

RE-ELECT in 2025

Mike McBride

TRIBAL ATTORNEY & COUNSEL



Mike McBride III
Chair,
Indian Law & Gaming Practice



Zane Anderson
(Potawatomie)



Randall Yates
(Tlingit & Haida)



Logan Hibbs
(Choctaw)



Danielle A. Hood
Attorney

- ✓ **Re-opened the Comanche government: In 2012 the Nation was in crisis, \$25 million bank accounts frozen, no paychecks. Walter Echo-Hawk and Mike McBride delivered results**
- ✓ **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**
- ✓ **Won lawsuits against gaming company CDST seeking \$37 million in from gaming contracts**
- ✓ **Negotiated Pipeline Trespass for KCA totaling \$2 million**
- ✓ **Updated the Elder’s Council bylaws to provide more financial security for their organization, fee waived**
- ✓ **Drafted Hearth Act regulations simplifying the process for the Comanche Nation to offer affordable housing to its citizens**
- ✓ **Grew the Nation’s Lawton economic development opportunities by negotiating and closing transactions/loans (Comancheria Hotel, Arrowhead Apartments)**
- ✓ **Created Open Records Act for transparency in government**
- ✓ **Created the Tuitua (Help) Foundation, LLC to support Numunu organizations under the federal IRS code**
- ✓ **2025 Benchmark Litigation Oklahoma Firm of the Year for the seventh consecutive year***

Past results afford no guarantee of future results. Every case is different and must be judged on its merits.
*Crowe Dunlevy has no input in the rating methodologies used by Benchmark Litigation.

Key Voting Dates:
May 16-17



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Team and Practice



Oklahoma City
405-235-7700

Tulsa
918-592-9800

Dallas
214-420-2163

Houston
281-766-4607

Government

A Total of 18 Resolutions

Presented at the May 3

CBC Meeting

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

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdooahippah, called the CBC Meeting to order at 10 a.m.

Resolutions:

- Resolution No. 67-2025-** Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1366 Minors. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 68-2025-** Enrollment Eligible Resolution List 1367 Adults. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 69-2025-** Enrollment Ineligible Resolution List 1368 Does Not Meet. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 70-2025-** Enrollment Resolution to Remove List 1369. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 71-2025-** Enrollment Resolution to Increase BO List 1370. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 72-2025-** Enrollment Resolution Approving MOU With Homeland Security. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 73-2025-** Enrollment Resolution Regarding Heirship Distributions. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 74-2025-** MMIP Resolution for Tribal Community Response Plan. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 75-2025-** IT Resolution for Dobson Fiber 60 Month. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Resolution No. 76-2025-** CNE Corporate Bank Accounts Resolution The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Resolution No. 77-2025-** CBC Resolution Moving Gift Shop to 410 SE Interstate Drive. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Resolution No. 78-2025-** CBC Resolution Naming Hotel. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Resolution No. 79-2025-** CBC Resolution Approving Confidentiality Agreements. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Resolution No. 80-2025-** CBC Resolution Authorizing Travel. 2/2/0. Chairman Tahdooahippah broke the tie, and the motion failed.
- Resolution No. 81-2025-** TA Resolution Fundraising Policy and Guidelines. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Resolution No. 82-2025** CBC Resolution to Amend Procurement Policy. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Resolution No. 83-2025-** CBC Resolution Appointing Housing Commissioner. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Resolution No. 84-2025-** CBC Resolution for State of Emergency Due to Flooding. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to Rescind Resolution 103-13.** The motion carries 4/0/0.
- Motion for Approval of Hiring for Hotel.** The motion carries 4/0/0.

Comanche Nation Officials

Chairman
Forrest Tahdooahippah
Email: Forrest.Tahdooahippah@comanchenation.com

Vice Chairman
Diana Doyebi Sovo
Email: Diana.Sovo@comanchenation.com

Secretary/Treasurer
Robert Tippetconnie
Email: Robert.Tippetconnie@comanchenation.com

Committeeman No. 1
Hazel Tahsequah
Email: Hazel.Tahsequah@comanchenation.com

Committeeman No. 2
Ross Kahrahrah
Email: Ross.Kahrahrah@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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**TEXAS
OUTDOOR MUSICAL**
PAID DURO CANYON STATE PARK
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COMANCHE SUMMER
JUNE 21, 2025
7 PM - 8 PM

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TEXAS SHOW DATES:
JUNE 6 - AUGUST 9, 2025
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CANYON, TX 79

From the Chairman's Desk

Mariuaweka Numunu:

The Comanche form of government is unique. While our constitution was based on a form of government developed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs, we have amended our constitution numerous times and, therefore, we are the only Tribe that has the particular constitution that we all know. The Comanche Constitution creates specific divisions of power between the Business Committee and the Tribal Council.

As an illustration, the Business Committee has the duty to maintain the membership roll, but the Tribal Council has the sole authority to make (and change) the membership rules. Similarly, the Business Committee has the duty to propose a budget, but the Tribal Council has the sole power to authorize expenditure of funds. As another illustration, the Business Committee has the duty to propose and implement programs, but the Tribal Council has the sole authority to adopt programs. The Business Committee also has the duty to “direct” the Tribal Administrator, but the Tribal Council has the sole authority to hire that Tribal Administrator. The Tribal Council may also delegate power to another body. For instance, under the Constitution, it is the Business Committee’s duty to determine qualification of candidates nominated for office and to conduct elections, but the Tribal Council delegated authority to an Election Board to make determinations about qualifications (subject to final approval by the Business Committee), designate an election day, and designate polling places. The ability of the Tribal Council to make rules, and change the rules, that our Nation must live by is the essence of self-determination and sovereignty. Unfortunately, our Constitution has taken on almost mythical qualities—many myths are perpetuated about what elected officials can do because in the past the constitution was either different or disregarded. Recently, election woes have taken front stage as the mailing of absentee ballots was delayed for about the third time in as many elections. While it would have been easiest for me to simply assume control of the electoral process, which is an action that I seriously considered, it would also not have complied with the Constitution nor with the spirit of sovereignty. The Election Board exists as a check and balance against the Business Committee, and that check and balance was perceived as needed due to protests of prior elections. In order to exercise our sovereignty we must follow our own laws.

Of course, no system is perfect, and we must always refine our approach. I hope that the practice of holding a public meeting to certify candidates provides a check and a balance against Business Committee members playing politics with the certification process. In the future, as we continue to refine our process, I hope that our Tribal Council members see the need to build flexibility, speed, and responsiveness into our institutions, while also building in checks and balances. Allowing the Business Committee, or Chairman, some latitude to intervene in cases of emergency is certainly needed. I apologize again for any election woes, and will continue to provide information to the Tribal Council so that the Tribal Council can do its job in making informed decisions.

Comanche Nation Tribal Court
District Court
MAY 21 2025
FILED
IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF
NAME OF:
LOU ANN ELKINS
An enrolled member of the Comanche
Nation.
Case No.: 18C-2025-0003
NOTICE BY PUBLICATION
TO: ALL CREDITORS or INTERESTED PARTIES
Take notice that Lou Ann Elkins has filed in the above Court a Petition to have the name changed as follows, to-wit from: Lou Ann Elkins to Lee Ann Takemura.
The petition will be heard on 07/06/2025 at 11 AM located at the Comanche Nation Courthouse, 584 NW Ringo Road, Lawton, Oklahoma.
If you have any cause to show why the above conditioned Petition for Change of Name should not be granted by the Court you should file a written protest in the case prior to the date set for hearing or appear and present the same at the above time and place.
WITNESS my hand and the seal of said Court this 21st day of May, 2025.
By *Walter Echo-Hawk*
Court Clerk/Deputy
Comanche Nation Tribal Court
584 NW Ringo Dr.
P.O. Box 646
Lawton, OK 73502
Ph: (580) 280-4744

HOUSING

Continued from Page 1

creation within the community through their Home Improvement Program.

The Comanche Nation Housing Authority remains dedicated to ensuring that Tribal families have access to safe, secure and dignified housing. Through its Home Improvement Program, CNHA is making a tangible difference in the lives of countless Tribal members, ensuring that homes remain a place of safety, heritage and community for generations to come.

For more information on CNHA's Home Improvement Program, visit <https://comanchehousing.com/services/home-improvement-program/>.

Unofficial Voting Results of the 2025 Comanche Nation Election

The voting results will become official once the Comanche Nation Business Committee certifies the Election Results, pending the resolution of any filed protests.

Comanche Nation of Oklahoma – General Election 2025 – OFFICIAL RESULTS												
	EV - Lawton	EV - Complex	Tribal Complex	Anadarko	Apache	CACHE	Oklahoma City	Winters	Absentee	TOTAL		
OFFICIAL BALLOTS CAST - TOTAL	97	77	103	20	15	68	22	20	416	840		
COMMITTEE PERSON NO. 1												
HAZEL TAHSEQUIAH (unopposed)	66	52	64	12	8	35	15	11	295	558	100.00%	
COMMITTEE PERSON NO. 2												
DARRELL KOSECHQUETAH	26	27	22	4	4	17	2	3	91	196	24.05%	
DAVA FRATELLO	21	16	14	4	1	17	6	1	51	127	15.58%	
JANET SAURITTY	17	16	1	1	4	15	2	2	111	164	22.58%	
SHAY WELLS	1	0	4	0	3	1	1	0	30	43	5.28%	
GENE SOVO	30	23	46	7	6	16	9	14	114	265	32.52%	
TRIBAL ATTORNEY												
MIKE MCBRIDE	27	27	32	6	3	24	4	9	102	234	29.51%	
LINDSAY DOWELL	6	1	4	1	2	3	0	1	36	54	8.81%	
WILSON PIPESTEM	51	36	59	8	8	28	16	4	150	360	45.40%	
MARK ECHO HAWK	6	8	4	2	0	5	1	3	85	114	14.38%	
SARAI COOK	3	3	3	0	1	3	1	1	16	31	3.91%	
ELECTION BOARD MEMBERS												
AARON NEVAQUAYA	33	32	50	9	10	27	13	6	198	376	23.95%	
MICHELLE NEVAQUAYA	42	31	67	11	5	32	15	6	251	463	29.49%	
CHARLOTTE NIYAH	41	29	34	8	6	29	13	7	145	312	19.87%	
NANCY NAUNI	45	42	47	12	6	33	13	12	209	419	26.69%	
QUESTIONS												
QUESTION 1 - Comanche Sacred Leadership Youth Init.	YES	29	32	36	10	5	25	11	5	176	329	40.67%
	NO	64	42	62	9	10	40	10	14	229	460	59.33%
QUESTION 2 - Standing Subcommittee for Int. Affairs	YES	49	33	52	14	7	28	16	9	206	474	56.47%
	NO	42	38	44	4	6	38	6	9	136	323	40.53%
QUESTION 3 - 20% fund to Land for Econ. Development	YES	47	37	52	8	4	32	15	6	200	461	57.05%
	NO	47	33	48	10	10	35	7	13	144	347	42.95%

