



THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Lords of the Plains

VOLUME 26 EDITION 5

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

Totisiyaa Mta (May) 2025

Notice of Comanche Academy School Board Annual Meeting

Submitted by John Harris/Comanche Academy School Board No. 7

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Comanche Academy School Board ("Board") shall take place on June 17, at 6 p.m. at the Dorothy Lorentino Education Center Auditorium 1608 SW 9th St. Lawton, Okla.

Elections to fill vacant and expiring Board Director positions will take place at the Annual Meeting. The election shall take place in accordance with Section 3.6 of the Board's Bylaws.

The current Board roster is as follows:

- Director 1 - Sandra Chesnut - Term End Date: 2025 Annual Meeting
- Director 2 - Michael Burgess - Term End Date- 2025 Annual Meeting
- Director 3 - Dr. Wanda Priddy - Term End Date - 2026 Annual Meeting
- Director 4 - Martie Woothtake-wahbitty - Term End Date 2026 Annual Meeting
- Director 5 - Brianna Tahdoahnippah - Term End Date - 2026 Annual Meeting
- Director 6 - Vacant - Term End Date - Annual Meeting 2027
- Director 7 - John Harris - Term End Date - 2027 Annual Meeting

Elections will be held to fill three (3) expiring and/or vacant Director positions:

- Director 1 currently held by Sandra Chesnut
- Director 2 currently held by Michael Burgess
- Director 6 vacant

Nominations to fill open Director positions may be made by any person whose legal residence is within the Comanche Nation's former reservation area or treaty area boundaries, or who is the legal guardian of a child enrolled at Comanche Academy.

All nominations must be on the nomination form attached to this notice submitted with a resume and received by the President of the Board, Mike Burgess, via email at mburgess@comancheacademy.com or received by the school office no later than 11:59 p.m. on June 3.

To be eligible to serve as a Director, a Director Nominee must:

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have a high school degree (equivalent);
- Have complied with any continuing education requirements imposed by the Board during the Director Nominee's prior term on the Board, if applicable;
- Not be a current Comanche Academy school faculty/staff member;
- Not be a member of the Comanche Business Committee ("CBC");
- Not be disqualified from serving under Section III(B) of the Board's Conflicts of Interest Policy, adopted December 1, 2021; and
- Not have been convicted, pled guilty, or nolo contendere, or named in an outstanding warrant for arrest, to a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or of a felony under the laws of this state or of the United States or of any tribal nation.

All Director nominees must

See NOTICE, Page 3

General Council Covers Several Topics; Lasts Nine Hours



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoahnippah calls the 2025 Annual General Council meeting to order. All Comanche Business Committee (CBC) members were present. A quorum was established consisting of 150 tribal members over the age of 18 years old, making the Supreme Governing Body of the Comanche Nation.

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the April 19, Annual 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 Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoahnippah, called the meeting to order at 1:21 p.m., with a total of 376 enrolled Comanche tribal members registered by 1:41 p.m.

Thomas Narcomey makes a motion to put the KCA resolution he submitted on the meeting agenda.

Comanche tribal member Balante Herrera seconded the motion. The motion fails by a voice vote conducted by Chairman Tahdoahnippah.

Comanche elder Nolan Tahdoahnippah makes a motion to change the agenda to put the budget before the program reports. Herrera seconds the motion. The motion

passes per voice vote conducted by Chairman Tahdoahnippah.

Cindy Famero makes a motion to put the Tribal Administrator, Lisa Dawsey, on Administrative Leave pending an investigation. Corolyn Codoony seconds the motion. She explained the resolution

See COUNCIL, Page 7

Comanche Nation Entertainment Names New General Managers

Submitted by Alexa Hetzel/Comanche Entertainment Public Relations

Comanche Nation Entertainment has named two longtime team members the general managers of its properties in Cache and Devol, Oklahoma. Brian Weryavah serves as General Manager of Comanche Cache Casino and Sterling Ticeahkie serves as



Courtesy Photos

Weryavah

General Manager of Comanche Red River Hotel and Casino.

"Brian and Sterling have been integral to our operations for years, demonstrating outstanding leadership and a deep commitment to our mission," said Steven Doyle,

CEO of Comanche Nation Entertainment. "Both have a strong history of mentoring team members and driving operational excellence, and we are excited to see them continue their success in these expanded roles."

Weryavah and Ticeahkie



Ticeahkie

will oversee the strategic and operational management of their respective properties, focusing on team leadership, guest experience and a collaborative work environment to uphold Comanche Nation Entertainment's standards of excellence.

Weryavah has been with Comanche Nation Entertainment for over two decades years, holding various leadership roles, including overseeing operations and food & beverage management. Throughout his career, he has worked at four of Comanche Nation Entertainment's six properties

See MANAGERS, Page 3

Voting for the 2025 Election Set for May 16 and May 17; Absentee Ballots Due May 17

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Comanche tribal members will go to the voting polls on May 16 and May 17 to vote for candidates in the 2025 Comanche Nation Election.

Early voting will be 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on May 16 at the Comanche Nation Complex's Code Talker Conference Room and the Comanche Nation Education Center, 1608 SW 9th St., Lawton.

Day two of voting will be 8 a.m. - 6 p.m., May 17, at the Comanche Nation Polling Sites, which are:

- Comanche Nation Complex, 584 NW Bingo Rd., Lawton, Oklahoma

- Comanche Nation Outreach Office in Oklahoma City, 8014 N. Western Ave., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
- Comanche Nation

- Community Center in Apache, 309 Julia Mahseet Rd., Apache, Oklahoma

- Comanche Nation Outreach Office in Anadarko, 602 W. Virginia, Anadarko, Oklahoma

- Cahoma Building in Cache, 752 NW Quanah Rd., Cache, Oklahoma

- Comanche Nation Community Center in Walters, 905 E. Mis-

- souri St., Walters, Oklahoma.

Remember to bring a valid ID or CDIB and exercise your right to vote. Absentee Voting Ballots must be received by mail by May 17. The Comanche Business Committee (CBC) candidates are:

- CBC No. 1
- Hazel Tahsequah
- CBC No. 2
- Darrell Kosechequetah

- Dava Fratello
- Janet Saupitty
- Shay Wells
- Gene Sovo

Election Board

- Aaron Nevaquaya
- Charlotte Niyah
- Nancy Nani
- Michelle Nevaquaya

Tribal Attorney

- Wilson Pipestem
- Lindsay Dowell
- Sarai Cook
- Mike McBride
- Mark Echo Hawk

Comanche Nation Purchases Lawton Hotel and Apartments

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On March 28, Comanche Nation purchased Sure Stay by Best Western, Extended Stay and Arrowhead Apartments north of Comanche Nation Casino in Lawton, Oklahoma. Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoahnippah said the funding came from the New Business line item.

"And for the last several years, that line item wasn't touched, and so we had carryover money, and in addition, we have a land acquisition budget, and that also had some carryover, so we used a lot of carryover money to purchase the hotels," he said. "We also borrowed money from a bank to complete the purchase, and we'll be using that new business money if we make any sort of renovations or need capital, but we're also, like I said, looking for investors and partners to help us out with that."

Tahdoahnippah said the hotel will have several changes.

"The main change that you will see is that it'll become integrated with the Comanche Nation Casino," he said. "We purchased the hotel in part because of its location next to our casino, so we could do things to tie them in a little bit as far as cross-marketing...using player's cards to get things at the hotel or vice versa, you know earning free play rewards on your player's card by staying at the hotel. So, you see, notice a lot of cross-marketing that will happen, and then there'll be shuttles that start to run back and forth between the two. So that's kind of the immediate short term for the hotel."

Tahdoahnippah said there would be strict tenant policies for the apartment complex.

"In the short term, we're looking at being stricter on the policies for tenants doing increased background checks and trying to create a more family-friendly, entertainment-friendly type of atmosphere so that it will augment the casino and the hotel," he said.

Tahdoahnippah said the hotel owners previously owned the Extended Stay, so there was already integration between the two properties.

"Whereas if you rent a room at the Extended Stay, you get half off at the breakfast at the hotel. You can use some of the amenities at the hotel, like the pools," he said. "So, we're really trying to just integrate all three properties, all four properties, really the three that we bought plus the casino, and so we can integrate them so we can cross-market on all four properties."

Tahdoahnippah said the tribe is considering moving the gift shop to the old tourism center.

"And the additional space in the hotel is letting that become possible because the old tourism center has been used by Comanche Nation Casino for some office space and HR functions, and so by buying the hotel, we get more space we can move those functions into the hotel as needed or other locations and then we can move the gift shop back to

See PURCHASE, Page 3





RE-ELECT in 2025



TRIBAL ATTORNEY & COUNSEL



Zane Anderson
(Potawatomie)



Mike McBride III
Chair, Indian Law & Gaming Practice



Randall Yates
(Tlingit & Haida)



Logan Hibbs
(Choctaw)

- ✓ **Ranked Band 1 for Indian Law by Chambers and Partners**
- ✓ **2025 Benchmark Litigation Oklahoma Firm of the Year**
- ✓ **International Masters of Gaming Law Members since 2005**
- ✓ **Proven history of successes and victories for the Comanche Nation**
- ✓ **Strong protection of Comanche laws, businesses, language and culture**
- ✓ **Secured access for Comanche citizens to sacred resting ground of Comanche ancestors on Ft. Sill**
- ✓ **Won an injunction against Oklahoma on Comanche Tribal tobacco compact**

*Past results afford no guarantee of future results. Every case is different and must be judged on its merits.

*Crowe & Dunlevy provides no input for Benchmark Litigation or Chambers and Partners methodology. View information about the selection process online.

Key Voting Dates: May 16-17



Scan the QR Code to Learn More about our Team and Practice

Oklahoma City
405-235-7700

Tulsa
918-592-9800

Dallas
214-420-2163

Houston
281-766-4607

THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Totisiyaa M̄na
Flower 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 June Edition is 5 p.m., May 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.**

Comanche Nation Officials

Chairman

Forrest Tahdoahnippah

Email: Forrest.Tahdoahnippah@comanchenation.com

Vice Chairman

Diana Doyebi Sovo

Email: Diana.Sovo@comanchenation.com

Secretary/Treasurer

Robert Tippeconnie

Email: Robert.Tippeconnie@comanchenation.com

Committeeman No. 1

Hazel Tahsequah

Email: Hazel.Tahsequah@comanchenation.com

Committeeman No. 2

Ross Kahrahh

Email: Ross.Kahrahh@comanchenation.com

Committeeman No. 3

Alice Kassanavoid

Email: Alice.Kassanavoid@comanchenation.com

Committeeman No. 4

Jordan Fox

Email: Jordan.Fox@comanchenation.com

Tribal Administrator

Lisa Dawsey

Email: Lisa.Dawsey@comanchenation.com

To contact officials:

Office of the CBC/Chairman:

Telephone: (580) 492-3573

Comanche Nation Address:

P.O. Box 908

Lawton, Okla. 73502

Toll Free: (877) 492-4988

Physical Address:

584 Bingo Rd., Lawton, OK 73505

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- Member of the **Society of Professional Journalists** since 2010
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Government

A Total of 15 Resolutions Presented at the April 5 CBC Meeting

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the April 5, 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 Tahdoahnippah, called the CBC Meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. Vice Chairwoman Diana Sovo and CBC No. 2 Ross Kahrahh attend via Zoom. A quorum was established.

CBC No. 4 Jordan Fox makes a motion to accept the February meeting minutes, February Special Meeting minutes, March 1 meeting minutes and March Special Meeting minutes. CBC No. 1 Hazel Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/0.

Resolutions:

Resolution No. 52-2025- Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1363 Minors. CBC No. 3 Alice Kassanavoid made a motion to accept the resolution. CBC No. 2 Ross Kahrahh seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 53-2025- Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1364 Adults. Kassanavoid made a motion to accept the resolution. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 54-2025- Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List 1365 Does Not Meet Blood Quantum. Kassanavoid makes a motion to accept the resolution. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 55-2025- Transportation Resolution Dump Truck G&T. Kassanavoid makes a motion to accept the resolution. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 56-2025- Transportation Resolution Long Range Plan Cache. Fox makes a motion to accept the resolution. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 57-2025- CN Entertainment Master Planning Resolution. Secretary/Treasurer Robert Tippeconnie makes a motion to accept the resolution. Fox seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 58-2025- Tax Commission Resolution to Remove Former Tax Administrator. CBC No. 4. Tahsequah makes a motion to accept the resolution. Tippeconnie seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 59-2025- Tax Commission Resolution Updated Comanche Hemp Plan. Fox makes a motion to accept the resolution. Kahrahh seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 60-2025- CN Gaming Commission Resolution to Add Commissioners to CNGC Accounts. Kassanavoid makes a motion to accept the resolution. Fox seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 61-2025- CBC Resolution Adopting New HR Policies. Vice Chairman Diana Sovo makes a motion to accept the resolution. Kahrahh seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 62-2025- CBC Resolution Prohibiting Comanche Academy from Using Tribal Funds for Attorneys' Fees. Tahsequah makes a motion to accept the resolution. Tippeconnie seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 63-2025- CBC Resolution Proposing Constitutional Amendments. Tippeconnie makes a motion to accept the resolution. Sovo seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 64-2025- CBC Resolution Appointing Audrey Whitefeather to Comanche Nation Housing Authority. Kassanavoid makes a motion to accept the resolution. Kahrahh seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/1.

