



Lords of the Plains

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Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

Wahi Mna (December) 2025



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

First Lieutenant Michel Waddle Inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The 2025 Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame took place on November 1 at the Embassy Suites Conference Center in Norman, Oklahoma. This was the 26 annual Banquet and Induction Ceremony.

Being inducted into The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame was First Lieutenant Michael Waddle, U.S. Army

Also, being inducted were Kiowa Code Talkers Private First-Class Leonard ‘Red Wolf’ Cozad Sr., Private First Class James Paddlety Jr., and Private John Tsatoke.

The Kiowa Black Leggings, Kiowa Women Warriors, and the Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) led the Opening Ceremony, along with their auxiliary, and the 2025 Comanche Nation Princess, Isabela Ramirez, CIVA. Princess Clara Yazzie, the Comanche Little Ponies Princess, Arlene Schonchin, Mesa Tahchawwickah, and TabeNaibi Tahchawwickah. The Sovo Singers and Cozad Singers sang for the opening ceremony.

The CIVA Princess, Clara Yazzie, sang the National Anthem while Isabela Ramirez, Arlene Schonchin, Mesa Tahchawwickah, and TabeNaibi Tahchawwickah signed.

Sargent Major Lanny Asepermy organized the opening ceremony and said he was proud to have a strong Native presence at the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

First Lieutenant Michael Waddle, U.S. Army

First Lieutenant Michael Waddle, U.S. Army, was born June 28, 1947, in Phoenix, Arizona. He is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation with roots in Apache, Oklahoma. He enlisted in January 1966 with training at Fort Gordon, Georgia, followed by light weapons infantryman training at Fort Dix, New Jersey. Office Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia, was next, and Waddle was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in April 1967.

Upon completion of Army Airborne School, Waddle was assigned as a platoon leader of 4th Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 508th Infantry, 3rd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division. Waddle arrived in Vietnam in February 1968. He fought in five combat campaigns and was awarded the Silver Star for his heroic actions on August 26, 1968, as a platoon leader. On this day, 4th Platoon was on a reconnaissance mission when its point element suddenly came under heavy attack from a concealed North Vietnamese unit. 1LT Waddle crawled from position to position to direct return fire and boost morale among the troops. He fearlessly led his platoon in a counterattack that successfully overran the hostile force.

Waddle continued to lead his platoon in search of another

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Verna Burgess and Gene Sovo Recognized at the 2025 Oklahoma AARP Native American Elder Honors



Verna Burgess, second from left, receives honors at AARP Native American Elder Honors on November 5 at First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City for her work in cultural preservation through leadership and elder advocacy. She said tribal members of all ages need to be active in the community.

Story and Photos by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On November 5, Comanche Nation tribal members were honored at AARP Native American Elder Honors event at the First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City.

Verna Cable-Burgess and Gene Sovo received medals for their work in preserving native culture. Burgess said it was very humbling to receive the award.

“It’s very surprising. I’m awed by the recipients and how mealy this little person can be with that group...It’s the first time I really feel honored,” she said.

Burgess said working with the Elders Council is one of her most significant accomplishments.

“Oh my gosh, it’s quite an experience. It’s very educational for me,” she said. “I didn’t think I would do very well in that group, but I’ve come to really respect my elders, and they’ve got a lot to teach us, and I’ve got a lot to learn yet.”

Burgess is also raising a family.

“I want them to all know of our Numunu ways. You know, when we were growing up, we weren’t taught to be Comanche. We were taught to accept and live with the white man. We went to his school, we wore his clothes, we went to his church, and that was fine with me because I had a big family. We were all together and that was fine,” she said.

“But somewhere through there, my mother got involved. My mother and my sister got involved with the Comanche Nation language group, Comanche Language Culture and Preservation Committee. And my mother was a master in the language, and my sister, Billie Kreger, was her apprentice. When they got involved,

it was a family thing, and we all got involved with that. So, being and doing that inspires and encourages me to further my knowledge in our Numunu ways.” Burgess said people need to live life to the fullest.

“Life is short. It’s very short. I’m 76 years old. I never thought in my lifetime even 70 would come to me,” she said. “Growing up, it was hard, but because we had such a large family, we helped each other, and we never really suffered poverty, although we were termed that. But because our daddy worked and took care of us, and provided for us, and Mother was at home, we had one mama, one daddy for nine children, about nine cousins, about nine grandkids. And at any dinner table, it was full. And we always started with prayer, and we always laughed, and we always sang.”

Burgess said tribal members and youth also need to get involved.

“I was saddened by us having a grant from AARP to build a community garden. I was very enthused in the beginning because I thought, ‘Oh boy, everybody’s going to come out, we’re going to get this garden going, and we’re just going to produce all these wonderful fruits and vegetables, and we’re going to share them with each other.’ That didn’t happen,” she said. “We did a little bit of it, and we asked for volunteers, and we got no volunteers. And that’s sad. So, people get involved. Volunteer. It’s so important.”

Sovo said it was also humbling to receive the award out of all the Comanches, elders and Native Americans in the area.

As for his most significant



Gene Sovo, second from left, receives AARP Native American Elder Honors on November 5 at First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City. Sovo received the award for his work in preserving Comanche culture through representation in films and music, as well as community education efforts. He’s also been a head singer, coach and school board president.

accomplishment...

“When I had the privilege to be a Kiowa Native American character in the movie Lonesome Dove, in the miniseries, and we filmed that in ‘89, and they found me because of my ability to horsemanship. We grew up on horses, so we were very agile, and we could ride bareback, saddle, whatever, you know. So, they kind of selected me in that part of it,” he said. “But as well as knowing a lot of our past culture, our history of our peoples, the way they did things way back when, you know. Used to, we had those old folks would come back and say, ‘How did they do this?’ ‘How did they do that?’ you know. And now we’re finding ourselves more so having to rely on what the old folks told us because they’re all gone now, and we’re becoming, slowly but surely, we’re becoming the elders of the tribe.”