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Comanche Nation of Oklahoma – General Election 2025 – OFFICIAL RESULTS												
	EV - Lawton	EV - Complex	Tribal Complex	Anadarko	Apache	CACHE	Oklahoma City	Winters	Absentee	TOTAL		
20% Money/Investment Income												
Assisted Living Vouchers	YES	61	50	79	14	12	38	11	9	324	598	72.57%
	NO	34	25	22	5	3	29	11	10	87	226	27.43%
CBC Salaries	YES	32	24	45	7	7	27	9	6	237	394	48.17%
	NO	63	51	57	12	8	41	13	12	167	424	51.83%
CRM/Digital Transition	YES	43	37	61	12	7	32	14	6	279	491	62.23%
	NO	48	34	37	6	7	33	8	13	112	298	37.77%
Emergency Management Direct Services	YES	69	57	86	15	11	52	20	13	361	684	83.82%
	NO	22	17	14	4	4	16	2	6	47	132	16.18%
Missing, Murdered, Indigenous People (MMIP)	YES	67	58	78	15	12	45	15	10	337	635	77.44%
	NO	28	17	25	4	3	23	6	8	71	185	22.56%
Funeral Home Income Contribution												
CN Fair/Carnival	YES	72	54	72	14	12	47	20	11	331	633	77.10%
	NO	24	21	28	6	3	20	2	7	78	188	22.90%
Language Incentive	YES	58	43	75	13	11	44	19	10	323	596	72.59%
	NO	38	31	26	6	4	23	3	8	86	225	27.41%
Tax Commission Contribution												
Bereavement Assistance	YES	88	71	95	17	10	62	21	16	397	784	94.92%
	NO	6	4	7	2	0	5	1	1	16	42	5.08%
Chairman's Salary	YES	49	38	47	9	9	29	16	7	255	459	55.98%
	NO	46	38	53	10	6	39	6	14	229	361	44.02%
Comanche Indian Veteran's Association (CIVA)	YES	59	46	68	11	12	40	18	11	351	616	75.21%
	NO	36	27	31	7	3	28	4	8	59	203	24.79%
Comanche Tribal Princess	YES	73	53	82	16	9	45	19	13	325	635	77.91%
	NO	21	22	19	3	6	23	2	6	78	180	22.09%
Comanche Jr. Princess	YES	66	49	77	16	8	39	19	12	309	593	72.32%
	NO	28	27	25	3	9	29	2	7	97	227	27.68%
Comanche Nation Language Department	YES	61	61	78	14	12	44	17	8	324	619	75.03%
	NO	35	14	25	5	3	23	5	10	86	206	24.97%
Comanche Little Ponies	YES	47	46	62	10	9	29	15	9	291	518	63.09%
	NO	47	31	39	9	6	38	7	9	117	303	36.91%
CN Homecoming	YES	66	50	67	12	8	40	20	17	326	604	73.75%
	NO	29	28	32	6	7	28	2	2	83	215	26.25%
Princess/Director Expenses	YES	58	48	74	16	7	36	19	10	291	556	68.05%
	NO	36	31	27	3	8	31	3	9	113	261	31.95%

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Comanche Nation of Oklahoma – General Election 2025 – OFFICIAL RESULTS												
	EV - Lawton	EV - Complex	Tribal Complex	Anadarko	Apache	CACHE	Oklahoma City	Winters	Absentee	TOTAL		
Elder Council	YES	65	49	77	14	11	46	19	12	331	624	76.28%
	NO	31	26	24	5	4	22	3	5	74	194	23.72%
Tombstone Project	YES	80	66	91	16	14	55	19	16	380	737	90.10%
	NO	14	9	10	3	1	13	2	3	26	81	9.90%
Church Donations	YES	63	59	78	10	13	48	17	14	301	599	73.23%
	NO	32	17	24	9	2	32	5	9	103	219	26.77%
Shoshone Reunion	YES	58	44	65	13	9	35	16	8	253	501	61.47%
	NO	36	31	35	6	6	33	6	11	150	314	38.53%
Transportation	YES	83	62	88	15	13	52	18	14	365	708	86.76%
	NO	12	12	14	3	2	16	3	5	41	105	13.24%
Optometry/Prescription Assistance	YES	94	71	98	16	14	59	20	19	382	783	94.91%
	NO	3	5	3	2	1	9	2	0	18	42	5.09%
Family Assistance Center- Women's Shelter	YES	88	64	94	16	14	54	20	17	386	783	91.27%
	NO	7	11	7	3	1	13	2	2	26	72	8.73%
Diabetes/Fitness	YES	84	65	88	15	15	55	20	14	372	728	88.14%
	NO	12	10	14	4	0	13	2	5	38	96	11.86%
Grandparents Raising Grandchildren	YES	77	57	85	15	15	51	19	16	366	704	85.23%
	NO	19	19	14	4	0	17	3	3	43	122	14.77%
Gaming Contribution-Revenue Alloc.												
Elder Payment	YES	89	63	96	17	13	59	19	18	400	774	94.39%
	NO	7	12	4	2	2	9	2	1	7	46	5.61%
Per Capita Distribution	YES	86	68	98	18	14	58	19	18	388	767	94.57%
	NO	9	6	3	1	1	8	2	2	13	44	5.43%
Gaming Contribution-Tribal Gov't												
Administration	YES	57	47	67	13	9	41	18	11	316	579	71.93%
	NO	37	25	31	6	6	27	3	9	81	226	28.07%
Maintenance	YES	80	63	87	15	11	53	20	13	365	707	87.50%
	NO	14	10	11	4	4	14	2	7	35	101	12.50%
Research & Planning (Grants)	YES	71	49	76	15	9	50	19	11	321	621	76.95%
	NO	23	25	23	4	8	18	3	9	75	186	23.05%

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Comanche Nation of Oklahoma – General Election 2025 – OFFICIAL RESULTS												
		EV - Lawton	EV - Complex	Tribal Complex	Anadarko	Apache	CACHE	Oklahoma City	Winters	Absentee	TOTAL	
Elections	YES	56	49	68	16	6	45	18	12	283	553	68.61%
	NO	39	25	31	3	9	23	4	7	112	253	31.39%
Info Technology - Complex	YES	67	59	78	15	7	47	18	13	311	613	76.05%
	NO	27	18	23	4	8	21	4	7	83	193	23.95%
Law Enforcement	YES	61	49	80	14	10	43	21	10	345	633	78.24%
	NO	34	25	17	5	5	25	1	10	54	176	21.76%
Legal Fees	YES	65	53	78	15	10	50	17	13	332	633	79.32%
	NO	29	18	20	4	5	17	5	7	60	165	20.68%
Enrollment	YES	77	65	79	16	9	51	19	12	342	670	82.92%
	NO	16	9	20	3	5	17	3	8	55	138	17.08%
Public Information Office (PIO)	YES	83	58	79	15	9	50	16	8	285	581	73.73%
	NO	32	17	20	4	6	18	6	12	92	207	26.27%
Gaming Contribution-Econ. Dev.												
New Business	YES	58	49	65	12	6	43	17	5	286	541	68.65%
	NO	35	23	34	7	8	21	4	14	101	247	31.35%
Capital Improvement	YES	71	58	77	16	9	47	20	11	320	629	79.42%
	NO	23	15	21	3	6	17	2	8	68	163	20.58%
Tribal Court	YES	67	56	77	15	9	48	20	12	330	634	79.45%
	NO	26	17	20	4	6	16	2	7	66	164	20.55%
Grasshoppers (Elders Lawn Mowing)	YES	77	56	80	16	11	50	17	11	346	684	82.48%
	NO	20	19	19	3	4	14	5	8	51	141	17.52%
Comanche Residential Youth Shelter (CRYSS)	YES	78	68	89	16	13	53	19	13	368	717	88.96%
	NO	15	8	10	3	2	21	2	6	32	89	11.04%
Workforce Innovation and Opportunity (WIOA)	YES	77	69	88	15	10	51	19	15	339	683	85.38%
	NO	17	7	11	4	5	12	3	4	54	117	14.63%
Job Placement & Training	YES	77	66	88	15	11	51	19	13	363	703	87.77%
	NO	19	9	11	4	4	12	3	6	33	98	12.23%
Museum Gift Shop	YES	78	61	83	13	8	49	18	12	324	646	80.45%
	NO	16	15	15	6	7	15	4	8	71	187	19.55%
Museum/NAGPRA	YES	65	54	73	13	8	48	18	10	309	597	74.72%
	NO	29	20	24	6	7	16	4	10	85	202	25.28%
Cow Calf	YES	51	45	71	11	8	33	16	8	271	514	64.90%
	NO	41	29	28	8	7	31	6	9	126	278	35.10%
Natural Resources (Reality)	YES	60	49	73	14	7	41	14	8	314	580	72.96%
	NO	32	25	26	5	7	23	8	12	78	215	27.04%

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Programs

Child Support Program Notification of Court Hearings

The Comanche Nation Child Support Program (CNCSP) is giving complimentary notification for the following Notice of Publications to be published in the June 2025 edition of *The Comanche Nation News* for:

- Comanche Nation Tribal Court
- Ashley Kerchee: CNCSP-15-79; Application for Indirect Contempt

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 needs the above name(s) to be placed in our upcoming Comanche Nation Newspaper.

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

Election Board Meeting

The next Election Board Meeting will be 6 p.m., June 3, in the Code Talker Room, Comanche Nation Complex.

If there is to be a run-off election, early voting will take place on Friday June 13, at the academy and Code Talker room. Regular voting day will be June 14, voting times on both days are from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m..

The Election Office will be open full time until the election is completed.

The Election Office will continue to honor all requests for absentee ballots up until the election day. It is the responsibility of the voter to ensure their request gets returned in time in order to receive a ballot.

Gravel and Tinhorn Schedule 2025

Applications for the Gravel Tinhorn program are organized by town or city, not by date. This means each town or city has a specific time frame for applications. It's important to submit your application during the designated period for your area, as applications received after the deadline will be reserved for the following year. Emergencies are handled on a case-by-case basis.

- Monthly Service Schedule
- January 1 - January 31
- Applications for the Cache and Indianoma areas (Service: February)
- February 1 - February 29
- Applications for the Chattanooga, Faxon, and Grandfield areas (Service: March)

- March 1 - March 30
- Applications for the Geronimo, Temple, and Walters areas (Service: April)
- April 1 - April 30
- Applications for the Lawton area (Service: May)

- May 1 - May 31
- Applications for the Sterling and Duncan areas (Service: June)
- June 1 - June 30
- Applications for the Cyril and Fletcher areas (Service: July)

- July 1 - July 31
- Applications for the Apache area (Service: August)
- August 1 - August 31
- Applications for the Elgin area (Service: October)

- October 1 - October 31
- Applications for the Anadarko – Ft. Cobb, and Carnegie areas (Service: November)

Eligibility and Requirements:

If there are any changes in the contact number, it is your responsibility to notify the program office immediately. Please call and update your contact information to ensure timely communication.

- Must be enrolled Comanche Nation tribal member and 18 years of age or older.
- Provide Proof of Primary Resi-

dence or ownership of the property. Acceptable documentation includes a utility bill showing the tribal member's name and primary address, confirming residency with the Comanche tribal member.

- Must not benefit a business or non-Comanche Tribal Member (No rental homes)
- Services are available to tribal members who live within the Comanche Nation jurisdiction boundaries. Services are provided within our Comanche Nation jurisdiction. (This includes the following counties: Comanche, Caddo, Cotton, Kiowa, Grady, Stephens, and Tillman)
- Driveways must have 15ft. of clearance of all vehicles, or debris working or not.
- Not responsible for the trash truck damaging tinhorn.
- The Gravel Tinhorn Program will not put gravel under carports.
- Out-of-State: tribal members are not eligible for services under this program. The program is specifically to assist those living within the Comanche Nation's service area.

For any questions/consents, please call the office at (580) 492-3308 Monday–Thursday from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Submit applications to email: @comanchenation.com

Missing and Murdered Movie Night



Courtesy Photo

By Natascha Mercadante /News Staff

On May 23, Comanche Nation Missing and Murdered Indigenous People (MMIP) held a movie night at Dorothy Lorentino Education Center in Lawton, Oklahoma, in honor of May 5, National MMIP Day.

Director Roxel Large said “Missing from Fire Trail Road” was chosen to highlight a case and show how families cope with MMIP situations and a lack of investigation.

“For people that really aren’t aware of MMIP cases, we want them to know that it’s quite often it’s our indigenous people that fall through the cracks of the criminal justice system,” she said. “We want people to know that our people are still there, they’re still missing, and it’s important to highlight their story in the community to generate that MMIP awareness.”

Victim Advocate Richard Henson said it’s important to bring awareness.

“We want to inform the public of what goes on during an MMIP case before that’s their actual sister or mother or aunt,” he said. “You know, it’s important to have an example, you know, of what to do, what goes on, and what are the obstacles that go on in these cases.”

Henson also has a case

within his family.