Resolution No. 65-2025- CBC Resolution Nominating J. Mihehual and C. Pewewardy to the Haskell Board of Reg. Sovo makes a motion to accept the resolution. Fox seconds the motion. The motion passes 5/0/1.

Resolution No. 66-2025- CBC Resolution Amending the Election Ordinance. Tippeconnie makes a motion to accept the resolution. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion passes 6/0/0.

Tippeconnie makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:15 p.m. Fox seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.



Courtesy Photo

On March 28, Comanche Nation purchased Sure Stay by Best Western, Extended Stay and Arrowhead Apartments north of Comanche Nation Casino in Lawton, Oklahoma.

PURCHASE

Continued from Page 1

the old tourism center," he said. "So, we're really trying to make the entire block of...the long-term vision being just a very fun entertainment-oriented and themed area, a resort destination type thing, increased tourism, increased traffic and kind of work all arms of the tribe. The casino arm, realty department, tribal government, gift shop, everything have worked together to make a great destination location."

Tahdoahnippah said one of the big positives is the hotel's visibility from the highway and easy access. There is still discussion on exact long-term plans; however, he said there have been many great ideas for renovations and improvements.

"There's also been some talk about partners and try to find investors, so we're right now kind of at the stage where we're discussing poten-

tial partnerships," Tahdoahnippah said. "Looking at potential franchises and that sorts of things, and you know, making decisions about what will the real future plan be."

He said tribal members and their families are encouraged to stay at the hotel.

"Every dollar that you spend at the hotel is one that is going back into the tribal economy and helping the tribe itself out," he said. "The hotel has two pools. It has an outdoor pool, it has an indoor pool, it has a complimentary full breakfast with a room stay, and there is a Tribal Member rate. So, if you call to make a reservation and you're an enrolled Comanche, ask about the Tribal Member rate because you will get a discount. There's also discounts for military veterans, those sorts of things."

NOTICE

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be present at the Annual Meeting to be eligible for election to the Board. Failure to attend the Annual Meeting will result in the automatic disqualification of the absent Director Nominee. Prior to a vote to fill any open Director position, the Board shall provide each Director Nominee with an opportunity to speak for no more than three (3) minutes.

From the Chairman's Desk



Maruaweka Numunuu:

Spring is here, and along with it come feelings of rejuvenation. The grass and trees come back to life, the birds migrate back home, and the weather warms. I also have a feeling of rejuvenation as your Chairman because as I approach my one-year anniversary in office, I can see the seeds planted during the last year start to grow. When I first came into office, the job was largely understanding the situation as it was. What was working? What was not? Once I was able to take stock of the situation, I gave the CBC my assessment and we began working towards solutions.

For any Tribe, economic development, especially gaming, is obviously a primary concern. When I came into office, revenue was on a downward trend, causing a chain reaction of reduced budgets, declining infrastructure, and low morale. We needed to diversify our economy, improve gaming amenities, and enhance accountability. We have done all of these things—we have acquired non-gaming businesses, we are constructing new amenities to gaming and are fixing up our existing facilities, and we have re-instituted a gaming board of directors and expanded our gaming commission. I am confident that we will see our revenue improve as a result of all these changes.

The hardest part of the last year has been transparency. I am committed to transparency, and I know that the change in disclosure has been notable. However, with increased transparency, comes increased disinformation from those that oppose transparency (usually because they are the beneficiaries of previously unexposed favoritism). Nonetheless, I will never shy away from transparency. The Tribal Council is the body that makes the most important decisions. Therefore, the Tribal Council needs all the information to make the best decision, and my guiding principle has always been to simply put out the information and let the Tribal Council make the hard decisions. Social media posts and commentary do not translate to policy. The Tribal Council has the ability to make policy only through the voting process. So please remember to vote on May 17!

Comanche Nation Tribal Court
District Court
APR 08 2025
FILED
Court Clerk: [Signature]

IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT
DISTRICT COURT

IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME OF:
Poahway, Ashley Nicole
Petitioner,
Case No. NC-2025-0002

On behalf of
Nelson, Delita Janelle
A Minor Child and An Enrolled Member
of the Comanche Nation

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

TO: ALL CREDITORS OR INTERESTED PARTIES

Take notice that Ashley Nicole Poahway, as the mother of Delita Janelle Nelson, has filed the above Court Petition to have the name changed as follows, to wit from: Delita Janelle Nelson to Delita Janelle Poahway.

The Petition will be heard on the 15th day of May, 2025, at 3:00 p.m., located at the Comanche Nation Complex, 584 NW Bingo Rd., Lawton, Oklahoma.

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

WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this 8th day of April, 2025.

[Seal of the Comanche Nation Tribal Court]

BY: [Signature]
COURT CLERK
COMANCHE NATION DISTRICT COURT

Ashley Hammonds
305 W. Tennepe
Fletcher, Ok 73541

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MANAGERS

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across Devol, Lawton, Cache and Elgin.

In each role he has held, Weryavah has devoted his work to supporting his fellow team members and developing their personal and professional skill sets, which he has accomplished by consistent mentoring and promoting within. He most recently spearheaded the casino's re-grand opening and the introduction of the first Wahlburgers to Oklahoma.

Ticeahkie joined Comanche Nation Entertainment in 2008, working his way up through several departments before earning leadership roles in surveillance, compliance and general management. While working in the security department, he was selected to participate in Comanche Nation Entertainment's Leadership and Development program, where he earned his Certificate of Development in Gaming Management in 2011.

During this time, he also earned an associate degree in Business Management from the University of Phoenix in 2013, becoming the first Comanche Nation Entertainment employee to complete the program and the only one to earn an associate degree while participating. He holds a certificate in gaming management and a bachelor's degree in business management.

Ticeahkie recently led the ground breaking for Comanche Red River Hotel Casino's ongoing expansion, introducing two new pools and enhancing the resort-style experience for its guests.

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

Programs

Yagley Celebrates 20 Years of Service



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Records Manager Lisa Yagley smiles and holds cake at her 20-year celebration at Comanche Nation Police Department. She received several gifts from staff members.

Comanche Nation Police Department celebrated one of its employees on April 4, for serving 20 years in the department.

Records Manager and Court Liaison Lisa Yagley began her career as a dispatcher. She said her favorite memory is three-minute traffic stops, during which an officer runs a tag, a driver's license and a warrant search within the time frame.

"We always had fun, and we made a lot of other agencies jealous," she said.

One of Yagley's other favorite parts of the job is the catchphrases the staff comes up with, such as "yeah, sure" and nicknames.

"I like my bosses. I can get along with everybody," she said. "They are my family."

Yagley said she's proud of herself for making it to 20 years and likes where she's at.

"I'm proud of myself because people don't keep jobs like that anymore," she said. "They're always hopping or switching back and forth."

Yagley said she loves working with everyone and gets along well with the staff.

"Most of them, I've worked with at the very least five years," she said. "So, we've gotten to know one another. And whether we disagree or not, we are a family here. I mean, they are my brothers and sisters."

Her mother and police officers were in attendance when Yagley received her certificate of accomplishment from Police Chief John Journeycake.



Photos by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

DALLAS OUTREACH REOPENS. The Comanche Nation Dallas Outreach reopened its doors on March 22, and several Comanche tribal members from the metroplex attended the event and took advantage of the many tribal program booths that were in attendance. The main topic of discussion was the FY26 budget. **LEFT:** Community members relax at the Dallas Outreach event. Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoohnippah, Comanche Business Committee member Hazel Tahsequah and Tribal Administrator Lisa Dawsey were in attendance. **RIGHT:** Comanche Nation Dallas Outreach Coordinator Madison Wiley poses after the ribbon is cut to the office. The re-opening was March 22 in Dallas, Texas.



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

CRYS Receives Donation

Comanche tribal member Isabella Tahdoohnippah presented a donation to the Comanche Residential Youth Shelter (CRYS) on March 21. She raised \$1,255 from a 5K benefit run, which took place at Ft. Sill Indian School on March 15.

Job Placement & Training Student of the Month Samantha Pocowatchit



Courtesy Photo

Pocowatchit

Samantha Pocowatchit is currently enrolled in the Respiratory Care program at Tulsa Community College.

Pocowatchit will graduate from the program in May 2026!

Pocowatchit hopes to work as a Respiratory Therapist in the Tulsa area after graduation.

Child Support Services Announces Court Dates

The Comanche Nation Child Support Services (CNCSP) is giving complimentary notification for the following Notice of Publications to be published in the May 2025 edition of the Comanche Nation newspaper for:

Comanche Nation Tribal Court

- Jed'Cree Kingfisher: CNC-SP-18-30; Motion to Determine Support Arrears

Court of Indian Offenses

- Joshua Imotichey: CIV-07-A04; Motion to Determine Support Arrears

Section 609 (c) Rule 3 of the Comanche Nation Court Codes allows for service by publication in instances where the location of the subject is unknown, or when the subject of service has been unable to be served by traditional means. CNCSP is needing the above name(s) to be placed in our upcoming Comanche Nation newspaper.

Please take note that all Comanche Nation Tribal Court Child Hearings will be conducted in person. Please note that all Court of Indian Offences Child Support Hearing will be conducted in person.

Fire Department Monthly Responses

Fires	18
Emergency response	10
Vehicle Wreck	3
Control burn	6
Tree cutting	10
Assistance	47

To contact the Fire Dept. call:
 (580) 492-3628 Office
 (580) 919-3696 Cell
 (580) 492-5595 fax
 (580) 919-1098 CNEM Hotline

ECDC Announces School Closures

The Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDC) lists the center's closures for 2025:

- April 17 Close at 2 p.m.
- April 18 Good Friday
- May 9 Teacher Appreciation Empowerment Event
- May 26 Memorial Day
- June 19 Juneteenth
- July 4 Independence Day
- July 18 Comanche Chief's Day
- Sept. 1 Labor Day
- Sept. 26 Early Closure/ Comanche Nation Fair
- Oct. 13 Indigenous People's Day
- Nov. 11 Veteran's Day
- Nov. 27 Thanksgiving Day
- Nov. 28 Comanche Constitution Day
- Dec. TBD Early Closure for Annual Family Holiday Event
- Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
- Dec. 25 Dec. 25 Christmas Day 2026
- Jan. 1 New Year's Day

Oklahoma City Outreach Health Fair May 13

The Comanche Nation Outreach Office will host a Health and Wellness Fair 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., May 13, at 8014 N. Western Ave. Suite D, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

There will be programs set up to assist tribal members.

- Caregivers
 - CHR
 - Diabetes Awareness
 - IHS Public Health Nursing
 - Injury Prevention
 - Optometry
 - Prescription Assistance
 - Prevention and Recovery
- Lunch will be provided.

For more information, call the Oklahoma City Outreach, (405) 974-9631.

LEGAL AID CLINIC

FOR COMANCHE TRIBAL MEMBERS

COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURTHOUSE
584 NW BINGO RD, LAWTON, OK

PROVIDED BY GREAT PLAINS LEGAL SERVICES

LEGAL COUNSEL WILL BE ON SITE TO ASSIST TRIBAL MEMBERS WITH LEGAL ADVICE AND UNDERSTANDING FILINGS WITHIN OUR TRIBAL COURT.

DATES	
5/7/25	10 to 2 pm
5/14/25	10 to 2 pm
5/21/25	10 to 2 pm
5/28/25	10 to 2 pm

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

COMANCHE NATION YOUTH ENCAMPMENT

Seeking Comanche Nation Teenagers to explore the breathtaking beauty of nature on our summer encampment trip! Don't miss out on this opportunity to experience the wonders of nature firsthand of the Comanche Homelands within the US Forest Service's Spanish Peaks Wilderness in Colorado.

JUNE 21 - 24, 2025

Activities

- Traditional games
- Language
- Outdoor Activities
- Swimming
- Nature field trip
- Teepee Camping
- Comanche Historical Sites

Potential Applicants:

- Space is limited to 50 Campers
- Everyone must apply to attend
- Must be a Comanche Citizen
- Must be a high school student

The Application Deadline is May 30, 2025

More info: www.comanchenation.com
Youth Program 580-492-3280

Comanche Nation Offices will be closed May 26 in observance of Memorial Day. Offices will re-open May 27 for regular business.

COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT

WILLS CLINIC

May 16, 2025

10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Comanche Nation Tribal Court Building
 Located at Comanche Nation Headquarters
 584 NW Bingo Rd.
 Lawton, OK

Programs

Adult Education Student of the Month Kayla Contreras



Courtesy Photo

Contreras

Kayla Contreras is a 26-year-old single mom, proving that with hard work and dedication, anyone can become a Certified Nursing Assistant. Contreras extends her sincerest gratitude to her tribe for its financial support throughout her academic pursuits, enabling her to enhance her education and create a brighter future for herself and her child.