Sovo is currently working to raise awareness within the Native American church.

“On possible ways that we’ll always be able to have our natural resources for our peyote, herb, for our younger generation in the future,” he said. “And we’re also, like Veterans Day on November 11, we’re going to do a Tu-whee dance, the Black Knife Dance, and we try to maintain that knowledge and that culture of that dance exactly the way the late Joe A. Attocknie taught us. And so, we try to maintain that as part of our culture, you know, preserving our culture.” Sovo is trying to encourage the younger generation to become more involved in the church as well.

“It’s a very strenuous reli-

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Numunu Martinez Joint Venture Secures Over \$9 Million in Federal Contracts at Naval Air Station Key West

Key West, FL — The Numunu Martinez Joint Venture, an SBA approved 8(a) tribal joint venture between Comanche Nation owned 8(a) Numunu Staffing, LLC and Martinez Construction Services, is proud to announce the award of two major federal contracts totaling over \$9.3 million at Naval Air Station (NAS) Key West, reinforcing its commitment to delivering high-quality construction and infrastructure services to U.S. military installations.

IDIQ General Construction Contract – \$4.5 Million

Numunu Martinez JV has been awarded a five-year Indefinite Delivery/Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) contract for general construction, modifications, repairs, and design-build services across NAS Key West. The first task order, valued at \$741,493, spans 9 months and includes the installation of diesel exhaust air cleaning systems featuring SafeAir FHAC-3000 filtration devices, advanced ventilation controls, and supporting mechanical and electrical infrastructure.

Training Facility Design-Build Contract – \$4.83 Million

In addition, the joint venture has been awarded a \$4.83 million design-build contract for Building A-515 Building A-515, V-4111, and A-437 Repairs at Boca Chica Field, NAS Key West.

“These awards reflect our team’s dedication to expanding Comanche Nation’s footprint with this new joint venture and obtaining contracts in a new geographical area,” said George Tahdooahnippah, CEO for Numunu Staffing. “We’re honored to support NAVFAC’s infrastructure goals and proud to bring our tribal enterprise capabilities to the forefront of federal contracting.”

Comanche Nation Offices will close at noon on Dec. 23 through Dec. 26 for Christmas. Offices will reopen Dec. 29 for regular business. Comanche Nation Offices are Closed Jan. 1 and January 2 for New Year’s Day, and will reopen Jan. 5 for regular business.



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THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS
Wahi Maa (December) 2025
Gift Month - Big, Cold Month
The award-winning *Comanche Nation News*, the official communication of the Comanche Nation, is available at no charge upon request. The deadline to submit information for the January 2026 Edition is 5 p.m., December 15, 2025.
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- **News items** of interest to the local and American Indian community are welcome.
- **Photographs** will be copied and will become the property of *TCNN*. To return original photographs, send a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not send faxed photographs or newspaper copies of photographs.
- **The Milestones Page** (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Engagements, Memorial Pictures, Weddings, Births) are by submission only. Please submit a first and last name. The Passings/Obituaries are submitted by the Comanche Nation Funeral Home or by tribal members on a funeral home letterhead. The Milestones Page is for tribal members only. *TCNN* publishes all services conducted by The Comanche Nation Funeral Home without discretion. The Obituaries Page is for tribal members only.
- **TCNN** will print a Comanche organization's annual event flyer once free of charge as a courtesy to our tribal organizations. The guidelines for flyer submission are: Pow-wow flyers have to be from an established Comanche organization. There has to be contact person and number on the organization's annual flyer.
- **We reserve the right to edit all material.** Letters or articles that contain libelous information, slander, or personal attacks will not be printed. Letters to the Editor must be signed with a legible name, and have an 500 word limit.
- **The letters to the editor or articles contained in *The Comanche Nation News* does not reflect the views or opinions of the PIO staff.**

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Government

Tahmahkera Fills Secretary/ Treasurer Position



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Benny Tahmahkera is sworn in as the Comanche Nation Business Committee (CBC) Secretary Treasurer on Thursday, October 30, at the Tribal Complex.

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Benny Tahmahkera was sworn in as the Comanche Nation Business Committee (CBC) Secretary /Treasurer on Thursday, October 30, at the Tribal Complex.

He said it's a good time for him to come aboard.

"The Comanche Nation tribe is developing its own, or trying to develop its own financial department, and we're looking at different avenues of software, possibly bringing in," Tahmahkera said. "We're looking at getting with each department, helping them go over, fine-tune their budgets. We have a program that we're working through right now with all the department heads and it's a change, but I think overall it's going to benefit not only the departments in managing their budgets, pinpointing exactly how their money is distributed, how they paid out, how money's brought in, and I think it's going to be an advantageous tool. But like I said, it's a change, but nobody likes change, but like I said, I think it's going to benefit our tribe in the long run."

He said it will pinpoint actual budgets.

"You're going to see where your money is and how you're spending it. It's not to say nobody's doing it right now, but...when you're preparing for your next year's budget, it'll give you an idea of your overs or your unders," Tahmahkera said. "It's just, it's a good tool, I believe." He looks forward to working with the tribal government and seeing how things are done.

"Provide some input with our CBC, working with them hand-in-hand. We're a pretty cohesive

group right now, I believe, and I think that...for our nation to be strong, our leaders have to be strong, and we have to...come to terms on whatever the issues are presented, and...leading our people in the right direction," Tahmahkera said. "It can be hard at times, but that's our overall goal is to serve our people, and I feel I want to contribute to that, and I want to be...a part of this leadership that accomplishes our mission."

There's already been a lot learned.