“It’s very personal,” he said. “My aunt was murdered in 1984 in Omaha, and one of the first things they did, the Omaha World-Herald put out an article about her, and it was like textbook victim-blaming. It was sick. It was disgusting what they put about her. And it just shows the lack of respect, you know, towards our native people. And also, my great-grandpa was murdered, and it was in Homer, Nebraska, it’s on the northern edge of the Winnebago Reservation by another native...It’s very personal, and I think that’s why I come to this work. That’s why I want to do this work.”

Henson said he would like to see more men step up and be at the meetings.

“I’ve been to all these MMIP conferences,” he said. “I’ve been to these women’s conferences. There’s never any men. I’m usually one of a handful of men in a conference of 100, 500, or 1,000 people. It’s all women. Where are the men? There are men in our community. Where are they? You know, that’s a tribal principle. That’s a traditional principle. We step up for our women.”

Comanche MMIP Princess, Dina Niedo, was in attendance.

Comanche Nation Officer Completes Federal Criminal Investigator Course

By Natascha Mercadante /News Staff

Criminal Investigator for Comanche Nation Police Department (CNDP) William Hill attended a 13-week FLETC Criminal Investigators Training Program.

He said the Secret Service, Homeland Security Investigations, the Federal Protective Service, the Force Service and the CIA participate in becoming an 18-11 criminal investigator.

“So, it gives me the ability to start presenting cases to the US Attorney’s office and requesting federal search warrants and anything to do with the federal court system,” Hill said. “Part of...our services we provide the Nation, is that we have the ability to prosecute not only in the tribal court, the state court, but now we have, we always had the ability to prosecute in the federal court system. And this allows me to, instead of having to call in the FBI or somebody like that to do stuff for us, we can do it on our own.”

He said only three officers are federally certified to be criminal investigators.

“We are hoping to get the rest of our investigation division through the program, but 13 weeks is a long, long time,” Hill said. “But you do learn a lot, you learn the federal system, you learn how investigations go on a task force, and stuff like



that. So literally...day one, we were assigned a case that, of course, it was a made-up case, but we were assigned a case, and we worked it the entire 13 weeks we were there.”

He said it was very interesting.

“You do backgrounds, and you do surveillance, and you do an undercover operation, you do all kinds of stuff like that. So, it teaches you how to be a federal agent to do a criminal investigation,” Hill said.

His favorite part of the program was surveillance and undercover operations.

“...They had role players come in,” Hill said. “So, when we were doing interviews, you actually had a person that you were interviewing, and they had a role they

played. And so, it wasn’t like you were just interviewing your partner, or whatever, you were actually interviewing people.”

He said they got to do surveillance.

“We got into cars, and we followed people around, watching them and taking pictures and doing all that stuff to help build their case,” Hill said. “So, the undercover [operation], same thing, we put a federal agent undercover to meet with one of the role players on a specific incident. So, I mean, all that stuff, you get that knowledge, and that’s just, we call it tools in the toolbox. It was a tool we had now, so we know where it works, and we use the latest technology that is available out there to do those types of scenarios.”

He said he’s always wanted to be an investigator.

“I’ve been doing this for 26 years. I’ve done every aspect in law enforcement, and this was a new aspect I haven’t tried before,” Hill said. “And just handling criminal cases, so it was new and exciting to me. So it was that time of my career to move that way.”

He said this allows CNPD another avenue to bring cases to the federal court that the state or tribal court may not take.

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Programs

Family Assistance Center Are You in a Healthy Relationship? Things That Make You Go Hmmmm....

The following are some indicators of potentially abusive partners. It should be noted, however, that just because a person may match one or more of these characteristics does not define them as an abuser. These red flags are just that, warning signs that are worth looking out for and paying attention to:

- Pressures you to move fast in a relationship or pushes for immediate commitment.
- Has been abusive in previous relationships.
- Believes in stereotypical gender roles and male supremacy, or is domineering.
- Is continuously jealous and possessive. Isolates you from your friends and family and may try to persuade you not to have a job.
- Has two sides to his or her personality—others see your partner as a good person, but behind closed doors, he or she is angry and aggressive toward you.
- Experiences most emotions in the form of anger and has difficulty conveying other emotions.
- Has a violent temper and quickly changing moods.
- Is cruel to animals or children and is insensitive to their suffering.
- Monitors your whereabouts, activities or spending.
- Does not listen to you when you say “no” or try to assert your boundaries.

You should consider taking a pause before entering into a relationship with a partner who matches one of more of these warning sign. When in doubt, talk to a trained domestic violence advocate. It may help to hear what someone with years of experience thinks, especially when your gut instinct is to be wary. Call (580) 492-3590 and ask to speak with a victim advocate Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Youth Services Summer Camp

The Comanche Nation Youth Services will be having a Youth Summer Camp “TAASTSA,” for ages 6-13 years, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. at the following places: Walters Community Center - June 3-6 Apache Community Center - June 16-18 Cahoma Building - July 7-10 Watchetaker Hall - July 14-17.

All participants must be Comanche Enrolled. There will be 20 spots available per session.

For more information contact the Comanche Nation Youth Services at (580) 492-3288.

Adult Education Student of the Month Jacob Nelson



Courtesy Photo

Nelson
Jacob Nelson is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. He is 36 years old and graduated from Indianoma High School in May 2008.

Nelson successfully completed the Long-Term Care Nurse Aide program at the Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton, Okla.

He received his Competency Certificate on May 14.

Nelson's future plans include becoming a full-time nurse. He wants to pursue a career in the medical field because he has a passion for helping others.

Nelson would like to thank the Comanche Nation Adult Education program for helping to achieve his professional goals.

Higher Education Graduate Student of the Month Sheldon Wilson



Courtesy Photo

Wilson
Sheldon Wilson is from Anadarko, Oklahoma. He is currently pursuing his Master's in Sports Management.

Wilson's goal is to become a coach and eventually an Athletic Director, so he can mentor young athletes and make a positive impact on their lives both on and off the field. Wilson is highly competitive and driven, shaped by his background in multiple sports.

Outside of his career goals, Wilson enjoys spending time with his son, Trenton, who plays football and basketball.

With having a background in sports and coaching his son, it has fueled his passion for leadership and mentoring even more. Whether it's coaching, working out kids, or giving back to his community, Wilson is dedicated to helping others reach their full potential!

Higher Education Undergraduate Student of the Month Deborah Lazzarini



Courtesy Photo

Lazzarini
Deborah Lazzarini's mother and father were Evelyn Robles and Troy Durham, her grandparents on Evelyn's side were Cecilia Faralla Torralba and Moises Robles, and her great-grandparents were Petra Sonoya and Amador Frank Torralba.

Lazzarini is fulfilling a bucket list wish of finally completing a Bachelor's degree after receiving an Associate's of Arts degree 47 years ago. It has taken four years to complete the lower and upper division classes. Lazzarini is happy to report that she will graduate with a Bachelor's Degree in Liberal Arts from Sonoma State University, located in Rohnert Park, California.

Lazzarini will be 70 years old this year and feels excited about the future, including traveling and the possibility of further higher education. Hopefully, a trip to the 2025 Comanche Nation Fair is in the cards, too.

Job Placement & Training Student of the Month Sierra Pichardo



Courtesy Photo

Pichardo
Sierra Pichardo is a 26-year-old proud member of the Comanche Nation and a dedicated student of voice writing, currently pursuing a career in court reporting. Her passion for justice and communication drives her commitment to excellence in her studies.

Pichardo credits her success to both her hard work and the unwavering support of her tribe. Grateful for the opportunity to pursue her education, she is building a future rooted in purpose and service.

Pichardo aspires to one day give back to her community and tribe by using her expertise and determination to help strengthen her people's future, to create lasting opportunities, and to inspire others to pursue their dreams with unwavering pride and perseverance.

Environmental Program Round Robin

The Comanche Nation Office of Environmental will be hosting a Round Robin, at Geronimo, Okla., south of town hall, from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. on June 24-26.

The Environmental Program will be accepting:

- Tires up to 24 in (25 tires per vehicle)
- Aluminum
- Cardboard
- E-waste (no TV's)
- Metal (includes household appliances)
- Bulk Items
- Paint
- Batteries
- Shred event:

Join The Environmental Program for a secure shredding opportunity where you can bring your confidential documents for professional destruction. *In partnership with Iron Mountain Shredding Company.* Ensure your sensitive information is safely disposed of!

For more information contact The Comanche Nation Office of Environmental Program at (580) 492-3754.

Native Spirit Project Beaded Earrings Workshop

The Native Spirit Project Suicide Prevention Program will be hosting a Beaded Earrings Workshop for Beginners.

Learn how to create your very own beaded earrings! All supplies will be provided. Spots are limited.

12 p.m. - 4 p.m., June 7 or 14 at 807 SW “F” Ave., Lawton, Okla.

For more information call (580) 357-3449.

Office of Environmental Programs

The Comanche Nation Office of Environmental Programs (CNOEP) welcomed the community for a day filled with fun, learning, and creativity.

The Caddo Nation Environmental kicked things off by sharing some facts about wildfires, and the Ft. Sill Apache Environmental Program had their water demonstration—it

was a huge hit with the kids.

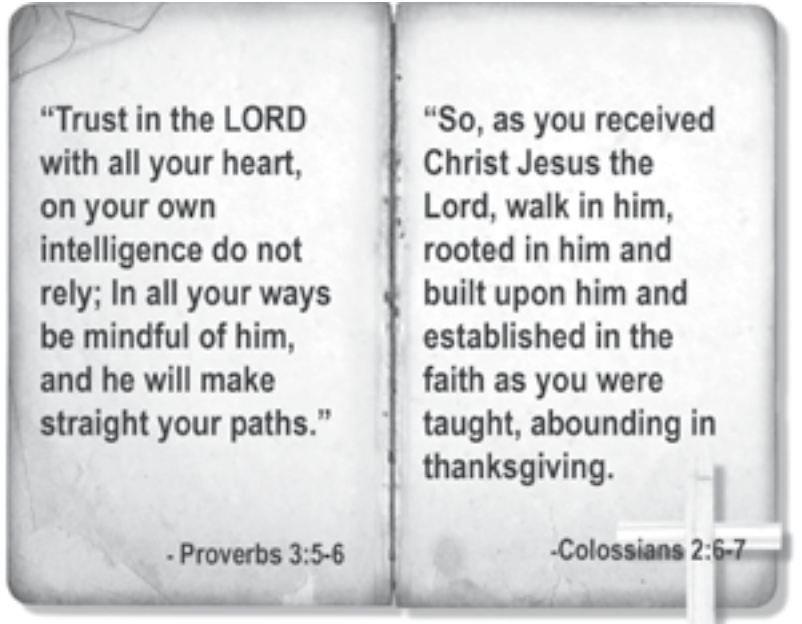
The CNOEP wanted to teach the little ones just how precious the planet is, and the kids got to dive into some creative crafts, including making rain-sticks, decorating kites, and personalizing their very own ceramic bugs.

The Environmental Program's interactive activities were a blast. Huge thanks to the Comanche Youth Program for helping the kids pot their own seeds, and to the Comanche Language Dept. for the fun natural beaded bracelets—the bracelets looked amazing, and the staff

couldn't get enough. The Delaware Nation CHR—life size Connect 4 was the perfect way to wake everyone up before lunch.

To cap off this day, the students got creative by decorating our new recycle trailer. The CNOEP can't wait to see the fantastic artwork around the neighborhood. There were two winners whose designs will be featured on the trailer.

Thank you to Comanche Realty for their generous support.



COMANCHE NATION PREVENTION & RECOVERY OUTPATIENT SERVICES

SUMMER Bash

SATURDAY JUNE 21, 2025 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM

RESOURCES FOOD + FUN AND MORE!

CNPR OUTPATIENT SERVICES OFFICE 807 SW "F" AVE. LAWTON, OK 580-357-3449

This is a free event open to the community. Comanche Nation Prevention & Recovery Outpatient Services is not a sober center. No alcohol, drugs, or sharp tools are allowed at this event. Alcohol, drugs, and weapons are strictly prohibited on the premises. For more information, please contact us at 580-357-3449.