Higher Education Graduate Student of the Month Alora Hoahwah



Courtesy Photo

Hoahwah

Alora Kay Hoahwah, is a proud member of the Comanche Nation Tribe! She is the granddaughter of the late Carlton & Laverna Hoahwah and Paula Hightower, the daughter of Todd & Holly Hoahwah, and the sister of Blaine Hoahwah.

Hoahwah graduated from Cache High School in May of 2017. She started attending classes at Cameron University in August 2017 with

the idea of achieving a degree in elementary education. After spending two years in that program, Hoahwah felt that being an educator was not her career calling. Hoahwah ended up switching her major to psychology with no idea of what career it would bring her. Hoahwah applied for the master's program at Cameron University, where she was quickly accepted. Hoahwah graduated with a Bachelor of Science in psychology in May 2023. Hoahwah began the master's program the following August. Hoahwah is scheduled to graduate in May 2026.

Hoahwah would not be where she is today if it wasn't for the support of her family. They push her to do the best of her ability and strive for greatness. Hoahwah keeps striving for education to be a role model to her brother, who is about to attend college himself. Hoahwah wants to show him that anything is possible if you set your mind to it.

Higher Education Undergraduate Student of the Month J.D. Wauqua



Courtesy Photo

Wauqua

Jon "J.D." Wauqua is currently on track to graduate May 2025 with his Bachelor's Degree in Business Management from The University of Phoenix. Wauqua is pre-enrolled with University of Phoenix in

the MBA program, and he is scheduled to graduate in Fall 2026. Wauqua will then apply for his Doctorate of Business at the University of Phoenix.

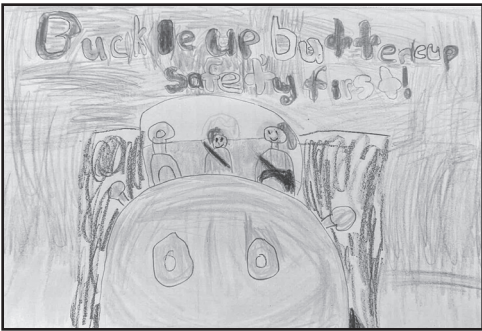
Wauqua's father is Johnny Wauqua, the Late Chairman of the Comanche Nation, and his mother is Virginia. Wauqua's daughter is Tristen Wauqua (Comanche Nation Princess 2018). Wauqua is happily married to Jo Ann Melton-Wauqua of four years.

Wauqua is an avid gym goer and Whataburger specialist. Wauqua loves and appreciates the Comanche heritage and culture.

Comanche Housing Authority Announces Winners of the 2025 AMERIND Safety Poster Contest

The first place winners of the Comanche Housing Authority's Safety Poster Contest will advance to the Regional AMERIND voting.

Kindergarten - 3rd Grade Category



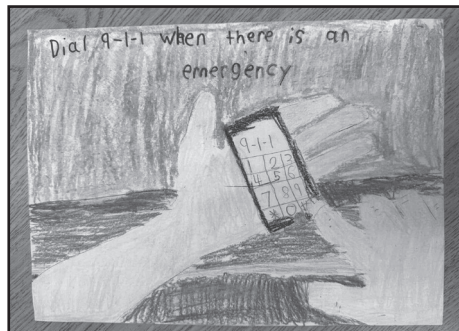
FIRST PLACE

Jobi Roberts/Comanche Nation/ 7 years old/2nd Grade



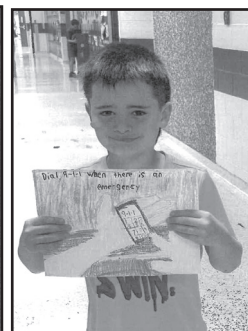
SECOND PLACE

Boyd Mansel/Comanche Nation/ 8 years old/ 2nd Grade

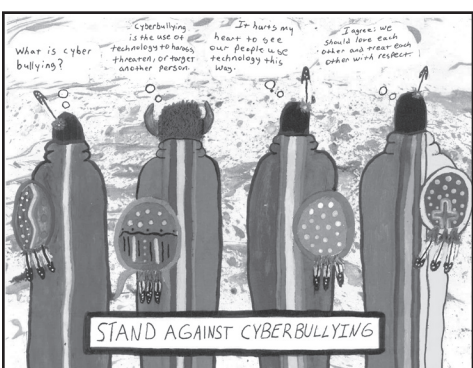


THIRD PLACE

Sophia Sumner/Comanche Nation/ 7 years old/ 1st Grade



4th Grade - 7th Grade Category



FIRST PLACE

Layla Kowena/Comanche Nation/ 12 years old/ 6th Grade



SECOND PLACE

Madison Bucktrot/Comanche Nation/ 11 years old/ 4th Grade

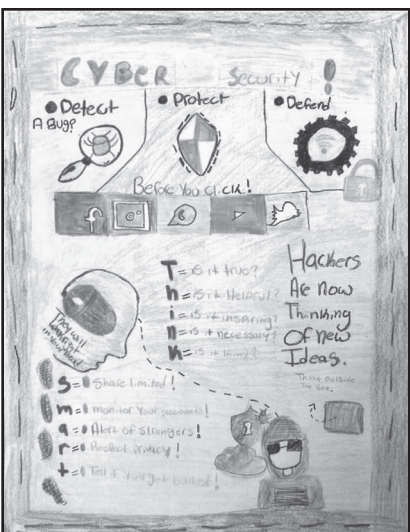


THIRD PLACE

Riley Dalby/Comanche Nation/ 9 years old/ 4th Grade

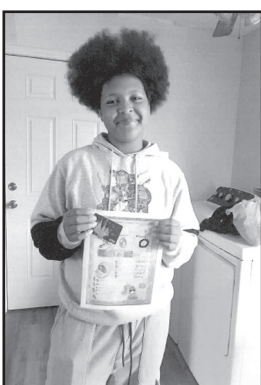


7th Grade - 8th Grade Category



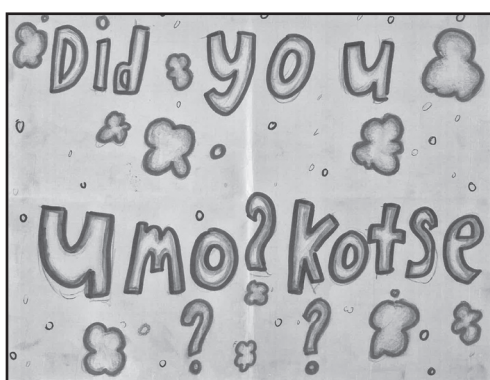
FIRST PLACE

Eric Mchenry Jr./Comanche Nation/ 12 years old/ 7th Grade



SECOND PLACE

Breanna Kerchee/Comanche Nation /13 years old/7th Grade



MAY 2025

COMANCHE LANGUAGE COMMUNITY CLASSES

05 & 19	<p>APACHE, OK APACHE PUBLIC LIBRARY</p> <p>6 - 8 PM 111 EVANS AVE</p>
05 & 19	<p>CACHE, OK CAHOMA BUILDING</p> <p>6 - 8 PM 752 NW QUANAH RD</p>
08 & 22	<p>LAWTON, OK JAMES COX AUDITORIUM INSIDE DOROTHY SUNRISE LORENTINO EDUCATION CENTER</p> <p>6 - 8 PM 1608 SW 9TH ST</p>

MORE INFORMATION
580-699-5315
580-919-8610
LANGUAGE@COMANCHE NATION.COM

Save the Date

Comanche Nation Higher Education
Graduation Banquet

June 7, 2025

Time and Location: To Be Announced

Scholarship recipients earning:
GED, Long-Term Vocational Certificates, Associate
of Applied Science, Associate, Bachelor, Master,
and Doctorate Degrees

RSVP: 580-699-7218

Save the Date,
GRAD

| 06.13.2025 |

COMANCHE NATION
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION BANQUET

Attention CN High School Graduating Seniors: Save the Date. Details regarding the location and time will be included in the official banquet invitation, which will be distributed at a later date. For more information, please call the Youth Services office at (580) 492-3280.

Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

MAY 2025

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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

Quick Goulash

Ingredients

- 1lb ground beef (or ground turkey, chicken, or sausage)
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can (15 oz) tomato sauce
- 1 can (14.5 oz) diced tomatoes (undrained)
- 1 cup elbow macaroni (or any pasta of your choice)
- 1 teaspoon dried basil (optional)
- 1 teaspoon Italian seasoning
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 1/2 cups shredded cheese (optional, for topping)

Directions

1. In a large pot, cook the pasta according to the package directions (about 8-10 minutes). Drain and set aside.
2. Brown the ground meat: In a large skillet or pot, heat a little oil over medium heat. Add the ground meat and cook, breaking it up into small pieces, until browned (about 5-7 minutes). Drain excess fat if necessary.
3. Saute' the veggies: Add the diced onion to the skillet and cook for about 3-4 minutes, until softened. Add the minced garlic and cook for an additional 30 seconds until fragrant.
4. Add the tomatoes and seasoning: Stir in the tomato sauce, diced tomatoes, Italian seasoning, basil, salt, and pepper. Bring to a simmer and let it cook for about 5 minutes to combine the flavors.
5. Combine with pasta: Add the cooked pasta into the meat sauce mixture. Stir everything together, making sure the pasta is coated with the sauce. Let it cook for an additional 3-5 minutes, allowing the flavors to meld.
6. Optional: Add cheese: If using cheese, sprinkle it over the top of the goulash and cover the pot for 1-2 minutes to let it melt.



Weather CROSSWORD PUZZLE



Across:

- 3. fog
- 5. sleet
- 7. wind
- 8. thunder
- 9. snow

Down:

- 1. hot
- 2. lightning
- 4. cold
- 5. hail
- 6. rain

WORD BANK

NĀETI ŪMAARŪ TAHKABI ŪRŪ?ITŪ
 ŪTSŪ?ITŪ PAKŪNAIPŪ PAHOobi POSITSŪ
 TOMOYAKETŪ EKAKWITSŪBAITŪ



Photos by Paula Karty/News Staff

GONE BUT NOT FORGOTTEN The MMIP Murdered and Missing Indigenous People held a benefit pow-wow to remember those who were murdered or still missing. The pow-wow also gave family members a chance to remember and honor their loved ones. Danny Niedo served as Head Man Dancer in honor of his mother, Elvira Niedo. Melanie McClung served as Head Lady Dancer in honor of Mikayla Cozad.

DIVORCE? WRITS? WILLS/CODICILS? ATTESTATIONS?

Notary Services

Packets/citations typed and prepared for Native Americans for issuance through BIA Court of Indian Offenses.

(Additional BIA filing fees due at time of documentation)

REASONABLE PREP FEES

Contact: Jewell Laurenzana Tieyah

(580) 678-2052 or (580) 492-5455

Comanche Nation Enterprises, Inc. Add Two New Directors; Elects Officers

Comanche Nation Enterprises, Inc. earned approval for two new directors, Sonya Nevaquaya and Asa Attocknie from the Comanche Business Committee in the March, 1st Meeting with Resolution No. 49-2025.

Nevaquaya works as a Tribal Liaison Representative and has dedicated her service to the Comanche Nation. She has over 23 years experience in Tribal Gaming, served as a Comanche Nation Housing Commissioner from 2013-2016, and was elected to the Comanche Business Committee in 2012.

Nevaquaya also co-founded the United Women of Tribal Gaming and served on multiple boards, including the Comanche Nation Tax Commission, as the *Numunu Pahmu* Vice-Chair, the Chair of the Sac and Fox Gaming Enterprise BOD, and JOM Chairman.

Nevaquaya states, "I'm very grateful for this opportunity to



Nevaquaya



Attocknie

Courtesy Photos

serve on the CONEI BOD. I believe we have a great responsibility to progress our Comanche Nation economically. I look forward to diligently working with all board members. Ura!"

Asa Attocknie is a business

entrepreneur with 20 years experience in business development, marketing, client relations, and strategic planning with a strong background in Information Technology. He served on the Indian Health Services Board from 2011-2013, Comanche Nation

Fair Board from 2011-2012, and was acting CEO for the Comanche Nation Economic Development for 6 months.

Attocknie is also a military veteran and served in the United States Marine Corps.

His emphasis for the CONEI is to make a return to the Nation, "Let's make money for the tribe by creating opportunities and fostering innovation".

The Enterprises Board also elected officers for 2025 in accordance with CONEI Bylaws: Chair-Edward Tahhahwah III, Seat No. 7, Vice-Chair-Noble Paddyaker, Seat No. 1, Secretary-Sonya Nevaquaya, Seat No. 5, and Treasurer-Riley Mowatt, Seat No. 2. Other board members include Jordan Fox, Seat No. 6, and Asa Attocknie, Seat No. 3. CONEI has one open board of directors seat, Seat No. 4.

