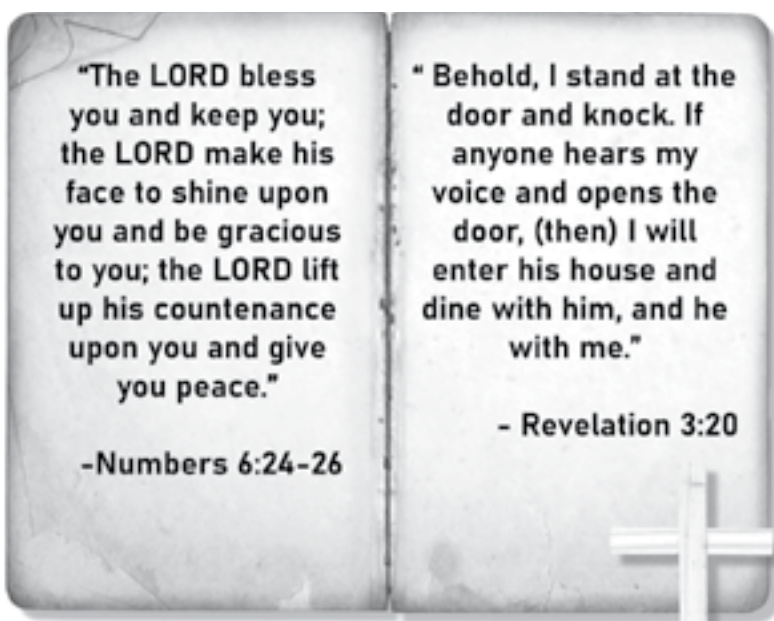
Black is preceded in death by great grandparents John Chasenah Sr., Jeanette Conneahvichnah, and Garrette Conneahvichnah; uncles Lewis Morgan Chasenah, Frankie Lee Chasenah, and Timothy Wayne Chasenah.

ANSWERS

From Page 6

- The Comanche Constitution was ratified on November 19, 1966.
- The Comanche Constitution has 16 Articles.
- Article III of the Comanche Constitution covers membership in the tribe.
- Article IV, Section 1 defines the Supreme Governing Body of the Comanche Nation.
- Article V, Section 6, defines a quorum in the Comanche Constitution.
- Article VI, Section 1, states one has to be 21 years of age to run for the position of Comanche Business Committee. Article IX, Section 1, also defines the age to run for the Comanche Business Committee.
- Article VI, Section 4, clarifies there shall be five Comanche Business Committee present to conduct business.
- The Bill of Rights is covered in Article X of the Comanche Constitution.
- Article XII defines the responsibilities of the Chairman, Vice Chairman, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Comanche Nation.
- Article XIV covers the Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache Intertribal Land Use Committee.

- 10 - 8 correct: You know the Comanche Constitution! Congratulations!
7 - 4 correct: You know the basics, but it would not hurt to brush up on some Articles and Sections.
3 - 0 correct: Time for you to study the Comanche Constitution.



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