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

Comanche Nation Department Partnerships:

- Comanche Academy Charter School
- National Forest Foundation
- Office of Environmental Programs
- U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service
- Youth Program

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

Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

JUNE 2025

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

Healthy Grilling with Food Distribution Staples

Grilling is a fun, flavorful way to enjoy healthy meals, especially when using pantry-friendly ingredients! Here are easy ways to create balanced, nutritious meals using items available through your food distribution programs.

1. Choose Lean Proteins

Grill-ready options from your pantry:

- **Frozen Chicken Breast** - Marinate with olive oil and spices.
- **Canned Tuna** - Make tuna patties or grill in wraps.

ties or grill in wraps.

- **Ground Bison or Beef** - Create lean burgers or skewers.
- **Stew Meat** - Great for Kabobs!

Tip: A serving size is 3-4 oz of cooked meat.

2. Load up on Veggies

Grill or wrap these in foil packets:

- **Fresh Veggies** - Many of the Fresh Veggies at your sites are great on the grill!

Tip: Toss with olive oil and herbs for extra flavor!

- **Canned Veggies** - Canned Veggies can be used on the grill also!

Foil packs are perfect for grilling canned veggies-they lock in flavor and make cleanup a breeze. Just drain and dry the veggies, toss them with oil, seasonings, and maybe a pat of butter or a splash of vinegar, then wrap them in a foil pouch (double layer if you want extra durability)0> Grill over medium heat for about 10-15 minutes, flipping once halfway through. The foil traps steam and lets the veggies soak up smoky grill flavor while staying tender and juicy. Great for combos like corn with bell peppers or potatoes with onions and

herbs!

3. Smarter Sides and Toppings

Skip the heavy sauces. Use:

- **Reduce-Fat American Cheese Slices** - Top burgers or wraps.
- **Whole Grain Tortillas** - Wrap grilled fillings or make quesadillas.
- **Macaroni (enriched or whole grain)** - Pasta salad with canned veggies and light dressing.
- **Tomato sauce or Diced Tomatoes** - Create healthy grill-friendly sauces.

Tip: Swap mayo-heavy sides for

light vinaigrettes or yogurt-based dressings.

4. Sweet Ending: Grilled Fruit

Naturally sweet options:

- **Canned Peaches, Pears, or Mixed Fruit (light syrup)** - Grill in foil, add cinnamon.
- **Frozen Blueberries or Strawberries** - Use in yogurt parfaits or grilled fruit crisps.

Tip: Grilled fruit is a delicious, no-added sugar dessert.

Answers on Page 17

Let's Have A Picnic

Unscramble these Comanche Jumbles to form words related to the theme above.

#1 UAHUASWO

#2 IUSONP

#3 UIHK

#4 UHPKTAU

#5 PUIUH

#6 AHUWAN

#7 K7RYOWOAO

#8 HIPABHUNI

#9 EATB

Comanche JUMBLE

They always march in uninvited and carry off the goods!

Arrange the circled letters to form the mystery answer, as suggested by the caption in the cartoon.

MYSTERY ANSWER

WORD BANK

SONIPU (GRASS)
WANAHU (BLANKET)
SUNU AAWO (BASKET WOVEN OF WILLOW)
TUNKAPU (FOOD)
HUKI (SHADE)
TABA (SUN)
HUUPI (TREE)
WEYAKOROO (BUTTERFLY)
PUHIBIHA (WATERMELON)

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55th Annual Comanche Little Ponies Mother’s Day Celebration

Story by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On May 10, the Comanche Little Ponies held its 55th Annual Mother’s Day Pow-wow at the Comanche County Fairgrounds in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Comanche Little Ponies Princess Graison Yellowfish passed the crown of being princess to Arlene Schonchin.

“It’s a bittersweet moment,” she said. “It’s like I’ve been with them for a long time. They’ve like basically been with me my entire high school career. And I’ve grown to love all these people in the society, but I’m also...leaving, and I’m starting. It’s like a new page in my life.”

Yellowfish has been with the Little Ponies for three years and enjoys the pow-wows.

“I would say going to all the pow-wows that we’ve been to, I was able to meet a whole bunch of people, and I have lifelong friends definitely that I’ve met at these pow-wows,” she said. “So, I would say the pow-wows, that would be my favorite part of going.”

Yellowfish said she’s used the time to embrace her culture.

“Before I became princess, I was definitely one of the shy kids that didn’t like to talk about my culture,” she said. “But now it’s like, it’s my favorite thing to do is talk about my culture to my friends.”

Yellowfish wanted to thank everyone who supported her.

Schonchin said it felt amazing to be crowned.

“My mom’s a part of it. My *tsa tsas* and grandpa were a part of it. My brother just got inducted yesterday,” she said. “My family’s always been a part of this. Its the oldest society our tribe has and I am honored to represent it.”

Schonchin said she wants to get the youth involved.

“I want to get our kids back into the arena because just yesterday I danced with these two, my friend’s two little sisters and I gave them shawls and they danced with me all last night, and it just felt so amazing that I brought them into the arena,” she said. “And knowing that they’re gonna carry on with these dances, and they come to our youth dancer practices to learn, too. So, it just felt good like bringing in these girls because they’re gonna dance for the rest of their lives.”

Schonchin said she wants to represent the society in the best way that she can.

“Knowing that I get to represent my families and all the other Little Ponies families feels so amazing,” she said.

She is proud of Yellowfish for her time with the Little Ponies.

Comanche Little Ponies Vice Chairman Benny Tahmahkera said it was a great event that took a year to plan.

“It’s a great time that we do our annual, you know, it’s held on Mother’s Day weekend, and we have people from you know across the na-



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Newly crowned Comanche Little Pony Princess, Arlene Schonchin, is presented to the crowd while tribal member Bill Volker and Schonchin’s family admire the blessing the new princess receives from an eagle from the SIA Program.

tion that come to our pow-wow,” he said. “We’ve had actually we have somebody here this weekend they’re from Germany and they come and they asked a little if they could you know film they’re doing a documentary and they wanted some Little Pony input on it and they’re here but it’s a great feeling to have people interested you know across the globe that are interested in the Comanche Little Ponies and they come. We have people from New Mexico. There’s a gourd dance society that’s here today. I believe they brought about 45 of their dancers. I mean, and that’s just, I think it’s just a mutual respect that we do.”

Tahmahkera said he joined

over 20 years ago.

“Well growing up you know I’ve always I loved the gourd dance and gourd dance is just one of those dances you know go out and as a child you know I came into the arena and started dancing but I wasn’t officially inducted into the Comanche Little Ponies until 2003,” he said. “I just came back from my first deployment in Iraq, and Little Ponies were out in Orange County, California, and I was stationed in Camp Pendleton, and I went to the pow-wow, and

they asked me if I wanted to join the Little Ponies.”

Tahmahkera said he enjoys giving back to the community.

“And you know it’s an honor to represent,” he said. “You know, we dance for the people that can’t dance. We’d like to, you know, just congregate and socialize with everybody that we can.”

Tahmahkera said they try to expand and do better each year.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Erin Chibitty served as the Head Lady Dancer for the Comanche Little Ponies 55th Annual Mother’s Day Celebration.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Ronald Monoessy Jr. served as Head Man Dancer for the Comanche Little Ponies 55th Annual Mother’s Day Celebration.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Comanche Little Pony incoming princess Arlene Schonchin and Comanche Little Pony outgoing princess Graison Yellowfish, before the official crowning of the new Comanche Little Pony princess.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Comanche tribal veteran, active duty, Alyssa Nevaquaya carrying the eagle staff during the Grand Entry of the Comanche Little Ponies Annual Mother’s Day Celebration.



Former princesses of the Comanche Little Ponies participate in the Grand Entry May 10, at the 55th Annual Mother’s Day Celebration. Pictured from left: Chelsea Sapcutt, Nicole Brewer Reyna, Ellen Tahahwah and Isa Belle PoorBuffalo.

Honoring Our Ancestors: *Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith*

The Yellowfish Descendants held a powwow May 24, at Watchetaker Hall, Comanche Complex

Submitted by Bointy, K. (2025, April 27)/ Oral Attocknie and Yellowfish family history

Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith (translated in English Yellow Fish) is a distinguished figure among the Numunu. Originally from the *Kwahada* - Antelope Eaters Band of Comanches, known for their radical lifestyle on the Southern Plains.

In his youth, *Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith* participated in the Second Battle of Adobe Walls, a pivotal moment in our people’s history. He survived this significant conflict and returned home, where he would influence the generations to come.

The song he composed and sang on his return is still sung today, commonly referred to as ‘Adobe Walls’ it is described as a solemn march, and serves as a powerful reminder of the bravery of those who fought that day, and the heart ache that represented an end of an era for our people.

Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith, lived in a time of great change for Indian people, transitioning from the free nomadic lifestyle he experienced as a young boy to the challenges of the reservation and allotment eras. Throughout his life, he is remembered not only as a warrior but also as an intellectual, a gifted song maker, singer, flute player and historian. His contributions to today’s *Numu* culture and traditions are invaluable, helping preserve the stories and songs that now define our identity.

Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith, upheld the traditions of his father’s time until the reservation period... which allowed for multiple wives. He wed two sisters, when the government agents came, they forced him to choose only one wife; leading him to select the younger sister, *Thauma-voyah*, who had more children. Both lived long lives together, raising their combined surviving children: Isa, Wiley, Ada, Timothy, and his nephew Scott. He married into the *Yaparuh-ka* band and settled in what is now Apache, Oklahoma, where many of his descendants still live today.

In his later years, *Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith* found fellowship as a founding member of the Cache Creek Mission. He embraced the new faith while still fiercely holding onto his traditional practices.

A portion of his original allotment was gifted to the town of Apache, which is home to the current park. In the 1970s, when the 21 grandchildren of *Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith* organized themselves as the Yellowfish Descendants, who held our dances at Apache City Park, located on this historic Yellowfish land.

Join the family in celebration of this true Comanche warrior, Let us remember his legacy and the profound impact he has had on Comanche people, ensuring that his story continues to inspire and resonate within their hearts.

Udah MessaSutai



Courtesy Photo

Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith and family



Cottalene Deer steps to the beat of the drum during Scalp Dance at the Yellowfish Descendants Powwow.



Corey Satepauhoodle gives a war cry during the straight dance contest at the Yellowfish Descendants Powwow held May 24 at the Comanche Nation Complex.



Photos by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Yellowfish descendants are honored May 24 at their family powwow, following the lowering of the flag of Edward Yellowfish, US Army.



TOP: Women participate in the Victory Dance with scalp staffs at the Yellowfish Descendants Powwow held May 24 at the Comanche Nation Complex.

LEFT: Billy Pewo Jr. stops on time during the Fancy Dance Contest at the Yellowfish Descendants Powwow May 24.

Donald Chasenah served as Head Gourd Dancer for the Comanche Little Ponies 55th Annual Mother’s Day Celebration.

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Military News

Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/CIVA

Eighth Vietnam War Veterans Inducted Into the Oklahoma Military Hall Of Honor

There are 17 Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor Chapters throughout Oklahoma. In February 2025 the Treadwell-Poolaw Hall of Honor Chapter was established with Retired Army Sergeant Major Lanny Asepermy, of Apache, as the Ambassador. The Chapter was named in honor of Snyder native, COL Jack Treadwell, a World War II Medal of Honor recipient and 1LT Pascal Poolaw, a native of Apache – Poolaw is the most decorated American Indian as he received four Silver Stars and three Purple Hearts for his combat service during World War II, the Korean and Vietnam Wars. He was killed in action in November 1967 in Vietnam.

On May 17, seven Comanche Nation and one non-tribal member were inducted into the Oklahoma Military Honor of Honor. The Induction Ceremony took place at Watchtaker Hall on the Comanche Nation Complex.