For more information about Comanche Nation Enterprises, Inc or to apply for the Board of Directors, visit comanchenationenterprises.com and resumes can be sent to info@comanchenationenterprises.com. Please call the office at (580) 280-2386 for more information.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

that was turned in was rejected and not on the agenda. The tribal attorney, Mike McBride, noted that it could be constitutional if a time frame were set. The motion was changed to add the Tribal Administrator to the agenda. The motion passed by ballot voting. Chairman Tahdooahnippah placed the Tribal Administrator on the agenda.

Comanche Nation Vice Chairman, makes a motion to accept the General Council meeting agenda. Tina Emhoolah seconds the motion. The motion passes by voice vote.

Herrera makes a motion to increase the Comanche Nation Chairman's salary from \$75,000 to \$110,000 per year. It is seconded by Emhoolah. The motion passes per voice vote

Will Owens makes a motion to separate the Injury Prevention Program from the CHR Program with a budget of \$245,000 each. Comanche elder ---- Kerchee seconds the motion. The motion passes per ballot vote.

Will Owens makes a motion to increase the EMS/Fire Program's budget. The motion is seconded. The motion fails by voice vote.

Comanche elder Gene Sovo makes a motion to accept the FY 2026 budget. Steven Lee seconds the motion. The motion passes per voice vote.

Emhoolah makes a motion to accept the Program Reports. Sonya Nevaquaya seconds the motion. The motion passes per voice vote.

Nominations

CBC No. 1

Nolan Tahdooahnippah nominates Hazel Tahsequah.

Sovo makes a motion to cease nominations for CNC number one. Emhoolah seconds the motion. The motion passes per voice vote.

CBC No. 2

Audrey Herrera nominates Darrell Kosechequetah
Cindy Famerio nominates Dava Fratello

Verna Burgess nominates Janet Saupitty

Charles Wells nominates Shay Wells

Gwen Nauni nominates Sandra Toyekoyah

Vincent Pocowatchit nominates Gene Sovo

A motion was made to cease nominations. It is seconded by James Yellowfish. The motion carries per voice vote.

Attorneys

Each attorney or law firm made a presentation to the general council. Rinning for the Comanche tribal attorney position:

Crowe and Dunlevey
Indigenous Law
Wilson Pipestem
Marc Echohawk
Sarai Cook

Emhoolah makes a motion to cease nominations. The motion was seconded. The motion passes.

Election Board

Being nominated for the Comanche Nation Election Board

Aaron Nevaquaya
Nicole Reyna
Mary Wade
Michelle Nevaquaya
Joseph Aitson Jr.
Charlotte Niyah
Lalana Callihan
Michelle Blackstar
Donald Tosee
Michael Tappybitty
Alicia Atlantis
Will Owens

A motion was made to cease nominations. The motion was seconded and passed. Rhonda Williams makes a presentation about the Assisted Living Center.

A quorum count was conducted, and a total of 259 Comanche tribal members were counted at 5:20 p.m.

Resolutions

Dr. Cornel Pewewardy presented **Resolution TC 01-2025**. The resolution topic was the creation of the Comanche Sacred Leadership Youth Institute (CSLYI) and a budget to cover the cost of housing, meals, stipends for workers and participants, and travel to the CSLYI. According to Chairman Tahdooahnippah, the resolution passed with 197 'Yes' votes.

Resolution TC 02-2025 was presented by Mark Wauahdooah. The resolution asked for the formal endorsement of Israel by the Comanche Nation. The resolution failed by a vote of 42 'Yes' votes, and 142 'No' votes.

Susan Parker and Tina Emhoolah presented **Resolution TC 03-2025**, which asked for a three-year term for the Tribal Attorney. The motion failed by a vote of

Resolution TC 04-2025 was presented by Kathy Uker and Shay Stewart. The resolution topic was the Assisted Living Center to be placed back on the Comanche Nation's regular operating budget beginning with Fiscal Year 2027. The resolution failed by a vote of 69 'Yes' votes and 121 'No' votes.

Resolution TC 05-2025 was presented by Scott Allen Cox. The resolution topic was to create a Standing Subcommittee for Internal Affairs, which shall have exclusive and independent authority to investigate and issue a summary report with recommendations for further

action regarding any complaint brought to the CBC or Tribal Administration, alleging misconduct. The resolution passed by a vote of 89 'Yes' votes and 47 'No' votes.

Resolution TC 06-

Brandon Turner

2025 was presented by John Harrington. The resolution was to use a portion of the 20% settlement funds for land acquisitions. The resolution passed by a total of 72 'Yes' votes.

made a motion to put the TA on Administrative Leave pending an investigation. There was discussion about the documentation and the investigation committee. There was no second. Karel Ann Coffey made a motion to table

it until a special general council meeting can be called to address the accusations against the TA. It was seconded and the motion passed.

The chairman adjourned the meeting at 9:57 p.m.

PA-QUE-O-HAW-PITH

YELLOWFISH DESCENDANTS

POWWOW

"HONORING OUR ANCESTORS"

May 24, 2025 | WATCHETAKER HALL
LAWTON, OKLAHOMA

HEAD STAFF

MC'S : ... EDMOND NEVAQUAYA & MICHAEL BURGESS

HEAD SINGER : DANIEL COZAD

HEAD MAN: COURTNEY YARHOLAR

HEAD LADY: JASMINE PHETSACKSITH

CO-HOST ; COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES

AD'S : TRAVIS CODYNAH & LARNEY SILVERHORN

SECURITY JOETTA SOMMERS

PROGRAM

FLAG RAISING 8 A.M.	BRUSH DANCE - NOON	-EVENING SESSION-
FLYING THE FLAG OF EDWARD YELLOWFISH US ARMY	GOURD DANCE	ROUND DANCE
	SCALP /VICTORY SUPPER BREAK	SOCIAL DANCES
		CONTESTS

THIS IS AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE EVENT. YFD IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THEFT, INJURY, OR ANY ACCIDENTS.

Military News

Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/CIVA

CIVA Activities

Funeral and Honor Guard Details

On March 15, CIVA conducted Funeral / Honor Detail at the request by the Tahmahkera family and the Whitney & Murphy Bueler Mortuary, Chandler Arizona, Comanche Nation Funeral Home on behalf of Marvin Lee Tahmahkera, U.S. Navy Veteran.

The service was conducted at the Comanche Nation, Walters Community Building. During the ceremony, his military biography was read as his flag was presented to his son after the playing of Taps.

The Honor Detail consisted of Veterans and Auxiliary members. The United States, Comanche Nation, Oklahoma, U.S. Navy, Comanche Code Talker and the CIVA were displayed.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno opening remarks.



Courtesy Photo

The folded flag of Marvin Lee Tahmahkera along with the Comanche Nation flag.



Courtesy Photo

Major Kent Tomah with CIVA Veterans preparing to present the flag to family members.

In Honor and Memory of Yeoman Petty Officer 2nd Class /E-5 Marvin Lee Tahmahkera Sunrise September 10, 1933 – January 7, 2025

Memorial Service, Comanche Nation Community Center, Walters OK March 15, 2025



Courtesy Photo

Tahmahkera

Marvin Lee Tahmahkera,

enlisted in the United States Navy in 1954 and was Honorably Discharged from the U.S. Navy in 1964 earning the rank of Petty Officer 2nd Class/E-5. He was a Yeoman and served as the Ships Boxer.

Petty Officer Tahmahkera took his Boot Training at the Naval Technical Training Center in San Diego, Cali., and reported to Yeoman "A" School located at the Naval Technical Center, Naval Station Treasure Island, located near San Francisco Cali. He served onboard the USS Skagit (AKA-105) a Tolland-class attack cargo ship during the Korean and Cold War.

During the Pacific Deployment in 1954, USS Skagit was ordered to Tourane, French Indochina, to participate in "Operation Passage

to Freedom". The ship had transported over 4,089 refugees from North Korea to safe locations in South Korea. The refugees rescued were fleeing from the communist's regime.

USS Skagit returned to her homeport at the 32nd Street, Naval Base, San Diego Cali., on November 21, 1954.

His awards include the Navy Good Conduct (2 awards), National Defense Medal, Korean Service Medal, Humanitarian Service Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon.

The Comanche Nation, Comanche Indian Veterans Association would like to thank Petty Officer 2nd Class Marvin Lee Tahmahkera for his service to God and Country.

Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate

SGM Lanny Asepermy, U.S. Army (Ret.) Honored

On March 22, Oklahoma Heritage Foundation, Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame and Hall of Honor recipient SGM Lanny Asepermy, U.S. Army (Ret.) was Honored to be selected to serve as the Honored Veteran for the Comanche Nation Princess outgoing dance held at the Watchtaker Hall.



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Nation Princess Bluesky Tosee, Lanny & Shelly Asepermy.

Co-Host for the Comanche Jr. Princess Powwow

On March 29, The Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) served as Co-Host for Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, Arlene Schonchin Powwow held at Watchtaker Hall.

CIVA would like to thank the Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, Arlene Schonchin for representing the Comanche Nation with Honor, Respect and Love along with supporting our Veterans.



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin being Honored by CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno, and CIVA Princess, Clara Yazzie.



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin presented a gift from CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie.

Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoahnippah 40th Birthday Powwow

On March 30, CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary attended the 40th Birthday Pow-wow for Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoahnippah.

From the CIVA Commander, Officer's, Veterans, Princess and Auxiliary "Happy Birthday!"



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary Honoring our Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoahnippah.

Cache Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Powwow

On March 30, Comanche Nation Veteran and 1980 Cache High School Graduate, Kevin Pohawpatchoko served as the Head Man Dancer for the Cache Johnson O'Malley (JOM) Pow-wow which was held at the Cache Intermediate School, Multi-Purpose Building.

The motto of this years pow-wow was "Students Carrying on Traditions."

CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary were in attendance to support CIVA Veteran Kevin Pohawpatchoko.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veterans Kevin Pohawpatchoko, James Czerniak with Cache & Elgin students during the Gourd Dance session.

JOM Photos



Courtesy Photo

Kevin Pohawpatchoko with CIVA Associate member James Czerniak.



Courtesy Photo

Shirley Pohawpatchoko and daughter Lanette Chibitty (a former Comanche Nation Princess)



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Nation Youth Dancers from the Cache Public Schools.

CIVA Monthly Meeting

On April 3, CIVA held its monthly meeting in the CIVA Patriot Room. A call to order was conducted by CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno followed by a prayer by CIVA Co-Chaplain Lymon Guy. CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie led the Pledge of Allegiance followed by birthday blessings and recognitions to CIVA Treasure, Tom Boyt. The evening meal was provided by CIVA Auxiliary members, Shirley Pohawpatchoko and Wanda Czerniak.

CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno introduced the Comanche Nation Princess Candidates, Isabella Ramirez and Isabella Tahdoahnippah to the organization as they both shared their biographies. CIVA would like to wish good luck to both Comanche Nation Princess Candidates on their upcoming election.

CIVA Veteran & Historian Lanny Asepermy provided an update

on upcoming Memorial Day Ceremonies and CIVA Honorees for the Armed Forces Day Banquet.

After the update, CIVA Veterans conducted their monthly meeting as Old and New Business were discussed.



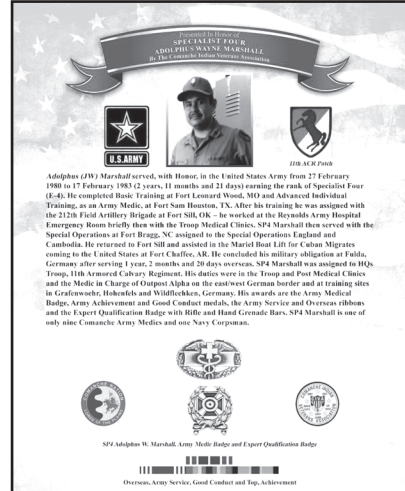
Courtesy Photo

Comanche Nation Princess Candidates, Isabella Ramirez and Isabella Tahdoahnippah sharing their biographies.

Comanche Veteran Honored

U.S. Army Specialist 4, Adolphus Wayne Marshall was honored. CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary presented a Grateful Nation Pendleton Blanket, Honor Certificate, Honorable Service Medallion, CIVA Challenge Coin and a Gift Bag in the Patriot Room.

CIVA Veteran and Historian read his Honors Certificate and his accomplishments. The CIVA Commander, Officer's, Veterans, Princess and Auxiliary would like to thank Specialist 4 Marshall for his dedicated service to God and Country.



Courtesy Photo



Courtesy Photo

Adolphus Marshall with his Honors Certificate.

CIVA Color Guard Detail

On April 5, The Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) was asked to provide a Color Guard Detail for the Opening of the Fort Sill Indian School (FSIS) Reunion which was held at the Sure Stay Plus, Best-western Hotel Ballroom in Lawton.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veterans & Auxiliary parading the Colors for the FSIS reunion.

SGM Lanny Asepermy, U.S. Army (Ret.) Honors Presentation

During the CIVA April 2025 monthly meeting Lanny Asepermy presented the SGM Lanny Asepermy challenge coin to CIVA Auxiliary members Jolene Schohchin and Elizabeth Plata for their dedicated and faithful service.



Courtesy Photo

Photograph of Arlene Schonchin and Elizabeth Plata receiving a challenge coin from Lanny Asepermy.