"Every day is a learning experience, which is good," he said. "...If I learn something new every day, like I said, I'm new in this position...this will be my second full day [November 3]...holding this office, but I think one of the more surprising things was how many different departments the Comanche Nation has within the tribe. I mean, I believe it's over 70, 72, somewhere around in there. I'm still kind of on the, still learning a lot of things, but I have a great team that supports me and working with me...I've been received well, and they understand the situation, and just bringing me up to speed. I've had some ideas already about things that I think that need to happen, and we're slowly going to implement those, but, or at least try to implement...some of the ideas that I have, but like I said, the supporting team is amazing."

Tahmahkera said he wants to make sure there is organization in meetings and day-to-day.

He will hold the position until April and would like something in place for the next person to know what the job consists of.

Applications will Open for 2026 Comanche Nation Princesses

The Comanche Nation Princess Director, Fiona Kerchee, will begin accepting applications for the 2026 Comanche Nation Princess and the 2026 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, starting 8am January 1, 2026. through January 31, 2026 5pm.

Candidates will need to submit a photo, biography, and a Comanche Princess Application to Kerchee. Applications can be emailed or mailed to candidates or picked up at the Comanche Nation Public Information Office.

The Comanche Nation Princess election will take place April 3 & 4 at Watchetaker Hall. For more information, call/text Fiona Kerchee at (580) 956.4453, email at fkerchee@gmail.com or via Facebook Messenger.



Sonia and Patrick Attocknie

(580) 483-9326

From the Chairman's Desk



Marnaweka Numann:

As I write this, my first term as Chairman is about half-way through and I thought I would reflect on the issues that came up during my campaign in order evaluate what progress we've made and what more needs to be done. I recall the most pressing issues raised during my campaign as being: unruly Business Committee meetings (including a lack of collegiality and professional courtesy between Business Committee members), lack of transparency (especially concerning finances and consultations with the City of Lawton regarding the Westwin refinery), NIGC stopping charitable bingo, lack of inclusion of "non-local" Comanches, and tribal budget cuts. On all of these issues, we have made considerable progress.

One of the very first things I did as Chairman was to propose formal, written procedures for Business Committee meetings. These procedures have made a big impact on the smooth operation of the meetings. No longer can Business Committee members launch surprise attacks against each other or tribal members. Agendas have to be formally approved through a transparent process. The written procedures also protect tribal members' due process rights and require advanced notice be given if the Business Committee is to take an action that would deprive them of a liberty or property interest. These written procedures have gone a long way in restoring order at our Business Committee meetings. Moreover, the most fundamental job of the Chairman, as the presiding officer of meetings, is to maintain order. I take this job seriously, and I am proud that I have received many compliments on the new tone of our Business Committee, and even Tribal Council, meetings.

However, we still have a lot of progress that can be made on tone outside of meetings. Too often disgruntled tribal members spread outright falsehoods on social media. Social media gossip holds back our Nation by distracting our employees and our leadership from the real issue at hand. While there are certain tribal members that will never stop spreading rumors on social media (and those tribal members are entitled to our empathy and compassion because their behavior may be due to underlying mental health issues), the rest of us owe it to each other to not pay attention. Every time you react (even if it is an angry emoji) or share gossip (even if done to alert someone that they are the subject of gossip), you feed the rumor mill. The best practice is to simply ignore the handful of tribal members that wish to derail the tribal government—do not view, do not react, do not share.

The Business Committee procedures that were adopted also require transparency through officers' reports. This ensures that the Chairman must disclose any government-to-government consultations attended in an official capacity. We have taken transparency even further and disclosed, for the first time ever, all sources of income for programs, including grant funding and program income at this year's Annual Meeting. Following the Annual Meeting, the Business Committee also took an important step towards transparency by holding a special meeting to formally, and publicly, vote on candidate certification. Gone are the days when candidate certifications (or denials) are done behind closed doors and for unknown reasons.

Since I took office, our Nation has also resolved issues preventing tribal members from raising money through bingo fundraisers. Working with Comanche Academy Charter School, we were able to open the Taft School as a non-trust property where bingo fundraisers can be held. Beyond bingo, however, we are going much further to help (*tuitua*) tribal members raise money for cultural activities. The Comanche Nation *Tuitua* Foundation will be formed this month to be the official philanthropic arm of the Nation with an initial goal of building a \$10 million endowment to fund cultural activities, cultural organizations, churches, veterans' organizations, the elder's council, and youth activities.

Since I took office, our Nation has also taken great strides towards inclusion of Comanches that do not live within the borders of the KCA Reservation. We have amended our Constitution to ensure that absentee voters are able to vote to fill vacancies and in recalls. We instituted a nationwide down payment program. During the recent government shutdown, we also instituted a nationwide food voucher. We also distributed a holiday food voucher to all elders, not just "locals." We have also released a service guide and promulgated program guidelines, so that all members may see in black-and-white what residency requirements exist for our various programs. These outreach efforts have educated many on pre-existing programs that have been available to tribal members nationwide that were not previously publicized, such as car repair assistance through WIOA or daycare subsidies.

One of the most difficult issues that we've faced in the last year and a half is the declining gaming revenue. Several weeks before I took office, the Apache Lonestar Casino opened. We were not prepared, and our gaming revenue has suffered. We increased oversight of the casinos through a board of directors. We are in the process of hiring new management for our casinos. And, we have been making strides to diversify our revenue streams—advertising our funeral home to the general public, purchasing a hotel and apartments, and beginning the process of opening a clinic. We are also making strides to take advantage of more federal programs available to tribes, such as the 105(l) lease program or self-governance program. Despite the budget cuts, we have been able to continue to provide services to our members, and even are going to increase services by bringing back the Angels for elders and the after-school program for youth, both of which were previously cut.

I have been extremely honored to have the opportunity to serve the Comanche people as your Chairman. It has a host of challenges, but I take this job seriously and I do my best every day. From small things—such as building a shared drive for the Business Committee to be able to access important documents, contracts, policies, etc. (a simple thing that did not exist when I took office)—to large things—such as starting a healthcare system—we are building institutions for our future.