The Hall of Honor was established in May 2023 – with the new inductees there are 119 Oklahoma veterans in the Hall. There are about 244,000 living veterans from Oklahoma making induction into the Hall very prestigious.

Retired Army COL Kelly Zachgo, President of the Oklahoma Military Heritage Foundation (OMHF), and CPT John Farris, Ambassador with the OMHF made the presentations as part of the CIVA Armed Forces Day Banquet. The OMHF was founded in 1999 - it noted that COL Zachgo is the first female veteran elected as President of the OMHF.



Courtesy Photo

OKMHOH Inductees sitting left to right SP4 Paul Tate Sr.; MSG Wilbur Ellis; CPT Johnny Tiddark; Sgt Lucien Looking Glass; standing left to right, OKMHF Ambassador CPT John Farris; OMHF President COL Kelley Zachgo; CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie; Cpl Philip Rogers Sr.; and SGT Richard Ortiz. Not in photo SGT William Waddle and SFC Ellis Briggs.

The inductees were Army (1953-78) Master Sergeant Wilbur “Duke” Red Elk Ellis from El Reno, Okla. Army (1953-78) MSG Ellis is a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge; Army (1960-82) Sergeant First Class Ellis Edwin “Ed” Briggs from Fletcher, Okla. SFC Briggs served two tours in Vietnam and was awarded the Bronze Star with Valor device and Combat Infantryman Badge; Marine Corps (1961-67) Sergeant Lucien “Jimmy” Looking Glass from Shiprock, N.M. Sgt Looking Glass is a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star with/Combat Distinguishing Device, Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon; Army Captain Johnny Tiddark from Forney, Texas. CPT Tiddark is a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star with/Valor Device and Combat Infantryman Badge; Army (1966-68) and Texas Army National Guardsman (1975-79) Specialist Four Paul Tate Sr. from Fort Cobb, Okla. SP4 Tate Sr. is a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge; Marine Corps (1967-69) Corporal Philip Rogers Sr. from Kyle, Texas. Cpl Rogers Sr. is a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Marine Corps Commendation medal with/Combat Distinguishing Device, Purple Heart

and Combat Action Ribbon; Army (1966-69) Sergeant William Melvin “Bill” Waddle from Halifax, Va. SGT Waddle is a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge; and Army (1967-69) Sergeant Richard Tiddark Ortiz from Owasso, Okla. SGT Ortiz is a Vietnam War veteran who was awarded the Bronze Star With/Valor Device. SGT Waddle was unable to attend – his brother 1LT Michael Waddle, from Berryville, AR, accepted the honors for him. SFC Briggs, due to medical issues, was honored at his home east of Fletcher.



Courtesy Photo

Clara Yazzie, John Farris, Michael Waddle and Kelly Zachgo.



Courtesy Photo

Linda Briggs, Ed Briggs, Clara Yazzie, Kelly Zachgo and John Farris.



Courtesy Photo

QOV honorees seated from left to right Sgt Emilio Alfaro; PFC Darren Asepermy; CPT Cloyce Choney; Cpl Philip Rogers Sr.; standing left to right; Linda Stewart (QOV Group Leader); Vera Williamson (QOV Helper); Lanny Asepermy; Clara Yazzie (CIVA Princess); and Mari Grant (QOV Presenter); not in photo SFC Ellis Briggs.

The Quilts of Valor (QOV) four Veterans foundation from the Weatherford, Okla., also presented QOV's to Cpl Philip Rogers; SFC Ellis Briggs (who was presented his QOV at his home east of Fletcher Okla., due to medical issues); Army Captain Cloyce “Chuck” Choney from Shawnee, Okla., a Vietnam War veterans and recipient of two Bronze Stars with/Valor Device and two Purple Hearts; Space Force Sergeant Emilio Alfaro from Lawton, Okla.; and Oklahoma Army National Guardsman Private First Class Darren Asepermy from Apache, Okla.

Air Force Sergeant and Vietnam War veteran Roger Tahauno, from Fletcher, Okla., is the Commander of the CIVA. 184 people were in attendance for the event.

Comanche Indian Veterans Association Veterans The First to Fall

PFC Johnnie Rivas on June 6, 1944, at Normandy, France.

SGT Melvin “Hawkeye” Myers on June 14, 1944 at Normandy, France. Both members of the 82nd Airborne Division.

Fallen Warriors of the Comanche Nation

PFC Johnnie Rivas, World War II, 82nd Airborne Division, Army - Europe. Killed in action June 6, 1944. **SGT Melvin Myers**, World War II, 82nd Airborne Division, Army - Europe. Killed in action June 14, 1944. **PVT Eli Hosetosavit**, World War II,

634th Tank Destroyer Bn, Army - Europe. Killed in action August 1, 1944. **PVT Ben Trevino**, World War II, 9th Infantry Division, Army - Europe. Killed in action August 3, 1944.

PFC Thomas Chockpoyah, World War II, 83rd Infantry Division, Army - Europe. Killed in action August 7, 1944.

PFC Gilbert Vidana, World War II, 4th Infantry Division, Army - Europe. Killed in action September 16, 1944. **PVT Henry Kosechata**, World War II, 138th Engineer Combat Battalion, Army - Pacific. Died of wounds May 1, 1945.

PFC Henry Conwoop, World War II, 25th Infantry Division, Army - Pacific. Died of wounds May 3, 1945.

LtCol Meech Tahsequah, Korean War, 3rd Maint & Spt Squadron, Air Force - Korea.

CPL Dennis Karty, Korean War, 2nd Infantry Division, Army - Korea.

PFC Russell Pesewonit, Vietnam War, 3rd Marine Division, USMC - Vietnam.

Cpl Robert Pahcheka, Vietnam War, 1st Marine Division, USMC - Vietnam.

Cpl Joshua Ware, Iraq War, 1st Marine Division, USMC - Iraq.

Comanche Veterans that Died While on Active Duty

Teddy Tahsuda, Army Air Force. Died February 23, 1943, in hotel fire in Hobbs N.M.

Chester Tieyah, Army. Died July 9, 1950, in military vehicle accident in Japan.

Anthony Tahsequah, Army. Died November 23, 1983, in auto accident in Oklahoma.

Richard Wichita, Navy. Died August 3, 2001, in auto accident in Virginia.

William Kerchee, Navy. Died January 20, 2007, by a drunk driver in Italy.

Forrest Sunrise, Army. Died January 1, 1944, in training accident in England.

James Chockpoyah, Navy. Died in auto accident.

Wendell Weryackwe, Marine Corps. Died June 7, 1954, in Korea, cause of death unknown.

Elbert Vidana, Army. Died September 9, 1955, in auto accident in Germany.

Robert Burgess Rosemark, Air Force. Died December 1985.

Albino Badillo, Air Force. Died February 17, 1976, from unknown illness.

Funerals from Memorial Day 2024 to Memorial Day 2025

Robert Short, Marine Corps, August 15, 2024

Brain Fink, Army, August 16, 2024

Charles Hernasy Jr., Army, August 22, 2024

William “Bill” Harris, Army, September 23, 2024

Lonnie Poco, Navy, November 4, 2024

Ferrell Kosechata, Army, November 20, 2024

Ricky Arterberry, Air Force, January 10, 2025

Samuel Allen, Navy, January 11, 2025

John Parker, USMC, January 28, 2025

Leonard Poco, USMC, February 27, 2025

In Memory to Those that Served “Above and Beyond”



Courtesy Photo

SSG George Red Elk
Silver Star
Army - Vietnam War
January 29, 1948
April 19, 2023



Courtesy Photo

PVT Calvin Atchavit
Distinguished Service Cross
Army - World War I
June 20, 1893
October 9, 1943



Courtesy Photo

MSgt Edward Louis Clark
Silver Star
Marine Corps - World War II
April 19, 1914
February 28, 2002



Courtesy Photo

SGT Lee Toquothty
Silver Star
Army - Korean War
September 7, 1930
May 10, 2006



Courtesy Photo

Yazzie

Clara Tee-Ohmo Yazzie is the 14 year old daughter of Darrel and Roxie Yazzie. She will be a Freshman at Elgin High School starting the Fall semester 2025.

Yazzie is a National All-State Choir member and All-Regional Honor Band clarinet player.

She comes from a long line of veterans that include her father, and both grandfathers.

Yazzie considers it a honor to represent and serve all Comanche veterans as the CIVA Princess.



Courtesy Photo

SIGNING DAY. Congratulations to Comanche tribal member Tatum Howlingwater, a Senior at Apache High School, who signed with the Oklahoma Women's Academy OKC basketball on April 30. She is the daughter of Jerome Howlingwater.

People, Places and Things Happening

Figuroa Inducted into Hall of Fame



Courtesy Photo

Figuroa
Michael R Figuroa was inducted as one of Santa Fe South Charter School's Inaugural Hall of Fame staff at a banquet held in Oklahoma City.

Figuroa was a teacher, coach and a principal for the middle school. Michael continues to add to his 26 years in the educational field teaching Native students at a correctional facility.

The stories that his now adult former students told were fun to hear because encouraged them to finish school on pace and to continue making education a part of their life plan. A former student and now teacher who introduced Michael and gave his bio said that his influence and example taught her to never stop learning and to not give up even if it looks like you won't finish. One very grateful parent expressed how he helped her depressed son stay alive during some extra intense days by encouraging and holding him accountable for his actions and for that she was so thankful. She said that her son is still thriving and striving to better himself today.

Figuroa's family also attended and honored him by placing a Comanche blanket on him for his dedication, hard work and because we love him and are so proud of his accomplishments. Michael's family includes four more current teachers, one Principal and one sister who teaches special need students. His mom and another sister are also former educators.

Today Figuroa is still working in the education field by helping state inmates achieve their educational goals so when they are released and re-enter society, they have a chance to stay out of the state

correctional system. Most of his students are Native Americans and Michael is proud to help them achieve goals they have set for their betterment.

Tehauno Inducted in the National Honor Society



Courtesy Photo

Tehauno
Angel Tehauno, a sophomore at Shawnee High School in Shawnee, Oklahoma, was inducted into the National Honor Society on Thursday, April 24. He is the son of Trisha Tehauno; the grandson of Vernon Tehauno Jr. and the late Harriet Tehauno, and great-grandson of the late Vernon Tehauno Sr. and Patsy Sankadota Tehauno.

In addition to his academic achievements, Tehauno is a dedicated student-athlete who plays basketball for Shawnee High School. He consistently demonstrates excellence both on the court and in the classroom, exemplifying outstanding academic performance, leadership, character, and commitment to service

Rogers Named Valedictorian of his Class



Courtesy Photo

Rogers
Tyrus C. Rogers is the valedictorian of his class at Coronado High School in Lubbock, Texas, graduating with an outstanding GPA of 4.84. He has participated in the National Honor Society, UIL Number Sense, Literary Criticism, and Computer Science. Rogers has earned

multiple awards throughout all four years of high school for his participation in UIL competitions, placing from 1ST to 3RD place across various events.

In addition to his academic achievements, Rogers is a talented violist, performing with the Coronado High School Orchestra, as well as the All-Region High School Philharmonic and Symphonic Orchestras.

He has been accepted to several prestigious universities, including:

- Yale University
- Columbia University
- Rice University
- Tufts University
- Texas Tech University
- Colorado School of Mines

He has yet to make his final college decision.

Rogers is the beloved son of Kara Mahsetky-Rogers and Zachary Rogers, and brother to Emma Rogers. He proudly carries the name of his great-grandfather, Tyrus Mahsetky, and honors the legacy of his great-grandmother, Kathryn Mahsetky. He is also cherished by his Aunt Monica Mahsetky, Uncle Ronnie Mahsetky, and Great Aunt Mitzi Mahsetky.

Kester Accepted into Nuclear Pharmacy Internship program



Courtesy Photo

Kester
Analisa Kester, a first-year University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy student, has been accepted into the highly competitive Nuclear Pharmacy Internship program at RLS Radiopharmacies for summer 2025. RLS specializes in sterile compounding and dispensing radioactive pharmaceuticals that radiologists use for diagnostics and treatment.