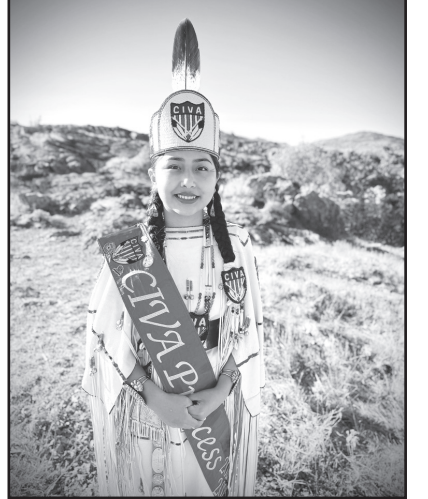
Courtesy Photo

Lanny Asepermy presented Specialist 5 Arlene Plata-Tehauno bear to Arlene Schonchin.

CIVA Princess spotlight

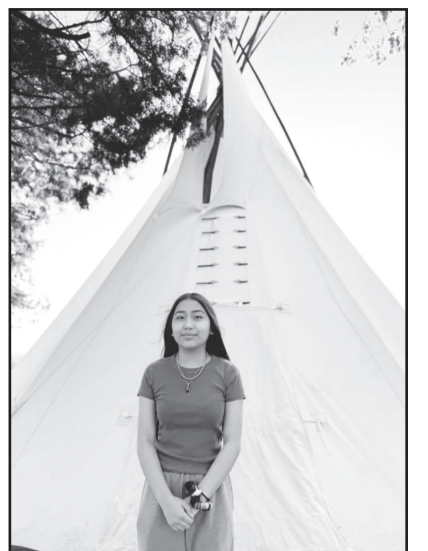
CIVA Commander, Officer's, Veterans and Auxiliary would like to extend how grateful the organization is in having Clara Yazzie as our CIVA Princess. She has been busy fulfilling her school activities and most of all Prayers for our Nation.

CIVA would like to give you a Big Hug and Thank You for all your hard work.



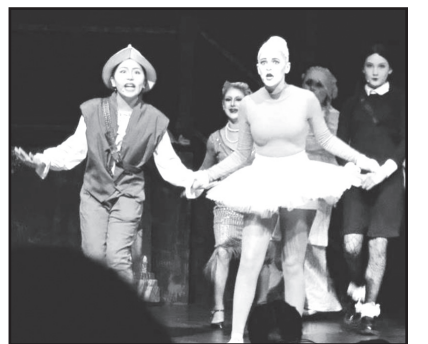
Courtesy Photo

CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie in front of her tipi



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Princess participating in her school play & musical.



SWAP YOUR EXISTING
AUTO LOAN

TO FORT SILL FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

AND WE'LL **DROP** YOUR
APR*

AS LOW AS **5.59%** UP TO 60 MONTHS



*Annual Percentage Rate (APR) may go as low as 5.59% for 60 months. This promotion is not valid on current FSFCU Loans. Rate is subject to credit worthiness. All loans are based on credit approval and credit union lending guidelines. Terms will vary based on collateral and minimum finance amount. Other restrictions may apply. Payment example for 60 months at 5.59% is \$19.20 for each \$1,000.00 financed. Rates offered April 1, 2025 – May 31, 2025.

FSFCU.COM
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COMANCHE NATIONAL MUSEUM & CULTURAL CENTER PRESENTS

ONE DAY IN MARCH

ON DISPLAY NOW!
MARCH 19TH - MAY 31ST

Marking 185 years since the significant and tragic event of the Council House Fight in San Antonio, Texas, learn about the Comanche perspective of an untold human dynamic in this historical event through Comanche oral history.

MARCH 19TH, 1840

701 NW Ferris Ave, Lawton, OK 73507 • (580) 353-0404
 Monday - Friday: 8AM - 5PM Saturday: 10AM - 2PM Sunday: Closed

Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Outgoing Pow-wow

Udah Arlene

On March 29, the Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin held her outgoing pow-wow in Watchtaker Hall at the Comanche Nation Complex.

She said she had an amazing time representing the Comanche Nation.

"It's been so amazing. I had such a good reign. And I had so many support that I could not have done it without people telling me that I'm doing a good job," Schonchin said. "And it felt amazing being one to the ambassadors for the Comanche Tribe. And I had so many young girls look up to me, and I'm very humbled because I used to look up to princesses. And knowing that I am a role model makes my heart so happy."

She said her favorite event was going with the Comanche Indian Veterans Association to France for the 80th D-Day Commemoration. It was her first time being out of the country.

"It was different, honestly, because no one really understood English. And they had such amazing food, oh my goodness," Schonchin said. "And it was just different because no one really sees Native Americans. So, it felt like I was a celebrity over there because everyone just always pointed and, like, took pictures with me and, like, smiled at me. And, honestly, it felt so amazing being there."

She said upcoming Jr. Princess Tatum Burgess would do an amazing job representing the tribe.

"I'm excited to crown her, and I'm just, I'm hoping that she has an amazing, I know she will have an amazing reign because, you know, the Lord's always walking with us," Schonchin said. "And I know the Lord will watch over her as she carries on the title. And so, I just wish Tatum the best of luck, and I know that she will have an amazing year."

She said she was happy to have family from several states come



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin dances her final round as the Good Will Ambassador representing the Comanche Nation at her outgoing pow-wow held in Watchtaker Hall at the Comanche Nation Complex on March 29.

in and celebrate with her.

"And we're going to celebrate this moment together, and we'll have these memories forever," Schonchin said.

She wanted to also thank the Comanche Nation for giving her this opportunity to represent the tribe and support her during her reign.

Schonchin plans to run for Comanche Nation Princess as soon as she's able to.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff
Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin smiles as she dances her final round as the Jr. princess as Lu-lus can be heard as show of respect.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff
Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin being honored during the gourd dance portion of her outgoing pow-wow.

Comanche Nation Elects Tribal Royalty

On April 5, the Comanche Nation went to the polls to elect a new Sr. and Jr. Princess. Election votes were counted, and the new Comanche Nation Princess and Jr. princess were announced during the election pow-wow which was held in Watchtaker Hall at the Comanche Nation Complex.

Comanche Nation Princess Bluesky Tosee and Jr. Princess Arlene Schonchin danced their final rounds as tribal princess before crowning the newly elected Sr. and Jr. princess.

Schonchin crowned the newly elected Jr. Princess Tatum Burgess.

Burgess said a family member was a candidate, and she was honored to become Jr. princess.

"I feel really good that I've won, and I'm excited to see what's coming my summer and my whole entire rest of this year," she said. "I'm excited."

Burgess' mom and dad were her biggest supporters.

"They've supported me throughout this hole little journey that I had, and I'm so excited for them to keep...supporting me throughout this whole thing," she said.

Burgess hopes to inspire the youth.

"My goal is to encourage all the youth to, you know, see me and like the young girls wanting to come out and starting to dance and learn their language and their culture and their life," she said.

Tosee crowned the newly elected Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Rameriez.

"It's truly amazing being able to represent...this great nation," Rameriez said. "There's a whole bunch of people that were by my side this whole way, and ...we have a rich history, and I'm so happy that I can represent that and help teach about our culture."

She said her family supported her through the campaigning cycle.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Newly elected Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Tatum Burgess, Re-elected Comanche Nation Princess Director Fiona Kerchee and newly elected Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Rameriez, begin a year of presenting the Comanche Nation at various pow-wows and special events.

"It was mainly my parents, especially my grandma. She was on our back for everything," Rameriez said. "She always was like, 'You need to get this done.' 'You need your otter cap to be finished.' 'You need new leggings.' 'You need new everything.' And she's truly my biggest supporter. She was telling me to post what to do for my campaigns and ...having my whole family behind my back...they're truly amazing. And I'm truly grateful that I come from such an amazing family."

"While it's important for our kids to live on, come to pow-wows, learn our culture, our elders

are the people that teach us it," Rameriez said. "And people don't really give the spotlight to our elders that much. You know, they're the people that teach us everything. Like, even day-to-day stuff we learn from our elders. And they have a lot of wealth of knowledge. And I just really want to be able to be out there, support our elders. You know...they've had tough times. And I want to be able to bring them out here and just live."

She's hoping to use the title to teach the culture and become a counselor for native youth.

In addition to electing new tribal princesses the Comanche Na-

tion also cast their votes to elect a Comanche Nation Princess Director.

Candidates for the Comanche Nation Princess Director were: Fiona Kerchee and Mary Wade.

Kerchee won the Director's position, which she will serve for the next three years, this will be Kerchee's second term as Comanche Nation Princess Director.

Also at the Election Pow-wow, outgoing Comanche Nation Princess Bluesky Tosee was officially inducted in the Comanche Princess Sorority by her fellow Princess Sorority sisters.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff
Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Rameriez



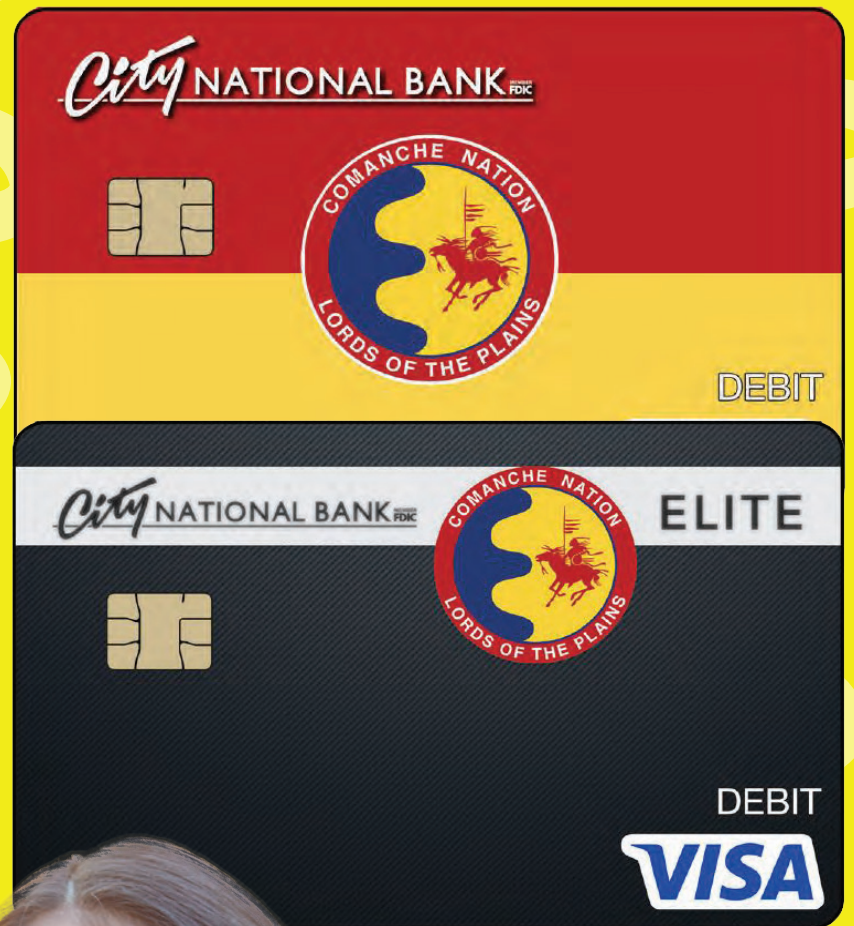
Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff
Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Tatum Burgess

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Archey Receives Teaching Award



Courtesy Photo

Ortega-Archey

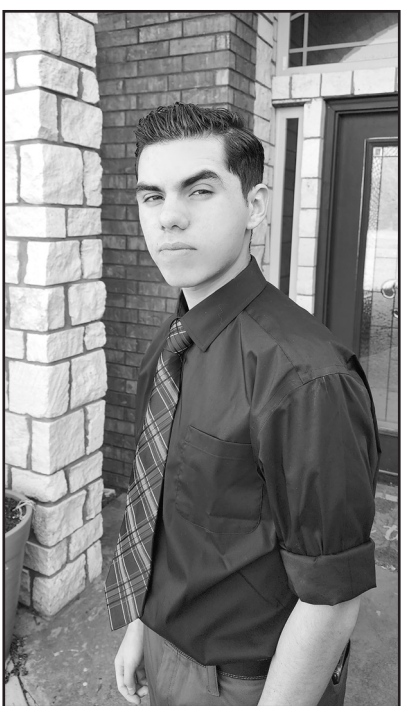
Kristin Ortega-Archey was nominated for the Professional Oklahoma Educator(POE) Teacher Character Award, made it to the top three and was chosen as this year's winner, on April 11.

This is the POE's Highest Award, and should be celebrated by her Comanche People. Ortega-Archey has so much passion for children and is an amazing teacher. There is nothing she wouldn't do to be there for her "Babies" (students). She currently teaches 7th-grade Science at Cache Mid/High School.

The selection was based on nominees from 77 different school districts in Oklahoma and included approximately 12,000 teachers. Her husband says he is honored to call her his best friend and wife, and can't help but feel that this is one more thing for her Comanche Tribe to be proud of.