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff
Comanche Nation Housing Authority hosts a trick-or-treat event with various games and activities. Participants included Onaa Kahni Child-hood Development Center and other day cares.



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff
Children from Onaa Kahni plays candy corn bowl at the Comanche Nation Housing Authority trick-or-treat. Various businesses that neighbor the housing authority participated to bring treats to the youth.



Verna Cable-Burgess and Gene Sovo receive honors at AARP Native American Elder Honors on November 5 at First Americans Museum in Oklahoma City for their work in Comanche culture. The event honored those who work in their tribal communities to help revitalize and maintain Native culture.

Comanche Housing Authority Hosts Trick-or-Treat Event

Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

The Comanche Nation Housing Authority held its first fall festival and trick-or-treat event since COVID-19 pandemic on Friday, October 24, in Lawton, Oklahoma.

Everyone in the community was invited to the festival, which featured several games, prizes and plenty of treats.

Comanche Nation Housing Authority Outreach Specialist Ciera Love said the department enjoys being festive.

“We love all the holidays here, so we just thought this would be a really fun way for everybody to kind of give back to the community while still celebrating the holiday,” she said.

Love’s favorite part is seeing the departments come together.

“And everybody’s creativity, like you could see everybody’s set-ups,” she said. “They all got so creative, and so I just really enjoy seeing that. The team building, the camaraderie, all of that.”

Love said planning was different than in previous years.

“We voted on a coordinator, which was Adra Martinez, and she did a great job. She and her assistant was Teta, this year Teta Thompson. They both just kind of did it,” she said. “I mean, they just scheduled everything out. They were really on the ball with everything, inviting the other companies to participate as well.

So, they did a really good job. The planning really wasn’t that difficult.” The festival was focused on giving back to the community.

“It feels really good to feel like we’re giving back to the community, especially our day cares,” Love said. “They work so hard. Childcare is hard. So, it feels really good to be able to give them something to do with the kids.”

She said collaborating with the other tenants and having meals together strengthens the camaraderie. Love said the department has a great team that enjoys participating in events.

HONORING

Continued from Page 1

gion. You go in at dark 30, come out on sunrise, you know, whereas most of your churches go in about 10:30, 11 to church on Sunday and come out at noon and then go on about the rat killing, you know. But we’ve been raised to believe that you got to give a little something to get a little something,” he said. “And it’s, like I said, it’s a hard religion, but it’s a very, very good religion as far as getting things...They have always said, ‘Our white man churches, they talk about the Lord.’ You go into the teepee, throughout the night, you talk to our Creator instead of talking about Him. So that they always, our elders always influenced that. That’s one of the things that was a difference between our Native American church and that is the closeness that we have with our Creator.”

Sovo said the younger generation needs to reconnect with their

elders and become closer.

“Your grandparents, your great-grandparents...call them maybe once a week, every other day or something like that. Get in contact with them. Let them know you, as a younger generation, you haven’t forgot our elders. When they want to sit down and tell stories, sit down and listen to them,” he said. “...They have so much culture that’s going to go to waste if the younger generation doesn’t slow down and sit down and listen to what our old folks have to say. That’s how I learned. And that’s the only way it’s going to be taken into the future is if our younger generation slows down long enough to listen and kind of absorb what our old folks have to offer.”

The award ceremony featured guest speakers, and friends and families offered their support for recipients.

Halloween at the Comanche Nation Complex

Fall Festers and Trick-or-Treaters Receive Goodies and Play Games



Paula Karty/ News Staff



Paula Karty/ News Staff



Paula Karty/ News Staff



Paula Karty/ News Staff



Paula Karty/ News Staff



Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Natascha Mercadante/News Staff



Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Programs

Child Support Program Court Announcements

CNCSP is giving a complimentary notification for the following Notice of Publications to be published in the December 2025 Edition of the Comanche Nation Newspaper for:

- In the Comanche Nation Tribal Court
- Allison Collins: CNCSP-15-29; Application for Indirect Contempt
 - Warren Kassanavoid: CNC-SP-19-11; 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 is needing the above name(s) to be placed in our upcoming Comanche Nation Newspaper.

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

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

December 2025 Higher Education Graduate Student of the Month Burke Smith



Courtesy Photo

Burke Smith is the son of Kyle and Astrid Smith.

He graduated from Anadarko High School and graduated from Oklahoma State University with a bachelor's degree in biology.

He is currently at Oklahoma State University Center for Health Sciences, working for a master's degree in biomedical sciences. His goal after obtaining his master's degree is to attend medical school with the intent of being a physician.

He would like to thank the Comanche Nation Higher Education for their invaluable support throughout his educational journey.

December 2025 Adult Education Student of the Month Justine Enriquez



Courtesy Photo

Justine Enriquez is honored to be recognized as December 2025 Adult Education Student of the Month.

On October 8, she recently completed an Accounting Essentials course focused on bookkeeping at the Great Plains Technology Center in Lawton, Oklahoma. She is currently enrolled in a QuickBooks class at the Great Plains Technology Center to continue building my technical skills.

She is grateful to the Comanche Nation Higher Education Department for providing the support and opportunities that have helped her grow in her educational journey.

She looks forward to applying what she has learned and continuing to reach her goals.

December 2025 Adult Education Student of the Month Justine Enriquez



Courtesy Photo

Stacey J. Tiddark was born and raised in Oklahoma. She currently reside right outside of Palm Springs, California.

She attends College of the Desert in Palm Desert, California.

"I'm enrolled in a CMA/EKG Technician class. I am very close to completion, and I plan on continuing my educational journey in the medical field.

I have high hopes of pursuing my Registered Nursing degree in the future.

Through hard work, dedication and faith...anything is possible. The sky is the limit, go for it!"