"We are so proud of Analisa as she receives this well-deserved recognition," said Melissa Medina, dean of the College of Pharmacy. "It is a testament to the superior instruction she has received through the nuclear pharmacy program as well as her nuclear pharmacy knowledge, skills, and potential as a future nuclear pharmacist. We can't wait to see what Analisa accomplishes with this incredible opportunity."

As an intern, Kester will

work as a core team member and participate in hands-on training, including kit preparation, dose drawing, and quality control. She will expand her nuclear pharmacy knowledge, allowing her to share these techniques with her peers.

"When I was introduced to RLS and heard they were offering an internship, I thought this would be the perfect opportunity to combine my love for chemistry and medicine and see the wonderful things they can create," said Kester. "I think being able to have the experience with this type of medicine will open doors for me that I could not even imagine."

After she graduates, Kester would like to pursue a career in Indian Health Services. She is a member of the Comanche Tribe and wants to help those in her community. She received her Bachelor of Forensic Science and Bachelor of Chemistry degrees from the University of Central Oklahoma.

About the University of Oklahoma

Founded in 1890, the University of Oklahoma is a public research university located in Norman, Oklahoma. As the state's flagship university, OU serves the educational, cultural, economic and health care needs of the state, region and nation. For more information about the university, visit www.ou.edu.

RedElk Nunez Earns Doctorate



Courtesy Photo

Nunez
Jennifer RedElk Nunez, the daughter of the late George and Fran Red Elk, has earned her Doctorate Degree from the University of St. Augustine for Health Sciences. She is now known as Dr. Jennifer RedElk Nunez.

Mother and Daughter Graduate Together from the University of Oklahoma



Courtesy Photo

Cusic and Ruiz
In a heartwarming and historic moment, a mother and daughter—both proud members of the Comanche Nation—have graduated together with Master's Degrees from the University of Oklahoma. Their shared achievement is a powerful reflection of perseverance, cultural pride, and the enduring strength of family.

Jodi Ruiz earned her Master's degree in Clinical Mental Health Counseling on May 10. Her academic journey, marked by dedication and excellence, now places her among a growing community of Indigenous scholars making meaningful contributions in the field of mental health. Her success is a testament to the power of education and the support of strong family roots.

Her mother, Leslie Cusic, a First Generation graduate and equally inspiring, earned her Master of Education in Education Administration, Curriculum & Supervision on May 11. She is continuing her academic journey by entering the Doctor of Education in Education Administration program at the Jeanine Rainbolt College of Education at the University of Oklahoma. Leslie's pursuit of a doctorate reflects a lifelong passion for learning and a deep commitment to uplifting future generations through education and leadership.

Together, their accomplishments serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration, reminding us all of the transformative power of education and the enduring strength of Indigenous identity.

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The Comanche Nation News



TCNNPIO

Tribal Members Participate in "1923" Production

Story by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Several Comanche Nation Tribal Members worked on the series "1923," which was filmed in August in the Austin, Texas, area.

Moses Brings Plenty held a casting call at the Comanche Nation Tribal Complex for Comanches to be involved in the series.

Felix Hernandez, Modesto Schonchin, Elie Yazzie and Brantley Kerchee were extras and background characters. Ruth Toahly taught Comanche on set, and William Morgan Tosee helped create a scene. Aaron Nevaquaya was on set and played Comanche Warrior 1. However, others were also on set.

Hernandez said his favorite scene was in the second episode, where he had to play dead because it took fewer takes in production. He also enjoyed meeting new people.

"It was nice meeting new friends. Like, oh, there's this one friend named Lucane. He's the nicest. Like, he's my friend now," he said. "Like, I play the game with him sometimes and stuff, and I call him sometimes."

Schonchin said it was different being on set and representing through film.

"It felt cool representing my tribe, my family, my northern tribes, and all the Indian countries around the world just to represent that... we're still here," he said.

Schonchin's favorite scene

in the first episode is when the horse riders arrive at the Comanche camp.

"It felt exciting and new... since I've never experienced it, it was like, it was just a new experience for me because other ways that I represented the tribe was just dancing in front of people around the country," he said. "But I never did anything like that in front of cameras like that, directors, real actors, famous actors."

Yazzie said it was cool to be in "1923." He also enjoyed the camp scene.

"They...started shooting up the place," he said.

As for being on a Hollywood set...

"It was a different feeling," Yazzie said. "It was pretty awesome. I was pretty honored to be there."

Kerchee was also one of the horseback riders in the second episode.

"It felt unreal to actually be on a real movie set. It gave me an idea of how my Comanche people lived during that time period, especially with it being so hot," he said. "But dancing at powwows in my straight dance regalia in 110-degree temperature all summer long helped prepare me for the scenes."

Kerchee said his favorite scene was the nighttime scene in episode two.

"Because during the night scene, we tried to get revenge for



Courtesy Photo

William Morgan Tosee creates a set for "1923." The series had several Comanche actors.

killing the young Comanche boy and the Comanche men," he said. "And plus, it was emotional for my family because of what happened to me in that scene."

Toahly translated English to Comanche and taught some of the actors the native language.

"The men learned fast. But the lady was kind of frustrating at times, but she picked it up," she said. "...And they learned by putting my recording that I did, they put it at night, they put it in their ear and, sleep with it and listen to it. And then, when they go about doing their chores, they heard it all the time. To where when we got there, they had come to my trailer, and they sit down and talk to me."

Toahly said some of the younger boys did well in learning.

shields and lances.

"What I've been around at home and how we do at home and how I listen to my elders, my folks talk about things like that," Tosee said. "I said, I just kind of imagined, pictured it and used things like we do here at home and how we would camp out."

Nevaquaya said it was a unique experience.

"There were so many crew members working together to make this show a success," he said.

Nevaquaya also interacted with Mo Brings Plenty and Dougie Hall.

"Riding horses on set was a highlight because I was able to show my horsemanship skills," he said. "I was on horseback majority of the day filming."

Nevaquaya said it's important for the youth to be on set.

"...Because many times in film, Comanches are portrayed by non-Comanches. We too can represent ourselves in TV and film," he said. "It's just as important for Comanches working behind the scenes, helping with the language on the script and building the scenery for the show. To authentically represent our culture as well as our way of life."

Paramount Plus released the second season of "1923" on the Paramount Network.

72ND ANNUAL
COMANCHE HOMECOMING
CELEBRATION
COMANCHE HOMECOMING PRINCESS: JASMINE POEMOCEAH



SPECIAL INVITATION TO COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS: BLUE SKY TOSEE.
SPECIAL INVITATION TO COMANCHE NATION JR: PRINCESS: ARLENE SCHONCHIN

HEAD EMCEES:
MARTIN FLORES & LOUIE POHAWPATCHOKO

HEAD SINGER (EVENING SESSION):
RONALD MONOSSEY JR.

HEAD SINGER (AFTERNOON SESSION):
FRANK SWIFT

HEAD GOURD DANCER:
VICKI SANDERS

HEAD LADY (EVENING SESSION):
ARENA DIRECTORS:
LARNEY SILVERHORN, TRAVIS COOTYNAH & CHARLES TAHNAH

CO-HOST:
WALTERS SERVICE CLUB & CIVA

COLOR GUARD:
KCA VETERANS ASSOCIATION

HONORED VETERANS:
FRIDAY - PAUL TATE JR.
SATURDAY - FRANKIE PATTERSON
SUNDAY - CLIFFORD OTOTIVO JR.

RAISING & LOWERING OF FLAGS:
COMANCHE INDIAN VETERANS ASSOCIATION

YETTERAN FLAGS TO BE FLOWN:
COMANCHE CODE TALKERS

HONORED ELDERS:
FRIDAY - THERESA LOPEZ
SATURDAY - SUSAN PARKER
SUNDAY - MARGIE OBERLY

JULY 18TH, 19TH, & 20TH, 2025
LIVE FROM SULTAN PARK, WALTERS, OKLAHOMA
HONORING THE COMANCHE CODE TALKERS
OF WW1 & WW2



COMANCHE REFORMED CHURCH
JUNE 17-19, 6-8 PM
VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

MISSION: TO SHARE AND STUDY GOD'S WORDS AND TEACHINGS WITH OUR CHILDREN, PARENTS, AND CHURCH FAMILY

GROUPS:
• PreK & Grade 1
• Grades 2 & 3
• Grades 4 & 5
• Grades 6 & older will assist
• Adults - Leader Elder Rivera

CONTENT AREAS:
• Bible Lesson/Arts & Crafts
• Music
• Recreation/Snacks
• Adult Class

201 NW MISSION BLVD. LANTON, OK



"Let the little children unto me"
Matthew 19:14

For more information, email the church at ComancheReformed@gmail.com



SAVE THE DATE
COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES
TRADITIONAL GOURD DANCE
SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON
MAVERICK ACTIVITIES CENTER, ARLINGTON, TX

All Singers and Dancers are cordially invited to join the Comanche Little Ponies for a Historic Event, commemorating the renewal of Comanche Culture & Traditions in TEXAS.
The Event is FREE and Open to the Public.

Cedar Ceremony at Noon (Open to Everyone)
Gourd Dance 1:00 pm
Supper Break 5:00 pm
Scalp & Victory Dance 6:00 pm
Gourd Dance 7:00 pm
Host Organization Special 9:00 pm

Head Staff and Arts & Crafts Vendor
Information TBA

Not Responsible for Accidents, Theft or Injuries. Absolutely NO Alcoholic Beverages Allowed. Security on Premises.
For more information contact Laurel White laurelwhite@comanche.org





Poemoceah Family Special

Fancy War Dance Contest
Friday night of 72nd Annual Comanche Homecoming July 18-20, 2025
Adults 18 & up
Invited Drum for contest: Thunder Boy



1st - \$1,000
2nd - \$750
3rd - \$500
Consolation

For more information contact
George Tahdooshnippah: 580-512-6410 Edward Tahhahwah Jr.: 580-647-3185

Dear TCNN

Letters to the Editor



Courtesy Photos



Dear TCNN,

I want to share our experience at Paint Rock from March 19th to the 22nd, 2025

What a wonderful week we had! We arrived on Monday, the 17th, although the actual dig didn't begin until the 19th. By the time we got there, many archaeologists were present, including our own Comanche archaeologist, Mary Motah.

Because this was our third year attending and we had, in previous years, dug and sifted sand, we decided to help catalog our artifacts from the past two years. We separated artifacts into groups and laid them on paper with their corresponding labels, counted each type of item, and finally photographed and entered them into a database on a laptop before finally relabeling with their new corresponding labels of information we got from cataloging. It was all so very interesting to help document it all and be a part from beginning to end, and it helped us to learn and understand the process involved in the use of archaeology and preserving culture.

We saw many of our tribal members as we worked cataloging. We saw the children from the Comanche Academy with Crystal, Martina Minthorn and her staff from Comanche Nation Tribal Historic Preservation, Kathy Cardona and her staff from the Comanche Nation Language program, Fire/EMS from Comanche Emergency Services, our TA, Lisa Dawsey who brought two elders, Chairwoman of Elder Council, Rosalind Nauni and Elders Council Board member, Verna Ann Burgess among others who helped bring this Comanche group together.

Some of the others who support our involvement are, of course, the archaeologists, Eric Schroeder, Jeremy Elliot, Mary Motah, and our hostess, Leah Brosig. Leah has provided her Airbnb for this event year after year and also accommodates the guests who stay on her ranch, as well as the archaeologists and interns. There are many people involved.

On Wednesday evening, we had a speaker from the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford, England, named Fay, who showed us pictures of a shield and a buffalo hide upon which had been painted, that are in their possession. She said that it came from this area of the country a very long time ago and has been attributed to the Comanches. She said that there are many pieces in many museums throughout Europe. She also told us the process of having these items returned to our tribe, but first, we need a museum on our land with hired professionals like an archivist, a curator, technicians, and conservators who

make purple cactus jelly

On Sunday, we wrapped things up.