She gives all the credit to God and wants to see her school chosen as the winner of the POE's "School Character Award" winner in the future. Her other awards include Accolades from Governor Kevin Stitt, Lt. Governor Matt Pinnell, Senator Dusty Deever, and Oklahoma State Representative Trey Caldwell.

Tehauno Student of the Month



Courtesy Photo

Tehauno

The staff at Cyril High School has selected Raiden Tehauno as their April Student of the Month.

He is the son of Jay Tehauno and Melissa Tehauno. His grandparents are Roger and Linda Tehauno and Bob and Carol Le Pierre. His siblings are Gabriel, Michael, and Mia. His activities include baseball, track, eSports, custom building PC units, and reading the Bible.

His honors include the Student of the Month for April and Principal's Honor Roll.

His plans for the future are to attend Cameron University in Lawton and achieve a degree in Computer Science, then start his career in Computer IT.



Courtesy Photo

Cokely

Cokely Writes a Series of Novels

Samantha Cokely is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation and an established author, completing a series of novels.

Going by S.L. Cokely as her pen name, her debut novel *This Blood that Binds Us*, is the first in a series that explores the true meaning of family, making peace with the past, and finding friendships in expected places. Her other books in the series are titled, *This Blood that Burns Us*, *This Blood that Breaks Us*, and *This Blood that Bonds Us*.

She will have a new release in September titled *Just One Bite*.

"I've always been interested in vampire media but fell in love with writing after college. I had a dream about the two main characters and then steadily worked on the first book for close to 6 years. Once I published the first, I fell in love with the book community and kept writing. And plan to continue writing more vampire and paranormal stories," Cokely said.

She developed a love for writing after college when she discovered anime and fan fiction. If she isn't spending time painting colorful sea creatures, she is with her family and her pug named Kylo.

You can find her books online at Barnes and Noble or Amazon. She also has Facebook and Insta-

Komesetaddle Graduates from Job Core



Courtesy Photo

Komesetaddle

Christy Komesetaddle graduated from the Oklahoma Job Corps Academy in Guthrie, Okla., on March 24.

She plans to work at the Department of Veteran Affairs in Lawton, Okla.



Comanche Reformed Church Hymn Singing 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. May 13 201 NW Mission Blvd., Lawton Everyone is welcome.

Pewewardy Key Note Speaker at Northwestern State University; Interviewed by Tahlequah Newspaper

Dr. Cornel Pewewardy was a Keynote Speaker April 10 at Northwestern State University. Lee Guthrie (lguthrie@tahlequahdaily-press.com) interviewed Pewewardy for the Tahlequah Daily Press. Some of the article read:

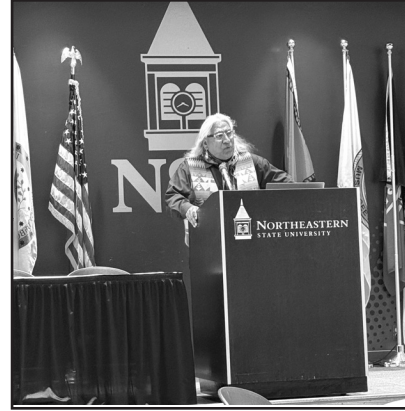
Education is important to ensure the continued sovereignty of Native Americans; otherwise, the story a person hears might be primary or secondary, and it's necessary to get the story "from the horse's mouth."

Dr. Pewewardy, the keynote speaker at Northeastern State University's Symposium of the American Indian, April 10, spoke of his journey in Indigenous studies, how all through his school years, he had only one Native professor.

His talk, "The Hunt for Red Pedagogy," was a power analysis of Gen. Philip Sheridan's American aphorism, "The only good Indian is a dead Indian."

It took Pewewardy six years to get his degree. He said Natives like himself came from families dealing with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder due to boarding schools and fathers going to war.

"My father was a prisoner-of-war in the Battle of the Bulge, and he was 19 years old," Pewewardy said.



Courtesy Photo

Pewewardy

dy said. "So I look at you [students] and think about your life, and how would you be? How could you think of everyday life and be lonesome for home and wanting to survive, and where would your water come from, at the age of 19."

That's just one story, and multiply that by 1,000 to where Indigenous peoples are today, and there is much to think about, Pewewardy said.

"That's what reclamation for an Indigenous futures is about – hearing those stories," Pewewardy said.

He stated a disclaimer, that his words had nothing to do with NSU, particularly under the guise of diversity, equity and inclusion.

New Business

Parker Opens An Event Planning & Decorating Service



Courtesy Photo

Parker

In an unassuming building in Cache, Okla., Comanche Nation Tribal Member Elizabeth Parker creates signs showcasing championship wins, holidays and education.

She has 20 years of experience in event planning and decorating and is a former member of the International Association of Home Staging; however, crafting has always been her passion.

Parker began crafting with a personal project, which was a welcome door sign for her two uncles. The sign displayed *Maruawe*, a greeting in the Comanche language.

"As life progressed, I became the caregiver of my three grandchildren and sought additional income," she said. "This inspired me to turn my passion into a small business, creating unique welcome door rounds that celebrate Native American language and heritage."

She was raised by Comanche Grandparents who were fluent in the language.

"I feel a deep responsibility to preserve our culture. Crafting allows me to honor that legacy, while doing what I love," Parker said. "Initially, I started attending holiday craft shows in November and December of 2024 just to see if there were any interest in the native language welcome sign craft."

She established Parker Star Designs LLC in January 2025.

Today, she provides native language greetings, welcome wedding signs, baby milestones, graduation collages and gravesite memorial wreaths.

Her website is Parkerstardesigns.com, where those interested can place orders.

She's also at Painted Tree Boutiques in Edmond, Okla.

COMANCHE NATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOT LINE

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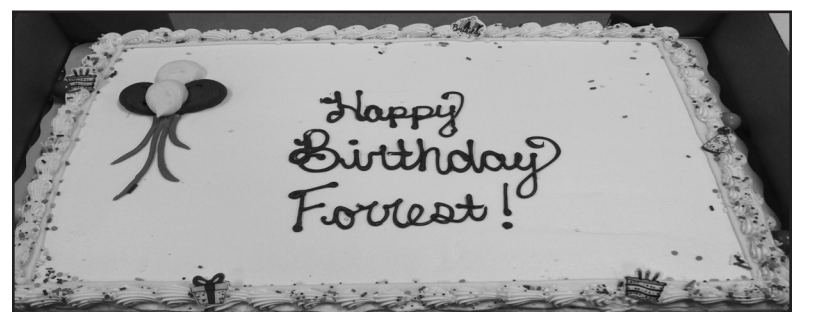


Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoohnippah's 40th Birthday Powwow



Photos by Stacy Heminokely/News Staff

Pictured Above; Comanche Nation Chairman, Tahdoohnippah was honored during his 40th Birthday celebration.



On March 30, a Birthday Powwow was held for Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoohnippah inside the Watchetaker Hall located at the Comanche Nation Headquarters. Many people came out to the All Gourd Dance Powwow to help celebrate and enjoy Tahdoohnippah's 40th celebration. The Tahdoohnippah family would like to thank all who came out to help celebrate and make this event a success.

Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday

March 20 - Sandra Mithlo
 April 19 - Sheyanne Juarez
 April 27 - Laura Juarez

Happy Birthday!



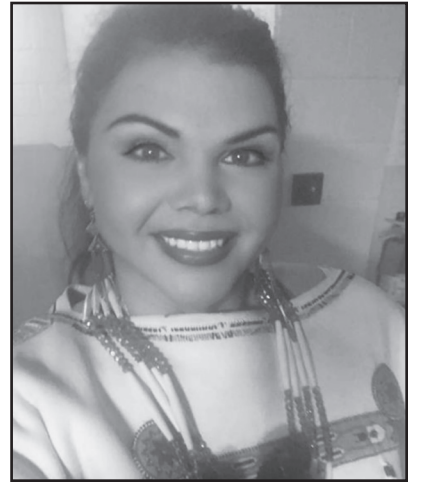
Happy 16th Birthday
 Leah Smith
 May



Happy Belated 28th Birthday
 Sheyanne Juarez
 April 19



Happy Belated 50th Birthday
 Laura Juarez
 April 27

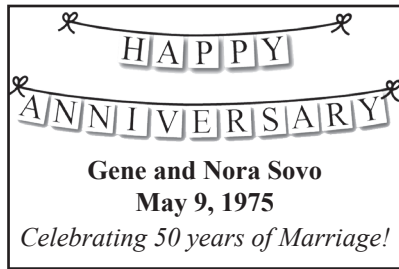


Happy Birthday
 Megan Kelley Moore
 May 15



Happy 18th Birthday
 Modesto "Mojo" Schonchin
 May 17

~ We are so proud of you and love you very much! From, Mom, Dad, and Arlene.



Gene and Nora Sovo
 May 9, 1975
 Celebrating 50 years of Marriage!

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



Happy Mother's Day!
 Mary Motah
 ~ I love you to the moon and back. 143 Mom From, Katie Weahkee



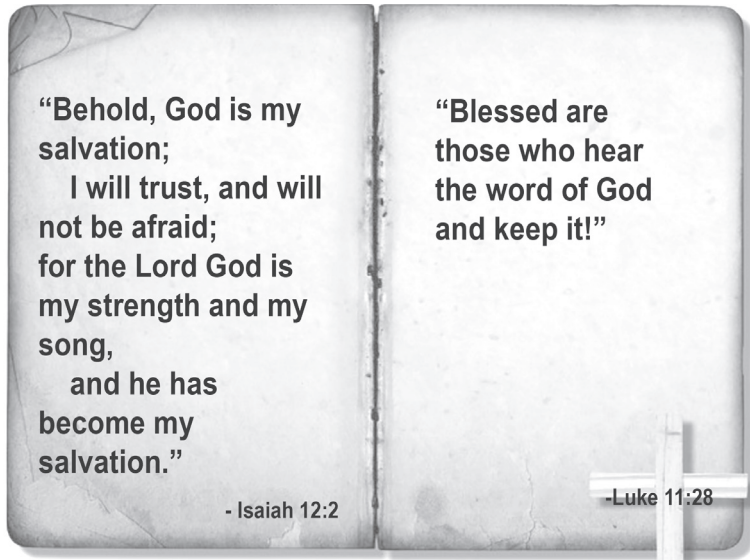
Happy Mother's Day!
 Britnee Vanhewten
 ~ Happy Mother's Day! From, Treunsun

May - Leah Smith "Sweet 16"
 May 5 - Jordan Allen "Happy 19th Birthday"
 May 15 - Megan Kelley Moore
 May 16 - Sandra "Love Mom and Dad."
 May 17 - Joran Perea
 May 17 - Modesto "Mojo" Schonchin
 May 18 - Edward "Bubba" Tahhahwah III
 May 18 - Hayla "Love Mom and Dad."
 May 19 - Shana Tahhahwah
 May 27 - Alene Stumbling-bear
 May 31 - Toni-Marie Lujano
 May 31 - Hailey Hettich

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"Behold, God is my salvation;
 I will trust, and will not be afraid;
 for the Lord God is my strength and my song,
 and he has become my salvation."
 - Isaiah 12:2

"Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"
 - Luke 11:28

Comanche Little Ponies 55th Annual Celebration

MAY 9TH & 10TH, 2025
 Comanche County Fairgrounds, Expo Center
 920 S. Sheridan Rd., Lawton, OK

Comanche Little Ponies Princess 2022-2025: *Graison Yellowfish*
 Comanche Little Ponies Princess 2025-2026: *Arlene Schonchin*

Special Invitation 2025-2026
 Comanche Nation Princess & Comanche Nation Jr. Princess

HEAD STAFF

Master of Ceremonies- Martin Flores
 Head Singer- Joel Motah
 Head Gourd Dancer- Donald Chasenah
 Head Lady Dancer- Erin Chibitty
 Head War Dancer- Ronald Monoessy Jr.
 Arena Directors- Travis Codynah & Charles Tahah
 Water Carrier- Pacer Yellowfish

FRIDAY, MAY 9TH, 2025	SATURDAY, MAY 10TH, 2025
12:00p.m. Cedar Ceremony	12:00 PM Gourd Dance
1:00pm Gourd Dance	2:00 PM New Princess Coronation
3:00 pm New Member Initiation	5:00 PM Supper Break
5:00 pm Supper Break	6:00 PM Grand Entry & Contest
6:00pm Calling Song & Contest	11:00 PM Host Organization Special & Announcement of contest Winners
10:30 pm Announcement of contest Winners	

FRIDAY NIGHT CONTESTS

BOYS & GIRLS TINY TOTS (COMBINED, 0-6 YRS) | JR. BOYS (COMBINED, 7-15 YRS) | JR. GIRLS (COMBINES, 7-15 YRS)
 Sponsored by Bruner Cable & Family | 1st- \$125, 2nd- \$100, 3rd- \$75, 4th- \$50 (PER CATAGORY)

Women's Golden Age Cloth (70+) In Honor of Vivian BigBow - Sponsored by Robert Teshoua & family
 \$700 WINNER TAKE ALL + 2 CONSOLATION PRIZES

Women's Southern Buckskin In Honor of Joyce Nevaquaya-Harris

Men's Straight Dance Contest (18+) In Honor of Ashley & Brantey Kerchee- Sponsored by Fiona & Dard Kerchee & family
 1st- \$700, 2nd- \$200, 3rd- \$100

Men's & Women's Hat & Boot Contest (Combined)- Sponsored by CLP Chairman Lowell Nibbs & Family
 1st- \$300 + Hat, 2nd- \$200, 3rd- \$100, Two Consolations Places- \$50 each

SATURDAY NIGHT CONTESTS

SPECIAL VETERAN'S CONTEST (REBALIA NOT REQUIRED)- SPONSORED BY EDMOND NEVAQUAYA & FAMILY
 IN HONOR OF CPL. AARON NEVAQUAYA (US ARMY), S-A. ALYSSA NEVAQUAYA (US AIR FORCE), SEAMAN KAYLENE NEVEQUAYA (US NAVY)

GOLDEN AGE MEN (COMBINED 54+YRS)	GOLDEN AGE WOMEN (COMBINED 54+ YRS)	MEN'S FANCY (16 YRS +)
WOMEN'S CLOTH, BUCKSKIN, JINGLE, APPLIQUE (16 YRS+)	MEN'S BRASS, STRAIGHT, TRADITIONAL (16 YRS+)	
1st- \$500, 2nd- \$300, 3rd- \$200, 4th- \$100 (PER CATAGORY)		

1st- \$800, 2nd- \$400, 3rd- \$200, 4th- \$100

Event Rules: All ADULT Contestants on Saturday, must register and be in Saturday Grand Entry (contestants #'s will be taken). Grand Entry will start on time. Registration will close at start of grand entry. All decisions of the Powwow Committee are FINAL.