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Comanche Nation Princess Isabella Ramirez passes out a Thanksgiving meal at the annual Elder Center's Thanksgiving celebration, held November 20.

LEGAL AID CLINIC
FOR COMANCHE TRIBAL MEMBERS

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DATES

12/03/25	10am-2pm
12/10/25	10am-2pm
12/12/25	11am-1pm
12/17/25	10am-2pm
12/22/25	10am-2pm

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

December 2025 Higher Education Undergraduate Student of the Month Robin Frickie



Courtesy Photo

Robin Frickie is the daughter of Wayla Wauqua and Jason Wauqua. Her maternal grandparents are Beatrice Samis-Tenequer and Wayland Samis, and her paternal grandparents are Norris Wauqua and Sheila Ann Tadooahnippah.

Robin is from Cache, Oklahoma, with her Husband, Joey Frickie, and children Alex and Kaydence Frickie.

She is currently working toward her degree at Tohono O'odham Community College, where she earned a 3.5 GPA for the Spring 2025 semester. She is pursuing a major in Business Administration.

Her mission is to take what she's learning and become a strong leader not only within her department but also for the Comanche Nation. She is committed to creating meaningful change, empowering others and helping shape a brighter, stronger future for her community and people.

JOIN US FOR OUR ANNUAL

CHRISTMAS
POW-WOW

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13TH
WATCHETAKER HALL 2:00-11:00PM
SUPPER @ 5:30

MC: MARK KEKA
HS: BUBBA SOVA
HM: CHARLES TAHAH
CO-HOST: COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES
AD: BEN CHASENAH
SECURITY: JIM WADE

FOR MORE DETAILS, CONTACT
MARY WADE (580)713-8715

VENDOR
FEE
\$25



Courtesy Photo

CULTURAL CLASS. The 988 Tribal Response team hosted a two-day Mental Health Workshop on November 14-15 at the Prevention & Recovery Outpatient Office. Students from 10 local schools participated in activities designed to promote mental wellness and cultural connection. The class was led by Edmond Nevaquaya and featured traditional drum-making and teachings rooted in Indigenous culture, fostering resilience and providing youth with tools for emotional well-being.

Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

December 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 Make-Up Day	19 TRUCK DAY	20
21	22 Make-Up Day	23 CLOSED!	24 CLOSED! Christmas Eve!	25 Merry Christmas CLOSED Christmas Day!	26 CLOSED!	27
28	29 Inventory	30 Inventory	31 Inventory	Santa's Coming!		I Love Smiling Smiling is my favorite

2. Stuff and season the turkey: Fill the cavity with stuffing. Rub the skin with butter, then season with salt and pepper. Pour two cups of stock into the roasting pan and loosely tent the turkey with foil.

3. Roast the turkey: Roast, basting with stock every 30 minutes, for about two and half hours. Add more stock as the drippings evaporate. Remove the foil and continue roasting until a meat thermometer inserted into the thickest part of the thigh reads 165 degrees F.

4. The 18-pound turkey is roasted for about four hours at 325 degrees F. If your turkey is larger or smaller than 18 pounds, you'll have to adjust the cooking time.

Ham with Pineapple

Ingredients

- 1 (12-pound) bone-in ham
- ½ cup whole cloves
- 1 (20 ounce) can pineapple rings in heavy syrup
- 1 (12 fluid ounce) can or bottle lemon-lime flavored carbonated beverage
- ½ cup packed brown sugar
- 1 (4 ounce) jar chopped maraschino cherries

Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F (160 degrees C).

2. Place ham in a roasting pan. Use a sharp knife to score ham rind with a diamond pattern. Press a clove into the center of each diamond.

3. Drain juice from pineapple rings into a medium bowl; stir in lemon-lime soda and brown sugar.

4. Coat ham with juice mixture and arrange pineapple rings on ham. Place a maraschino cherry in the center of each pineapple ring and secure with a toothpick.

5. Bake uncovered, basting frequently with pan juices, in the preheated oven until the internal temperature of the ham is 160 degrees F (72 degrees C), 4 to 5 hours. Be sure the meat thermometer does not touch the bone. Remove toothpicks before serving.

WE WANT TO SEE WHAT YOU ARE COOKING!

Send us a picture of any recipe you try from the **Culinary Corner** page, and it may be featured in an upcoming issue of TCNN. As a thank-you, TCNN will mail you a small gift. Please include your **name**, your **photo**, and the **recipe you used** in your email. Email submissions to: pjo@comanchenation.com

♥ Recipes for Home Cooking! ♥

Easy Loaded Baked Potato Casserole

- Ingredients
- 10 Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and halved
 - 6 Slices of bacon
 - 2 Cups shredded Cheddar cheese, divided
 - 1 Cup evaporated milk
 - 1 Cup sliced green onions, divided
 - 1/2 Cup sour cream
 - 1 Teaspoon salt 1/2 Teaspoon ground black pepper
- Directions

1. Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F (175 degrees C). Lightly grease a 9x13-inch baking dish.

2. Place potatoes into a large pot and cover with salted water; bring to a boil. Reduce heat to medium-low and simmer until tender, about 20 minutes. Drain and return potatoes to the pot to dry.

3. Meanwhile, arrange bacon in a large skillet and cook over medium-

high heat, turning occasionally, until evenly browned, about 10 minutes.

4. Drain bacon on a paper towel-lined plate; crumble and set aside.

5. Combine 1 1/2 cups Cheddar cheese, evaporated milk, 1/2 cup green onions, sour cream, 1/2 of the crumbled bacon, salt, and black pepper in the pot with potatoes. Mash with a potato masher until creamy.

6. Spread mixture into the prepared baking dish.

8. Bake in the preheated oven for 25 minutes. Sprinkle with remaining Cheddar cheese, green onions, and bacon. Return to the oven and continue baking until cheese is melted, about 5 minutes more.