Every one of us should at least once go visit Paint Rock photographs. There is a feeling, a sense of belonging or coming home there that doesn't exist anywhere else. If you would like to go next year, you can contact Crystal at the Comanche Academy or Martina at the tribe. Let's get a big group lined up for next year's excavation.

Angela Garza



Courtesy Photo

Dear TCNN,

While shopping at Lowe's in Lawton, I saw a man also shopping. I asked if he was a contractor. Voila! The man answered he was! After chatting and sharing remodeling issues, I asked if the contractor could give me an estimate. He acknowledged and agreed to follow up with an estimate that very afternoon.

That contractor's name is Nery Olivares. Mr. Olivares owns Triple J. Remodeling company, located in Norman, Oklahoma. He has been in business for 5 years. Mr. Olivares has over 10 years of construction experience, building a total of 15 years. He has experience with a variety of constructions, remodeling, renovations, and design.

He is particularly familiar with various brands of fabrications and styles. He is insured, bonded, and licensed in the state of Oklahoma. He lives in Norman. My 20-year-old home was in dire need of remodeling. Triple J remodeled my kitchen and completely remodeled my bathroom. The final renovations were addressed on the home's exterior.

My home renovations included a variety of challenging tasks, labor, and effort. However, Triple J Remodeling was capable and qualified to perform an utterly satisfactory accomplishment. Triple J Remodeling's performance was acceptable for all home renovations, repairs, and remodeling jobs vital to my home at a reasonable cost.

Thank you, Triple J Remodeling, for going above and beyond to complete a job well done! If anyone needs a reputable and honest contractor, give Mr. Olivares a call at (405) 933-5315.

Finally, I want to thank the Comanche Tribe for approving and financially assisting in the completion of this job!

Jewell Laurenzana Tieyah

NEW BUSINESS

Lawton Business Becomes Comanche-Owned, Operated



Photo by Stacey Heminoksky/News Staff

Tim Johnson along with the Lawton/ Ft. Sill Chamber of Commerce, cut the ribbon on May 2, to officially open Classic Carpet. Johnson and his sister Shawna Garcia are the owners of the business.

By Natascha Mercadante /News Staff

In early April, Timothy Johnson, a majority owner of Classic Carpet, held a grand opening in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Johnson is in partnership with his sister, Shawna Garcia and recently purchased the company from a previous owner.

"So Classic Carpet has been a part of Lawton for over 20 years," he said. "It has had two previous owners, and I worked with the previous owner...Ethan Wyatt, and he gave me the opportunity to buy the business. He was a little overstretched, and he approached me and asked me if I was interested in buying it, and I was. And my construction company, Johnson and Sons, put me in position to buy this property."

Johnson said the company is a staple of Lawton.

"...And to have an

opportunity to keep something like that afloat and keep it part of the community is very important to me," he said. "And also, as a Native American entrepreneur, you know, it was a great opportunity for me to further my portfolio."

The company provides several flooring options, granite countertops and cabinets.

Johnson said he wants to set an example for his children.

"And for other family members who choose to follow in the footprints that I'm putting out as far as entrepreneurship and Native American entrepreneurship," he said.

Johnson's oldest sons work for him at his construction company, Johnson and Sons.

Classic Carpet is located at 1302 SW Sheridan Road and can be reached at (580) 354-9966.



Courtesy Photos



2025-2026 ROYALTY. Several Johnson O'Malley (JOM), schools and organizations crowned their princesses and braves for the 2025-2026 year. Clockwise from left: The Cache JOM Princess, Aalynn Codopony, and Brave, Joel Cable, were crowned March 30 at their annual powwow. The Kiowa, Comanche, and Apache (KCA) Veterans Organization crowned Mercedes Banderas on May 17, at their annual powwow. The Elgin JOM crowned their Jr. Brave, Nokoski Hawk Singleton, Jr. Princess, Talia Quiroga, Sr. Princess, Joycelyn Blodgett and Sr. Brave Dominique Komacheet during their annual spring powwow on April 12. The Comanche Academy Charter School held their annual powwow on May 3, and crowned it's Brave, Justin Negron and Princess, Amiah Phillips.

Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday

May 31 - Parker

Happy Birthday!



Happy 21st Birthday
Caden Tahbonemah
June 7

~ We love you bunches! From, Momma and Pops.



Happy Birthday
Hazel Jo
June 8

~ We love you so much! From, Momma and Daddy.



Happy Birthday
Ruger Rodriguez
June 8

~ Happy Birthday from your TT Andi, and TT Claudia.



Happy Birthday
Travis Clark Jr.
June 9

~ Happy Birthday TJ. We love you so much! From, Rachel, Ariane, and Kakoo.



Happy Birthday
Steven
June 10

~ We love you bunches! From, Momma and Pops.



Happy Birthday
Claudia Harrison
June 11

~ Happy Birthday, from your siblings.



Happy 1st Birthday
Taylor Rose-Ann Williams
June 18

~ XOXO Mom and Dad, Nivee Nahmi and Mimi.



Happy 17th Birthday
Qynn
June 23

~ Love, your family.



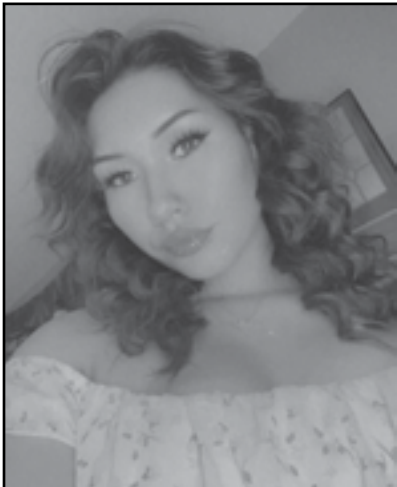
Happy 18th Birthday
Layla Harjo
June 25

~ We love you. Love, Dad, Mom, Derek and Ariyah.



Happy Birthday
Lisa Collins
June 26

~ Happy Birthday Boppy, We love you! From, sister, Ariane and Rachel!



Happy Birthday
Nita Janelle Tonips-Polite
June 26



Happy Birthday
Victoria
June 29

~ We love you and are so proud of you! From, Grandma Kakoo, Rachel and Ariane.

Petarsy Church

Free Men's Breakfast & Fellowship

8 a.m.

the 2nd Saturday of the Month
266 Little Bear Loop,
Richard's Spur

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Answers from Page 8

Let's Have A Picnic

Unscramble these Comanche Jumbles to form words related to the theme above.

#1 SHHU AAWO
S H H U A A W O

#2 SONIPH
S O N I P H

#3 HWKI
H W K I

#4 THKAPH
T H K A P H

#5 HUUPI
H U U P I

#6 WANAHU
W A N A H U

#7 WEZYAKOROO
W E Z Y A K O R O O

#8 PUHIBHNA
P U H I B I H N A

#9 TABE
T A I B E

Comanche JUMBLE

They always march in uninvited and carry off the goods!

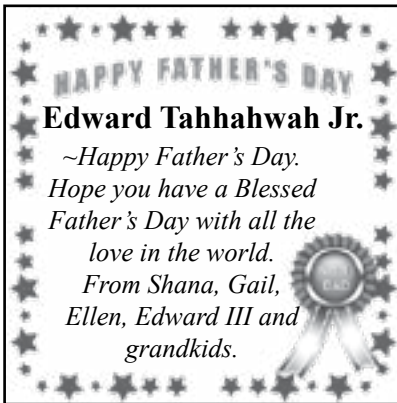
Arrange the circled letters to form the mystery answer, as suggested by the caption in the cartoon.

MYSTERY ANSWER

ANIKUURA

WORD BANK

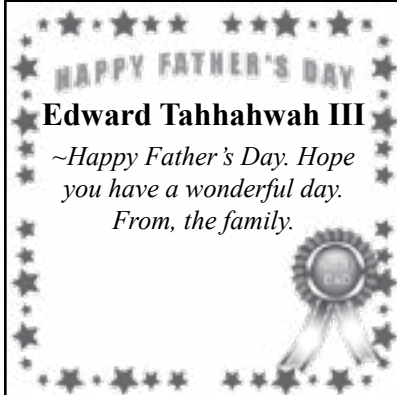
SONIPH (GRASS)
WANAHU (BLANKET)
SHHU AAWO (BASKET WOVEN OF WILLOW)
THKAPH (FOOD)
HWKI (SHADE)
TABE (SUN)
HUUPI (TREE)
WEZYAKOROO (BUTTERFLY)
PUHIBHNA (WATERMELON)



Edward Tahhahwah Jr.
~Happy Father's Day.
Hope you have a Blessed Father's Day with all the love in the world.
From Shana, Gail, Ellen, Edward III and grandkids.



Trenton Vanhowten
~Happy Father's Day: From Trithe.



Edward Tahhahwah III
~Happy Father's Day. Hope you have a wonderful day.
From, the family.



Cobb and Diana Laurenzana and Happy Birthday Cobb!
June 28
Celebrating 10 years of Marriage!



Happy Belated 2nd Birthday
Parker
May 31

~ We love you! From, Mom and Dad!

Obituaries

Liberty Marie Pahcheka



Courtesy Photo

Pahcheka
Liberty Marie Pahcheka, 41, of Santa Maria, California passed away on March 15. She was born on July 22, 1983, in Lawton, Okla. She attended school in Andrews, Texas, and later moved to Oklahoma, then California. Pahcheka was a proud military mom and proud grandmother. She was fearless and unapologetically honest. She was a good friend who never forgot to text or stop by for special occasions like birthdays or anniversaries. Pahcheka is survived by parents Dean Pahcheka and Kathy Rave; siblings Marilyn Pahcheka, Jacob Pahcheka, and Cookie Pahcheka; children Elijah Pahcheka, Anthony Zepeda, Adrian Zepeda, Nalani Pahcheka; granddaughter Izabela; special friend Tim Munoz who stayed by her side throughout her illness and Pete Zepeda Father to Anthony and Adrian.

Jessie Pewo



Courtesy Photo

Pewo
Jessie was born to Michael (Babe) Erwin Pewo & Rachel Mai Gonzales on November 27, 1986, in Lawton, Okla. She met her companion Carlos Vidal on June 26, 2019. She enjoyed watching movies, cooking, and going to the lake swimming, fishing, and have a good time. She was a proud member of the Comanche Tribe. She loved her family, friends and anyone she came into contact with. She is survived by her companion, Carlos Vidal; Mother: Rachael Gonzalez; maternal grandfather: Mike R. Gonzalez; Brothers: Erwin (Pogo) Michael Pewo, Montana Beaver; sister: Sarah Beaver; daughter: Raelyn (Rae-Rae) Mithlo; sons: Ronald (Ronnie) Mithlo, Tony Mithlo, and Michael Mithlo; aunt: Michelle Gonzalez, Uncle: Scotty Pewo and many other loving aunts, uncles, and cousins. She is preceded in death by her father: Michael Erwin Pewo; Paternal-Grandparents: John Allen and Dora Pewo; Maternal-Grandmother: Mai Cozad; uncle: John (Junebug) Pewo II; great -grandparents: Erwin and Jessie (Casas) Ware; Great-Grandmothers: Trinidad (Torres) Gonzalez and Juanita Bentley; cousin; John Pewo III (John-boy); as well as other grandparents from both Ware and Pewo families.

Briana Nicole Kaywaykla

Briana Nicole Kaywaykla went to her heavenly home on April 16. Kaywaykla was born to Kevin Anderson and Christine Kaywaykla on Octo-

ber 28, 1995, in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Kaywaykla was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma; and also carried the blood-line of the Apache Tribe. Kaywaykla loved to sing, dance, paint, and cook. Kaywaykla had the ability to illuminate a room with her personality and presence. She loved to make others feel beautiful; she found a way to do that through make-up and hair. Kaywaykla was a divine light within her family, her soul was beautiful. She embodied kindness, and would often put others before herself. Kaywaykla's departure to be with the creator is felt tremendously by her loving family and all those whom had a chance to know her. Kaywaykla is survived by siblings; Brittiany Kaywaykla, Gregory Ryan Kaywaykla, Ciara Kaywaykla, Devron Kaywaykla, Rashard Andrews and Lexus Kaywaykla; Grandmother: Winifred Pope; uncle: Jason Kaywaykla; Aunt: Rhonda Whitewolf; stepfather Gary Johnson. Kaywaykla is preceded in death by mother: Christine Kaywaykla; father: Kevin Anderson; maternal grandparent: William "Bill" Kaywaykla; aunt: Shirley Whitewolf; uncle: Frank Whitewolf.