EVENT COMPLETELY BROADCASTED BY:
LOWELL NIBBS PRODUCTIONS

All Singers, Dancers, Princesses, Clubs & Organizations are cordially invited. Arts & Crafts Vendors, 4 Concession Stands, Raffles & Giveaway Vendors: All vendors must provide your own set-up, including tables/chairs, arts & crafts vendor fee is \$60.00 (per 10'x10' space) and includes both days. For vendor applications, please contact: Marc Wilson- (865)321-8862, or damarcam@hotmail.com

For General Powwow Information: Lowell Nibbs @ lowellnibbs@yahoo.com or (580)583-6279
 Host Hotel: Homewood Suites by Hilton, 415 SE Interstate Drive, Lawton, OK. \$112/ Night (Friday, Saturday, Sunday). Use Special Code "CLP" when booking online or call hotel @ (580) 367-9800

The Powwow is FREE & Open to the Public. Please bring your own chairs. Security on Premises. Absolutely NO Alcoholic Beverages or Drugs Allowed. Not responsible for Accidents, Thefts, Injuries. NO OUTSIDE FOOD SALES PERMITTED-> No Political advertising or campaigning allowed. Please watch your children.

Ft. Sill Indian School Alumni Reunion and Powwow



Photos by Stacey Heminokeky/News Staff

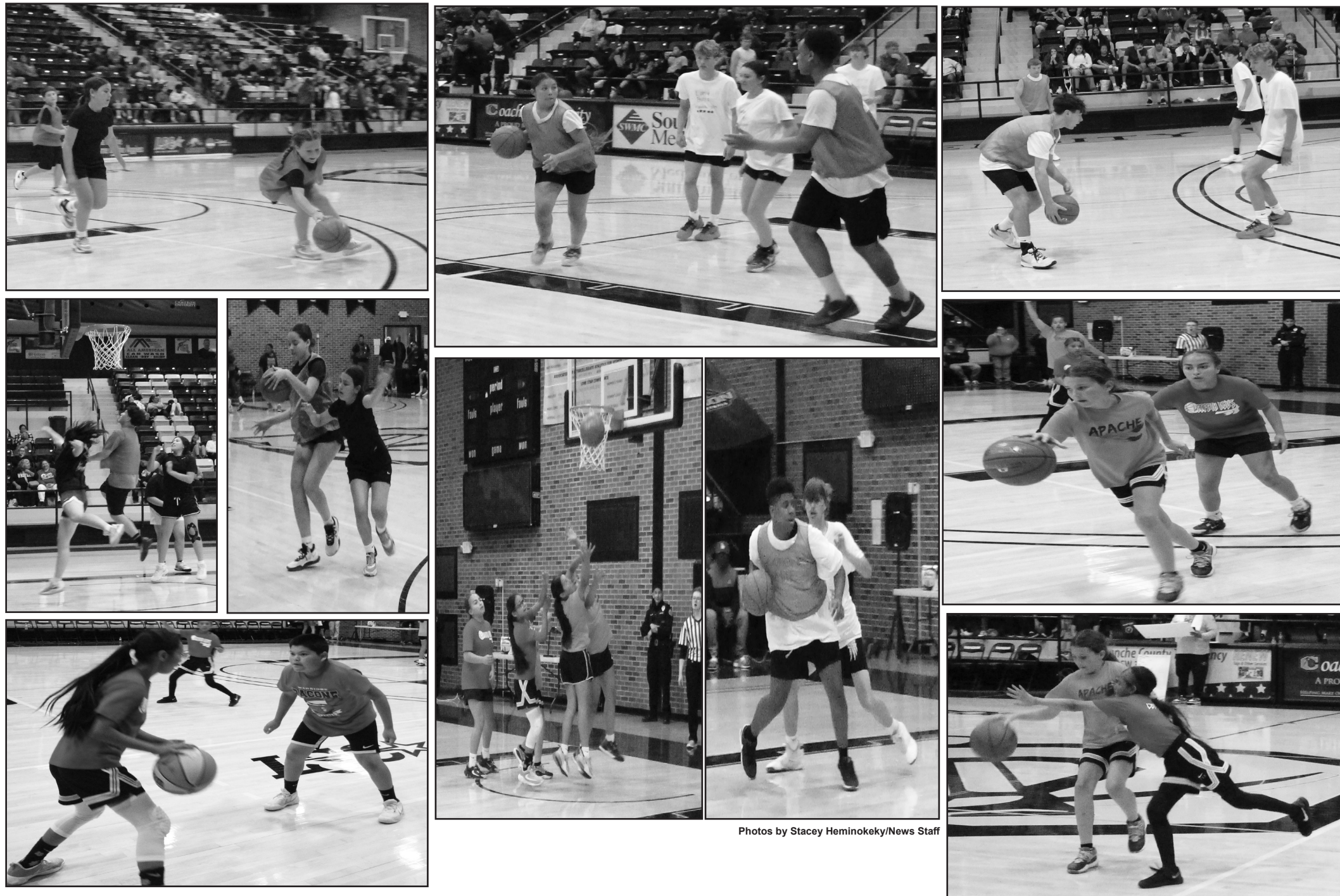
Pictured Above; Jimmy Ray Caddo. A Fort Sill Indian School Alumni, Jimmy Ray Caddo, was honored during the powwow. Caddo lived in the dorms from the time he was 5 to 20 years old.



The Fort Sill Indian School held their Alumni Reunion and Powwow on April 4-5. The reunion was held at the Fort Sill Indian School and due to rain the Powwow was moved to Best Western located in Lawton, Okla. The Director of KCA Intertribal Land Use, thanks everyone who came out to help make this event a success.

3-ON-3 BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT HELD TO HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR AUTISM AWARENESS

On April 5, the Comanche Nation Police and Fire Department held a three-on-three basketball tournament to help raise funds for Autism Awareness. The event was held in the "Aggie Gym" at Cameron University located in Lawton, Okla. The CN Police and Fire department would like to thank everyone who came out to help support and make this event a success.



Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

Comanche Nation Prevention and Recovery Hosts the Annual Easter Egg Hunt

The Comanche Nation Prevention and Recovery held their annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, April 12, at the Janice Pewewardy Softball fields located at the Comanche Nation Headquarters. Hundreds of excited Easter Egg Hunters spread across the field ready to hunt all the bright colorful Easter eggs. Prevention and Recovery Substance Abuse Program Project Director Adrienne Roughface said the organization focused more on the egg hunt. "We

added more eggs to each category and we did have about 600 people sign up this year," she said.

Roughface said age groups stayed the same and had an egg hunt for those with special needs and disabilities.

"It's important for the community to bring everybody together for something that is fun, safe, sober activities and showing them that there are other things that we can be doing and connection," she said.

"And we do have our Smile Time photo booth there so you can document those moments together and just creating new weekend activities and new habits, and this one focused a lot on our mental health; 988 was a big sponsor of the event and providing just the genuine connection."

Roughface said there were a variety of prizes in the easter eggs.

"We didn't have a whole lot of younger prizes to give out this year," she said. "We put everything

out on the field, which was like little stuffed animals and little squishy balls and light-up things. And I thought that was a really great idea this year, and I love that part of, you know, everybody gets something rather than just a couple, so that worked out really great this year."

Roughface said she enjoyed the event.

"The Easter egg hunt is such a great event and I love seeing people you know fight over Easter eggs and

wrestle to get these our prizes that we give to everyone into the community it's really it's really a good event."

Other prizes included TVs, and participants of all ages could get their faces painted.

Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez handed out candy while Jr. Princess Tatum Burgess helped an Easter egg hunter.



Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff



Obituaries

Elizabeth Lee Bear "Tink"



Courtesy Photo

Bear

Elizabeth Lee Bear "Tink" went to her heavenly home on March 26, in Cache, Okla. She was born on November 20, 1957, to Benjamin L. and Lavena Honea. Bear was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Bear attended school in Indianahoma and graduated from Indianahoma High School; Class of 1976. After graduating she attended Oklahoma State University of Technology in Okmulgee, Okla. She earned her certification as a Certified Clinical Medical Assistant.

Bear loved to read, fish, and watch tv. Her greatest achievement was her family. She blossomed as a grandmother to Brayedon and Brooklyn; she enjoyed attending their sporting events and was their biggest fan. Bear was a loving mother and wife; and her absence is felt tremendously by all whom had the privilege to know her.

Bear is survived by husband Nate Bear: son Brandon Bear: son and daughter in law Nathan and Julia Bear: grandchildren Brayedon and Brooklyn: mother Lavena Honea: brother Ben Honea: sister Patty Honea and Caroline: nephew Benjamin William: niece Stephanie: uncle Patterson Tahdoohnippah: sister in laws Illa Fife, Linda Bear, Sallie Bear, Inez Zimmerman: brother in laws Buster Bear and Eddie Bear: and numerous cousins, nieces, and nephews.

Bear is preceded in death by father Benjamin L. Honea: grandparents Day and Lela Tahdoohnippah; Benjamin and Josephine Honea; Dick and Hazel Codopony: niece Christina Smith: father and mother in law Buster Sr. and Betty Bear: brother in law Joe Bear: sister in law Ima Bear.

Kimberly Louise Tahchawwickah



Courtesy Photo

Tahchawwickah

Kimberly Louise Tahchawwickah went to her heavenly home on March 28.

Tahchawwickah was born August 29, 1970, at Lawton Indian Hospital in Lawton, Okla.

She was preceded in death by her father, Patrick Allen Tahchawwickah, and mother, Laloma Louise Tahchawwickah (Tahquechi), she is survived by her brother, Everett Preston Tahchawwickah, nephew James Tahchawwickah, nieces Kaia and Kristen Tahchawwickah, and her partner in life, Quincy Tahsquah, many cousins and extended family.

Tahchawwickah enjoyed watching movies, spending time with family, and watching nieces and nephews play and laugh. Her hobbies include hook and loop knitting, playing games, and beadwork. She was a member of the Comanche Nation. She will be greatly missed.

Mary Joyce Mihesuah Pennah

Mary Joyce Mihesuah Pennah, passed away on March 28, in Lawton. She was born on April 26, 1946, to Roy Mihesuah Sr. and Lyn Hoahwah. Pennah was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

She attended and graduated from Arlington Heights High School in Fort Worth, Texas. She married Vernel



Courtesy Photo

Pennah

Pennah; they made a home in Lawton, Oklahoma. Pennah was steadfast in her faith and was a proud member of the Deyo Mission Church. Pennah loved to spend time with her sisters Tonie Timbo, Debbie Benard, Adele Mihesuah, Verlena Derring, and Ruth Toahty; their visits were always full of laughter and cherished memories.

Pennah enjoyed going to pow wows, she also enjoyed listening to Comanche hymns and oldies. Pennah loved and adored her family; she blossomed as a homemaker, mother, and grandmother. She cherished spending time with her kids, grandkids and great grandkids. She led by example and taught her family to cook, sew, and bake. She also taught them the importance of having a loving heart and keen sense of humor.

Pennah proudly walked alongside her family through life, and never allowed them to face anything alone. Her heart was genuine and she embodied kindness, and was always willing to help others. Pennah's absence is felt tremendously by all whom has the chance to know her.