9. Serve hot and enjoy!

Baked Ham

Ingredients

- Ham: You'll need the rump portion of a bone-in ham. If your ham is larger or smaller than 12 pounds, you'll need to

- make some adjustments.
- Cloves: Whole cloves add warmth and a certain depth of flavor.
 - Sugar: Brown Sugar lends more warmth and welcome sweetness.
 - Water: Use about an inch of water. This isn't one-size-fits-all, as different roasting pans will need different amounts.
- Directions

1. Press cloves into the top of the ham. Pack with brown sugar.

2. Add water to the roasting pan.

3. Bake in the preheated oven until the ham is done.

4. A 12-pound ham should be done after about 4.5 to 5 hours in an oven preheated to 350 degrees F. An instant-read thermometer inserted into the center (not touching the bone) should read at least 160 degrees F. Tent with foil during baking if the sugar begins to darken too quickly.

A Simply Perfect Roast Turkey

- Ingredients
- Turkey: This recipe calls for an 18-pound whole turkey.
 - Stuffing: You'll need eight cups of prepared stuffing. Use store-bought or try one of our best recipes for homemade stuffing.
 - Butter: Salted butter, rubbed onto the skin, ensures a juicy roast turkey every time.
 - Salt and pepper: This roast turkey is simply seasoned with just salt and pepper. Of course, you can add more spices to suit your taste.
 - Turkey stock: The bird is cooked in and basted with store-bought or homemade turkey stock.
- Directions

1. Prepare the turkey: Remove the turkey neck and giblets. Pat the turkey dry with paper towels, then place it (breast-side up) on a rack in a roasting pan.

Computer Literacy Lab Opens at the Family Assistance Center



Photos by Stacey Heminokeky/News Staff

Leaders officially cut the ribbon to celebrate the opening of the new Computer Literacy Lab.

Submitted by FAC Director, Betty Simmons

The Comanche Nation Family Assistance Center, a refuge for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault crimes recently added a new program to their support services. Thanks to a generous contribution from AT&T, the FAC now offers a computer literacy class for clients to develop or enhance their clerical computer skills to become more competitive in today's technological job market.

The class has a capacity of six students. Classes will begin early January 2026. Classes will be sched-

uled based on the availability of program participants therefore it will be offered during non-traditional office hours – late evening, weekends, etc.

A grand opening of the classroom was held November 14. AT&T representatives along with the Comanche Tribal Chair, Forrest Tahdooahnippah, and Tribal Administrator, Lisa Dawsey, were on hand to cut the ribbon. The FAC are so grateful for AT&T Philanthropy and Social Innovation.

Jan Moran, Regional Director of External Affairs, AT&T had

this to say:

“By supporting the Comanche Nation, we’re helping to close the digital divide and empower tribe members with essential digital resources that create opportunities for growth, education, and success for all community members,” said Moran. “This new Computer Literacy Center will transform lives and connect more people to greater possibility.”

This contribution is part of AT&T’s initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability and safe adop-

tion. AT&T is committing \$5 billion to help 25 million people get and stay connected to high-speed internet by 2030. Learn more at att.com. Learn more about AT&T’s other investments in Oklahoma at www.attconnects.com/oklahoma/.

* About Philanthropy and Social Innovation at AT&T

At AT&T, their corporate responsibility work is dedicated to bridging the digital divide across the country. They are committed to providing people of all ages and from every community with the essential

resources they need to thrive in the digital era. For generations, they have supported programs that impact millions of individuals nationwide, and since 2021, they have committed \$5 billion to initiatives that enhance connectivity, promote digital literacy, and improve access to high-speed internet. Their efforts particularly focus on uplifting underserved communities, including students, older adults, and those on tribal lands, ensuring everyone can participate in the digital world and benefit from its opportunities.



Photos by Stacey Heminokeky/News Staff

Tribal Administrator, Lisa Dawsey, Chairman, Forrest Tahdooahnippah, and Regional Director of External Affairs, AT&T, Jan Moran got a first look inside the new Computer Literacy Lab.



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2025 American Indian Exposition Celebrates It's 90th Year



Courtesy Photo
Comanche Princess Director Fiona Kerchee and Isabela Ramirez dance during the Expo Powwow.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
A total of 10 Tribal Princesses gather October 29 November 1 in Anadarko, Oklahoma for the American Indian Exposition.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
The 2025 Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez, rides in Expo Parade.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Comanche Spur Casino



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Chasenah Family



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Madeline and Adeline Delaware on Elgin JOM Float



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Walters Service Club Princess, Reyna Serna



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Comanche Homecoming Princess, Hannah Owens



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Comanche Little Ponies Princess, Arlene Schonchin



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff
Elgin JOM Brave, Dom Komahcheet



Courtesy Photo
Tribal Princesses give out candy during the Expo Halloween Trunk-or-Treat in Anadarko, Oklahoma on October 21.

Comanche Nation
Prevention & Recovery

2026

SAFE & SOBER
NEW YEAR'S EVE
Celebration

Wednesday, December 31st
Doors Open at 7:00 PM

Comanche County Fair Grounds
920 SW Sheridan Rd,
Lawton, OK 73505

COMANCHE NATION
PREVENTION & RECOVERY

COMANCHE NATION
988 TRIBAL RESPONSE

DRUGS AND ALCOHOL ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED, THE COMANCHE NATION IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ACCIDENTS, INJURY, OR THEFT THAT MAY OCCUR AT THIS EVENT.

City NATIONAL BANK MEMBER FDIC

ELDERS DAY

FRIDAY, DEC. 5, 2025

Doors open at 9:00 a.m
Event starts at 10:00 a.m.
Meal served at 11:30 a.m.