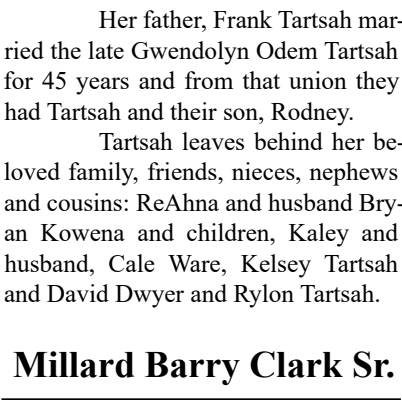
Kendra Tartsah



Courtesy Photo

Tartsah
With profound sadness, we say goodbye to Kendra Tartsah, Cache, whose vibrant spirit touched the lives of many. Tartsah left this world on April 30, at the age of 56 leaving a void in the lives of so many people. The past 30 years Tartsah lived and worked in Oklahoma City as a hairdresser. And later became an master instructor/teacher at the Oklahoma City Community College teaching students various beauty techniques; a job that she truly loved. Tartsah enjoyed life and had an adventurous spirit and traveled to Europe to join the "Camino de Santiago." It was there that she completed a walk of 500 miles and met various people from all over the world. In the past three years of Tartsah's life she left her job to move to Cache to become a caregiver of her aging father. During that timeframe she began to become ill and couldn't continue to care for her father. She moved to Carnegie to live with her aunt Lahoma and uncle Darin so they could care for Tartsah and her father. Her father, Frank Tartsah married the late Gwendolyn Odem Tartsah for 45 years and from that union they had Tartsah and their son, Rodney. Tartsah leaves behind her beloved family, friends, nieces, nephews and cousins: ReAhna and husband Bryan Kowena and children, Kaley and Michael, Cale Ware, Kelsey Tartsah and David Dwyer and Rylon Tartsah.

Millard Barry Clark Sr.



Courtesy Photo

Clark
Millard Barry Clark Sr., passed away on May 1, in Saint George, Utah, at the age of 71. Born on August 19, 1953, to Edward Louis Clark and Norma Gladys Rhoads. He was a proud member of Comanche Nation and of Cheyenne decent. Clark was a proud graduate of El Reno High School and attended Oklahoma Military Academy then went on to make an indelible mark in Native American music and culture. As the founder and owner-op-

erator of Indian Sounds Incorporated, Clark was one of the first Native American recording labels, a groundbreaking achievement that forever changed the landscape of Indigenous music. With a powerful blend of Cheyenne and Comanche heritage, he used his talents and vision to preserve, promote, and uplift Native voices across generations and genres. For nearly five decades, Clark was a driving force behind Native music's evolution firmly rooted in tradition while embracing modern innovation. He recorded and produced traditional tribal songs, powwow performances, and spiritual music, all while empowering young Native musicians to build careers using new recording technologies. He conducted panels at national conferences like the National Indian Education Association. Clark's voice and drumming were recognized throughout Indian Country. From his early recordings like, *Indian Chipmunks*, *Powwow songs from Oklahoma*, *Kiowa Flag Song*, and most notably *Let's 49* and Round dance songs with English lyrics to performances with the Southern Singers, Original Cache Creek Singers and Cozad family, O-Ho-Mah Lodge. He was a respected head singer and cultural ambassador. His label's catalog grew to include Zuni, Navajo, Kiowa, Sioux, Comanche, Northern Plains, and Christian Hymn music, along with language tapes, blues, poetry, and traditional ceremonial songs. Beyond his monumental career, Clark was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. Clark was more than a cultural pioneer he was a guardian of tradition, a visionary of sound, and a patriarch whose influence will resonate for generations. He is survived by his loving wife, Carmen Clark, of the home; his daughters Norma Cross and husband (Brent), Lysie Clark, and Morning-dove Clark; and his sons Norman L. Clark wife (Tara), Noah Clark, Sanaa Kennedy, and Kaisow Clark. He leaves behind his beloved grandchildren: Matthew, Mackenzie, Stephen, Joanna, Lacey, Leeandra, Isaac, and Elena; Great grandchildren: Samantha, Killman, Lozen, Matthew Jr., Zacariah, Jolyenne; he was also blessed with many adopted brothers, sisters, sons, daughters, aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews Clark preceded in death by his parents, Edward L. Clark and Norma Gladys Rhoads Clark, his brother Norman L. Clark, his sons Millard Jr., Edward "Eddie" Clark, and Shilkeem "Boo" Martineau; his daughter Mary Lynette Clark; and his granddaughter Samantha Clark. His spirit lives on in every song, every story, and every heartbeat of the drum. LET'S 49!

Walter Chrismon



Courtesy Photo

Chrismon
Walter Chrismon, was born on August 19, 1955, in Anadarko, Oklahoma, in Caddo County. Chrismon's parents were Junior Ray and Elizabeth Ellen Fife Chrismon. Chrismon was raised in Cyril, Oklahoma, and attended Cyril Public Schools. He graduated from Cyril High School in 1973. Following his high school graduation, Chrismon attended Cameron University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in 1978. Chrismon worked as a JH Baseball Coach for Cache Public Schools before he began his firefighting career with Wichita Falls Fire Department in 1981. In 1983, Chrismon began working for Lawton Fire Department and continued working until his retirement in 2008. After retirement, he returned to the workforce working for O'Reilly's before beginning work for

LTR Fastener and Supply in September of 2021.

Chrismon is preceded in death by his father and mother: Junior Ray and Elizabeth Ellen Chrismon. Chrismon is survived by girlfriend Linda Overall of Mustang; Son, Caleb and wife Terra Chrismon of Yukon; Granddaughters Rya, Cassidy, and Logan of Yukon; Daughter, Tiffany Chrismon and fiancé Micah Lomas, of Oklahoma City. Brothers Jack Chrismon of Benson, North Carolina; Darrell and wife Mary Chrismon of Cyril, Oklahoma; Donald and wife Monica Chrismon of Cyril, Oklahoma. Nieces and Nephews: 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 Kaly, Aric Evans and wife Jennifer, Sarah Vogler and husband Zach. Grand Nieces and Nephews: Chace Chrismon; Johnathan Pittman, Ryan & Selena Chrismon; John Paul Mahoney, Michael and Megan Chrismon; Nola, Camille, and Vivian Claborn; 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; Great Nieces: Hensley Brown & Aspen Abeyta

Billy Joe Bigbow Sr.



Courtesy Photo

Bigbow
Our dear dad, husband, papa, brother, elder and friend, Billy Joe Bigbow Sr. passed away peacefully on May 6, at the age of 91. He was born on August 20, 1933, to Joe and Mae (Codopony) Bigbow in Lawton, Oklahoma. Bigbow grew up and graduated from Indianhoma High School. He took part in FFA, basketball, baseball, along with other school activities. He was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma and was also of

Kiowa decent He married Rosemary Asetamy whom they had 3 children Karen, Susan, and Billy Jr. They raised their family in Indianhoma where Bigbow served as the substitute Ag teacher along with being a welder, masonry, and owner of Bigbow Hampshire Farm later known as Bigbow Club Lambs. He was married to Rosemary until her passing in 1994. Bigbow worked for Comanche County District 3 at Cache. Bigbow married Betty Bigbow they were married on March 7, 1997. Together they continued life in Indianhoma where Bigbow continued his love with sheep and livestock shows. Bigbow was greatly known, loved and respected throughout the sheep community. He spent his life raising prize winning show lambs. One of Bigbow's proudest moments was when his daughter Karen showed the Grand Champion Lamb with her Hampshire at the Tulsa State Stock show and his daughter Susan won reserved grand champion with her Suffolk in Oklahoma City. Bigbow won many showmanship and breed championships. And Bigbow's saddest moment was the passing of his daughter Karen, 2021. Bigbow was awarded honorary State Farmer by the State FFA. Bigbow had such a love for sheep shows and wanted any kid that wanted to show be able to, regardless of their ability to pay. He was a huge advocate for 4H and FFA for many years. If there was a sheep show you were guaranteed to see Bigbow there. He helped endless amounts of young showman, and always made sure to spread the word of God while doing so. He was best known for saying *"You Always Be Good to Everyone."* Bigbow was a member of the Post Oak Mennonite Brethren Church and then a member of the Indianhoma United Methodist Church with his wife Betty until his passing. He was a man of Faith and a lover of watermelon, but his love for his family, friends, and community were like no other. He always had a big smile on his face and a hug for everyone. Bigbow is survived by: wife of the home Betty Bigbow; sister Jo Ann Lambert; son Billy Bigbow Jr. and wife Marlys; daughter Susan Bigbow-Cameron; son in law Ted Kagle; Craig and Lennetta Davenport all of Indianhoma, Kari and Brian Robertson, and Dawn and Eddie Dodd all of Comanche,Texas, Shawn and Sharon Davenport of Elk City; grandchildren: Amber Bigbow-Roach, Missy Bigbow-Podoll, James and Alana Davenport, Clinton and Kyle Watts; Cody, Dylan, and Brandi Dodd; great grandchildren: Justice, Nicholas, Anthony, Taylor, Morgan, Camdyn, Ember, Sage, and Bailey; many close relatives and friends. Bigbow is preceded in death by: daughter, Karen Bigbow Kagle, spouse Rosemary Bigbow; parents Joe and Mae Bigbow; sisters Anna May Lonetree and Cody Sorrow.

This month's financial tip brought to you by
City NATIONAL BANK & TRUST
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Financial Goal: Mid-Year Review

June is a good time to take a look at the financial goals you have set to see how you are doing.

- Let's check your progress!**
- How much have you saved toward the goal?**
 - Are you on track to meet the goal?**
 - If you are on track, good job! Keep doing what you are doing!**
 - If you are a little behind, check the following:**
 - Can spending habits be adjusted?**
 - Has something unexpected happen?**
 - If so, that's ok! Adjust the goal, either the amount or the timeframe.**
 - Did you meet the goal?**
 - Awesome! Set a new goal and start working towards that.**
- Any progress on a goal is progress, even slow progress. Don't give up. Be willing to make adjustments as they need to be made. Making the adjustments will help you achieve the financial goal you set out to achieve.**



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**FRIDAYS &
SATURDAYS**
JUNE 6-28
7PM-11PM



**DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MIN TO
WIN \$100-\$1,000
COMANCHE CREDIT!**



RECEIVE 1 ENTRY FOR EVERY
50 POINTS EARNED 8AM-11PM

SIZZLING SUMMER SPECTACULAR *giveaway*

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
JUNE 6-JULY 26 • 8PM-MIDNIGHT

BE 1 OF 3 HOURLY WEEKLY WINNERS TO WIN
UP TO \$500 CASH OR UP TO \$200 COMANCHE
CREDIT - JUNE 6-JULY 25.



ON JULY 26 AT MIDNIGHT,
1ST PLACE GRAND PRIZE WINNER RECEIVES A 2025 RV,
2ND PLACE WINS CAMPING SUPPLIES AND
3RD PLACE WINS FISHING SUPPLIES.
HOURLY WINNERS THAT EVENING WIN UP TO
\$300 CASH OR UP TO \$200 COMANCHE CREDIT.

RECEIVE 1 ENTRY FOR EVERY 50 POINTS EARNED.
MANAGEMENT RESERVES ALL RIGHTS.



Photo of RV, camping and fishing supplies may
slightly differ from actual prizes.



JUNE



BURGER
of the month

**FRITO PIE
BURGER**



June Special: \$12.75

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