Pennah is survived by children: Maria Coronado and spouse Steve Coronado of Ft. Worth, Texas; Charles Passah Jr. of Apache; Amy Chasenah and spouse Tom Chasenah of Lawton; Charlotte Passah of Ft. Worth, Texas; Sara Simental and spouse Miguel Simental of Ft. Worth, Texas; grandkids: Tara Passah, Joshua Passah, Jennifer Passah, Stephanie Coronado, Jordan Passah, Andrew Billiot, Mariel Link, Laura Passah, Steve Coronado Jr, Greg Passah, Navice Passah, Lance Passah, Mari Simental, and Tabeka Passah, Toni Marie

Pennah is preceded in death by her parents Roy Mihesuah Sr and Lyn Hoahwah. Husband Vernel Pennah; Sisters; Lanell Valencia, Helen Tabbytosivat and Jean DiCicco, Brother; Roy Mihesuah Sr. Grandson James Pennah.

Edna Marie Pahcheka Poafpybitty



Courtesy Photo

Poafpybitty

Our dear mother, sister, grandma, elder and friend, Edna Marie Pahcheka Poafpybitty, passed away in her sleep the night of April 5, at the age of 83 years and three days. She was born April 2, 1942, at Lawton PHS (IHS).

She attended school in Cache and took part in softball, basketball, and other school activities. She was a graduate of 1960 class. Poafpybitty married Robert Poafpybitty at the Comanche Reformed Church (Yellow Mission) in 1960 until his passing in 1992. She was a full-blooded member of the Comanche Nation and served her nation proudly on the Comanche Nation Election Board for several years. She was also the great-granddaughter of the Comanche Chief Quannah Parker.

Poafpybitty was also a member of Post Oak Church in Indianahoma, Okla., and the Dallas Indian United Methodist Church, actively participating on various boards and committees. When she was physically unable to get around and did not want to miss a sermon, she turned to the Post Oak's online broadcast.

Poafpybitty was raised in Cache, Okla., and with the help of the Indian Relocation Program, she moved

to Washington D.C., and then to Dallas, Texas, where she worked as an Executive Administrative Assistant to a federal judge for about 34 years and 17 of those years, she worked at the main Dallas Public Library that was located downtown.

She had so many interests and great pleasures in watching those Dallas Cowboys, the NBA as well as boxing. She was adopted by so many sheltered kittens and alley cats and loved each one as they were her own children. She was well known as the "Great Organizer for all the family functions and holiday events. Each and everyone called her "Grandma Edna," a widely used term of endearment, as her loved shined through each family member, each friend and especially those babies and the young children.

She is preceded in death by her beloved first son Byron Poafpybitty. She always spoke of being good now, so she could go to heaven and be with Byron again. Also preceding her in death was her sister Helen Francis; and brothers Bobby and Paul David.

Her survivors include two sons; Darryl Poafpybitty and Robert Poafpybitty Jr.; two sisters Virgie Kassanavoid and Vivian Holder; brother Deyo Pahcheka and a host of many relatives and friends.

Donations can be made to the University of New Mexico Hospitals Native American Health Services. They focus on culturally appropriate responses to engage with Native American cancer patients and survivors.

Quin Van Heminokeky



Courtesy Photo

Heminokeky

Quin Van Heminokeky, went to his heavenly home on April 5, in Lawton, Oklahoma. Heminokeky was born on March 1, 1994, to Glen Heminokeky Sr. and Stevetta Mopope. Heminokeky was a proud member of the Comanche Nation and carried the bloodlines of the Kiowa and Apache tribes.

Heminokeky grew up rooted in his traditional teachings and was a proud member of the Native American Church of Oklahoma.

Heminokeky met his companion Emma during his teenage years and they walked through life together and built their family. They lovingly welcomed five children and navigated parenting as a team. Heminokeky was the ultimate sport dad and enjoyed witnessing his children succeed in athletics. Heminokeky was adventurous and enjoyed spending time outdoors. Heminokeky loved his family and was deemed the certified grill master at all family gatherings; especially the Comanche Nation Fair.

Heminokeky was silly and a natural comedian; he brought genuine laughter and memories to his family. He had the biggest smile and the biggest heart, always willing to lift others up and share his love without hesitation. Heminokeky was taken from his family suddenly and his absence is already felt tremendously.

Heminokeky is survived by his father Glen Heminokeky Sr.; companion Emma Howlingwater; children Myles, Cateleya, Everly, Azalea, Quin Heminkeky Jr. and Ollie Van Beasley-Heminokeky; siblings Frances and Joe McCarthy, Glen Allen Heminokeky, Nina Heminokeky, Denny Medicinebird, Janetta and David McGahagin, Stephen Murray Medicinebird, Roland Medicinebird, and Glen Heminokeky Jr; mom Julia Mantzke and dad James Love; siblings Ashley Claborn, Anthony Rodriguez, Tyler Rodriguez, Dawson Eccles, and Julian Love.

Heminokeky is preceded in death by mother Stevetta D. Mopope; brothers Stephan Baldwin Heminokeky and Waymon Medicinebird; paternal grandparents Lloyd Heminokeky Sr. and Marie Haumpy; paternal great grandparents Maude Codynah and Blanche Yokesuite Looking Glass; maternal grandmother Laquinta Mopope Santos.

Ramona Ann Almanza



Courtesy Photo

Almanza

Ramona Ann was born to Marian (Chebahtah) & Raymond Almanza on January 10, 1958, in Lawton. She passed away on April 5, at her home.

She was a proud member of the Comanche Nation. She was a direct descendant of Chief Wild Horse and the granddaughter of Chevato & Pihe. Almanza was loved by all who knew her. She was given the name "Doll" by her father.

Survived by cousins: Emma (Chebahtah) Griffin, Marie Chebahtah, Joe Chebahtah, Matt Chebahtah & Berniece Chebahtah; Chris Chebahtah, Jeff Chebahtah, David Chebahtah, and Patrick Chebahtah.

She is preceded in death by her parents; maternal grandparents: Thomas David & Emily Chebahtah; paternal grandparents: Joseph Almanza & Cora Perma.

Vivian Poolaw



Courtesy Photo

Poolaw

Vivian Poolaw, 84, Walters, Okla.

Funeral Service at First Baptist Church, Walters, April 15, Edward Eschiti officiating under the direction of Hart-Wyatt Funeral Home in Walters with interment in the Walters Cemetery. A prayer service was held at Hart-Wyatt Funeral Home Chapel.

Poolaw was born to Moses Edward "Mose" Poolaw and Jennie Titchywy Poolaw on March 28, 1941, in Lawton, Okla., at the Kiowa Indian Hospital and departed this life in Walters, Okla., on April 11, at the age of 84 years and 14 days.

Poolaw grew up at Walters, graduating from WHS in 1959 and attended college at Northeastern State University. She soon moved to California and eventually made her way to Washington D.C. and Virginia where she worked for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. On one occasion she rode the elevator with Lydon B. Johnson. Her image is forever documented in the archives of the Smithsonian Museum wearing Indian regalia. She returned to Walters and worked various jobs for several years before going to work at the Lawton Indian Hospital and retiring in 2015.

Poolaw was a member of Brown Baptist Church south of Walters. She enjoyed square dancing and going to the casino. She could make \$20 last until 5 a.m., on the penny slots with her lucky vibes and magical touch. She was always taking care of everybody else and stayed busy spoiling her nieces, nephews, and said "all the kids are like grandchildren." With a generous heart she raised her nieces Jeannie Poolaw and Diana Poolaw Bell as her own.

She also enjoyed attending pow-wows at Sultan Park and loved family reunions. She had a true servant's heart and was loved by all whose lives she ever touched. Born a Comanche and Kiowa, she was a fierce and loyal Kiowa tribal member her entire life.

Through the months of her decline and in her final days she was lovingly cared for by Ryan Cox and his girlfriend, Kimberly Brister.

She was preceded in death by her mother and father, Jennie and Mose Poolaw; her brothers, Horace John Poolaw, Moses E. Poolaw Jr. and bonus brother Mickey Titchywy; sister Delores Sumner; and her beloved niece she raised, Jeanine Poolaw Collins.

She is survived by her sister, Goldie Phillips of Tulsa; many beloved nieces, nephews, Ryan Cox of Walters, Shayne White and Chelby of Walters, Echo Foster of Lawton, Ashton Foster of Walters, Journey Collins of Walters, Dora Poolaw of Duncan, Sheri Poolaw of Duncan, Diana Poolaw Bell & Damon Bell, Jessie, and Keaton Fowler all of Carson City, NV, Jacob Fowler of Marysville, WA, James Phillips and spouse Angela Purdom of Tulsa, Vivian Phillips and spouse Brian Jenkins of Tulsa, Cynthia & Bret Masterson of Seattle, WA, Rodney & Patti Sumner of Tahlequah, Okla., Decann Dickerson, Larry and Pam Sumner, Rosemary Sumner and their families; many cousins and friends.

Elizabeth Ellen Chrismon



Courtesy Photo

Chrismon

Funeral services for Elizabeth Ellen Chrismon age 95 of Cyril, Oklahoma. She was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

Chrismon was born on June 28, 1929, South of Carnegie, Oklahoma, in Kiowa County. She was born near her grandfather's ranch where she was delivered in the home by her grandmother, Virgie Fife.

Chrismon's parents were Jack Fife and Violetta Dietrich Fife. She was raised near Anadarko, Oklahoma, and attended Jack School from 3rd to 5th grade. Chrismon lived on a ranch near Grand Junction, Colorado, before returning to Gracemont, Oklahoma, where she went to school for two years. She returned to Anadarko, Oklahoma, and remained there until her Senior year when she left to finish high school in Gracemont, Oklahoma.

On June 8, 1947, Chrismon married Junior Ray Chrismon at the First Christian Church in Anadarko, Oklahoma. From this union, four sons were born: Jack, Darrell, Donald, and Walter Chrismon. Chrismon was a homemaker until she attended Lawton Vocational School for Practical Nursing where she graduated in

September of 1969 as a Licensed Practical Nurse. She worked as an LPN at Comanche Memorial Hospital, Cyril Nursing Home, Grady Memorial Hospital, and Bellevue Rehabilitation Center in Oklahoma City, where she worked until her retirement at the age of 75. Chrismon was a dedicated caregiver and employee for 50 years in the field of nursing. She is survived by her children, 14 grandchildren, 30 great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, three siblings, numerous nephews, nieces, and cousins.

Children: Jack and Cathy Chrismon of Benson, North Carolina; Darrell and Mary Chrismon of Cyril, Oklahoma; Donald and Monica Chrismon of Cyril, Oklahoma; Walter Chrismon and significant other Linda Overall of Mustang, Oklahoma. Grandchildren and their spouses: Dean Chrismon, Charles Chrismon and wife Brandy, Amy Chrismon, Joshua Chrismon, Sybil Claborn and husband Justin, Katrina Garcia and husband Manuel, Dustin Chrismon and wife Missy, Jennifer Sanders and husband Matthew, Aaron Evans and wife Brooke, Cole Chrismon and wife Kalya, Aric Evans and wife Jennifer, Sarah Vogler and husband Zach, Caleb Chrismon and wife Terra, Tiffany Chrismon and fiancé Micah. Great grandchildren: Chace Chrismon; Johnathan Pittman, Ryan & Selena Chrismon; John Paul Mahoney, Michael and Megan Chrismon; Nola, Camille, & Vivian; Kaitlyn Heitman & Brennan Garcia; Kalla, Sebastian, Vacie, & Alexis Chrismon; Mark & Chrismon Sanders; Bryson & Adelyn Evans; Preston & Asher Chrismon; Rylie & Case Evans; Wyatt & Eli Vogler, and Addi Miller; Rya Calascione, Cassidy & Logan Chrismon, two great-great grandchildren: Hensley Brown & Aspen Abeyta, Siblings: Merrill Jean Johnson and husband Ed of Anadarko, Okla.; William Hardy and wife Karen of Bethany, Okla.; Tom Hardy of Bethany, Okla.

Chrismon was preceded in death by husband, Junior Chrismon; father, Jack Fife; mother, Violetta Dietrich Hardy; great-granddaughter Harleigh Grace Chrismon; sister-in-law, Sue Hardy; nephews Jeff Hardy, and Jamie and Johnnie Bird.

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Financial Tip: Estate Planning

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Benjamin Franklin said "In this world, nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes." No one wants to think of dying, as we all know, unexpected situations will happen and unforeseen circumstances will arise and a loved one dies. The risk you run by not having a will, beneficiary designations or by leaving your intentions unclear, will lead to the estate going to probate. State law will determine what will be done with any assets that are left behind. Difficulties also happen when money and possessions are hard to locate and claim.

What can you do to make this process easier on your loved ones?

- Complete beneficiary forms for any asset you have that you can.**
 - o Per Capita & Elders Distributions
 - o Retirement Accounts
 - o Insurance Policies
- Have a will.**
 - o Take advantage of any free resources that will help you draft your own.
- Have Payable on Death (POD) designated for assets that offer this.**
 - o For example, your bank accounts
- Document your assets and liabilities, like your house, car, loans and credit cards.**
 - o Update frequently
- Complete other important documents such as:**
 - o Power of Attorney
 - o Health Care Proxy
 - o Living Will

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