Great Plains Coliseum, 920 SW Sheridan Rd.
Lawton, OK, 73507

Scan here to learn more

Comanche Indian Veterans Association Welcomes Oklahoma Hall of Honor Recipients on November 11

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) held its Veterans’ Day powwow on Tuesday, November 11, at Watchetaker Hall.

Combat veterans were inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor, including Sgt. Leander Ekwaudah, Sgt. Richard Sapcutt and Lance Cpl. Stefano Ruiz.

CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno said they wanted to bring them up so people would know what they did.

“I know I had some of the old folks...talk about the World War II veterans...if they didn’t do what they did, we might all be speaking German...and it’s just the honoring is just part of what we, the respect we have for our elder men,” he said. “And I’ve read a lot of stories about...some of the old warriors and what have you, and it’s inspiring...it makes you want to do the same thing.”

Tehauno said without veterans, the people of the United States may not be free today.

“The idea of thinking about all those guys getting off them boats, trying to make it to shore...with no cover, no trees to hide behind or nothing, and how they did it is beyond me, but they did it for us,” he said.

The organization went on a trip to Normandy, France.

Tehauno, reflected on his own experiences returning home from military service.

“I know when I came home at the San Francisco International Airport, we were booed, we were called names, and it was a very, very depressing situation...but it wasn’t just myself, it was all the military guys that was coming home from overseas...we getting home from Vietnam, and they gave it to us,” Tehauno said. “But the only ones that were showed us honor and showed us respect was our native people. When I came home, my uncle had a dance for me, and not only myself,



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) recognizes Sgt. Richard Sapcutt, Lance Cpl. Sephano Ruiz and Sgt. Leander Ekwaudah. Each veteran was inducted into Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor at the CIVA Veteran’s Day Powwow.

it happened to, but other veterans... and we really appreciate that, but it was a down feeling...it made you wonder sometimes why you went in there and done what we did, and come home and get booed...but the natives, they built us up...helped us, and that’s why I want to come here today. Should do the same thing...to the veterans that was here before.”

He said it feels good to be a veteran himself.

“We honor them, and it’s a good feeling...knowing what they did and come home. It’s the main thing is getting back home, and they were all three...in different wars,” Tehauno said. “And we know how they feel...it’s sometimes scary...but yet...you can change your fate, do what you got to do, what you’re trained to do, while they train you to stay alive, and so that’s the main reason we honor them is just to...let them know we appreciate...what they did...and we respect and honor them.”

CIVA’s next event will be the Armed Forces Day Banquet. The organization is active throughout the



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Betty Tippeconnie received the flag of Robert Tippeconnie, who served as Comanche Nation Secretary/Treasurer and in the U.S. Army.

year at community events.

Tehauno wanted to wish all veterans appreciation and respect for all they have done.



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Walters Service Club Jr. Princess Breanna Kerchee, Lil’ Miss Nahmi Poafpybitty and Princess Reyna Serna dance at Walters Service Club Powwow. The organization held a ceremony for Veterans Day to honor those who have served.

Walters Service Club Recognizes Veterans on November 8

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On November 8, the Walters Service Club honored Lyndon Wahkinney and Joseph Chebahtah at the club’s 2025 Veterans Day Powwow, held at Watchetaker Hall.

President of the Walters Service Club, Mari Lavatai, said they honor those who have served in the military.

“It’s an honor for us to honor our veterans that have served in the military, whether it be present or the past,” she said.

Lavatai looks forward to the powwow every year as well as homecoming.

“It’s always good to see all the veterans come to our powwow, and they not only come to this powwow or other powwows,” she said. “I see veterans at all the powwows.”

Lavatai said she was glad to see everyone who attended.

“We had a big turnout. That’s something that we always have every year. So, I look forward to it every year,” she said. “It’s a lot of hard work, but I enjoy it.”

Lavatai’s mom is an original



Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Lyndon Wahkinney and Joseph Chebahtah dance at Walters Service Club Powwow. They were recognized for their service in the military.

member of the Walters Service Club, and her sister, Eva Asenap, has been the treasurer. Asenap will give up her role but will remain a member.

COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES NEW YEARS Celebration

27TH DEC 2025 Wachetaker Hall

Head Staff

MC - Martin Flores

Head Singer - JR Ross

Head Man - Michael Plumley

Head Lady - Cameille Tasi Wetselline

Head Little Boy - Bryson Kerchee

Head Little Girl - Kemberlynn Gutierrez

Arena Director - Travis Codynah

Arena Director - Charles Tahah

Co-Host - Comanche Nation Youth Dancers

Security - Kevin Sovo II

Special Invited Guests

Comanche Nation Princess

Isabella Ramirez

Comanche Nation Jr Princess

Tatum Burgess

Pawnee Indian Veterans Princess

Skye Che K'o Manyimi Harragarra-Harms

Comanche Little Ponies Princess

Arlene Schonchin

Contests

Mens Straight (16 years +)

Mens Fancy (16 years +)

Womens Cloth (16 years +)

\$300, \$200, \$100 each

Special Women's Buckskin contest 21 years +

Sponsored by Cameille Wetselline

Teen Girl's Cloth Contest (15 years and under)

\$200, \$150, \$100

Boy & Girls Tiny Tots sponsored by CLP Princess

Arlene Schonchin

Pickle Eating Contest (during supper break)

Boys 15 years and under - \$75 Winner Take All

Girls 15 years and under - \$75 Winner Take All

Program

12 noon cedar ceremony (open to everyone)

1:00 pm gourd dance

5:00 pm supper break

6:00 pm gourd dance

7:00 pm grand entry

Vendors: Arts & Crafts vendor fee is \$30.00. The first 10 paid vendors will be accepted. You must provide your own table and chairs. Arts & Crafts vendors cannot sell any type of food or drinks.

For general pow wow information or arts & crafts vendors info, please contact Lowell Nibbs (580) 583-5279 or via email lowellnibbs@yahoo.com

Security on premises. Absolutely no alcoholic beverages allowed. Not responsible for accidents, thefts or injuries.

Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Mike “Bruner” Cable straight dances at Walters Service Club Powwow. He was head man dancer.

Photo by Paula Karty/News Staff

Kat Alvarez-Chuchill victory dances at Walters Service Club Powwow. She was the head lady dancer.

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Military News

Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/CIVA

Comanche Indian Veterans Association Holiday Message

“Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Veterans, Active-Duty Service Members, their families and friends.

Everyone gathers to celebrate the season, let us take a moment to reflect on the incredible spirit of Christmas that transcends even the hardest circumstances. This time of year reminds us of our Comanche Veterans who served during the Christmas Truce of 1914, when soldiers from both sides of World War I laid down their arms, emerged from the trenches, and shared a moment of peace amidst the chaos of war. It was a powerful testament to humanity that binds us all, even in the darkest times.



Courtesy Photo

For those who have served, Christmas holds a special meaning. Whether we were deployed far from home, celebrating in makeshift barracks, tents, or sharing a simple meal with our brothers and sisters in arms, the holiday often brings both joy and longing. We remember the calls home, the care

packages sent with love, and the unique camaraderie that grows stronger during the holidays.

This year, as we gather with loved ones or honor traditions in our own way, let us remember those who are still serving, those we have lost, and those who are unable to be with their families.

From the Officers,

Veterans, Princess, Auxiliary Leader and Auxiliary members of CIVA, may your Christmas be filled with peace, joy, and gratitude for the blessings we share. And may we all carry the spirit of Christmas—hope, love, and goodwill—into the New Year.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year and God Bless!”

Funeral Detail for Rita Coosewoon



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) Auxiliary member Rita Coosewoon’s family requests a Funeral Detail. The Celebration of Life Services were held on November 6, in Watchetaker Hall with burial at Highland Cemetery in Lawton, Oklahoma. Rita Coosewoon was a devoted member of the CIVA Auxiliary, as she loved our Comanche Nation Veterans. The details consisted of Veterans and Auxiliary members of CIVA. Rita Coosewoon’s stories and smiles will be missed.

American War Mothers Dinner



Courtesy Photo

On November 13, 2025, all Veterans were invited to the American War Mothers Kiowa Chapter 18 Thanksgiving Dinner held at Watchetaker Hall. Veterans were treated to a traditional meal and dessert. CIVA would like to thank the American War Mothers Kiowa Chapter 18 for the Thanksgiving meal, which was prepared with love for all the veterans in attendance.

Comanche Indian Veterans Association Annual Veterans Day Powwow

On November 11, 2025, Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) held its 49th Annual Veterans Day Celebration and Powwow at Watchetaker Hall. The event began with the flag-raising ceremony for the late Comanche Veteran Robert Tippeconnie, who served in the US Army and also served as Secretary/Treasurer for the Comanche Nation.

The event started at noon with an Opening Prayer and Posting of Colors. The Tu-Whee Ceremony was conducted, followed by War Mothers Songs and Scalp and Victory Dances.

The Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor Induction Ceremony began with Comanche Veterans and US Marine Corps Veterans, Sgt. Leander Eckiwaudah, Sgt. Richard Sapcutt and LCpl. Stefano Ruiz was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor. After the Induction Ceremony, the Quilts of Valor Foundation presented quilts to a US Marine Corps Veteran, Sgt. Leander Eckiwaudah, a US Army



Courtesy Photo

Veteran, Sgt. Gregory Colethe, founder of the Oklahoma Military Hall of Honor, and former US Army Captain, Michael Lapolla.

The afternoon and evening sessions were followed by the lowering of the flag of Comanche Veteran Robert Tippeconnie, accompanied by a prayer. An evening meal was then served, and the retiring of Colors Took Place. Gourd Dancing resumed as CIVA held its Special to close out the evening. This event was a success thanks to the hard work of the officers, Veterans, Princess, and Auxiliary. CIVA would like to thank Eugene Blackbear, Sovo Singers,

Lonnie Hauh-gooah, and Brian Wahnee for all of your hard work and a job well done.

CIVA would like to thank Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdooahnippah, Comanche Nation Vice-Chairman Diana Gail Doyebi-Sovo and Comanche Nation Secretary Treasure Benny Tahmahkera for your support and attendance.

CIVA would like to give a Special Thanks to the Homecoming Committee and Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 1015 for serving as Co-Host for CIVA’s 49th Annual Celebration and Powwow.

Co-Host Wichita Service Club Powwow

On November 9, 2025, Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) served as Co-Host for the Wichita Service Club Powwow, at the Wichita Community Building. CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary enjoyed the afternoon and night Gourd Dancing and Honoring all veterans.

Comanche Veteran’s Monthly Discussion

On November 6, Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) held its monthly meeting in the CIVA Patriot Room. CIVA Commander Roger Tehauno conducted a call to order.

A prayer was given by CIVA Co-Chaplain Lyman Guy, followed by a Pledge of Allegiance given by TabeNaibi Tahchawwickah. Before the serving of the meal, a birthday recognition was given to Ashely Czemiak and the US Marines and the US Navy for their 250th Anniversary.

CIVA Veteran Lanny Asepermy provided a recognition of guests for Lindon Wahkinney and John McClung for Pastor Justin

Evans. The pre-Thanksgiving meal was provided by the CIVA Auxiliary, complete with all the fixings.

After the evening meal, CIVA Veterans conducted their monthly meeting, which included Old and New Business. Final preparations for the 49th Annual Veterans Day Celebration and Powwow were discussed and finalized.

The 50th CIVA Anniversary was discussed, as further meetings will be held.



Courtesy Photo

Color Guard at Indiahoma High School



Courtesy Photo

On November 7, Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) Veterans and Auxiliary provide a Color Guard Detail to kick off the basketball game between Indiahoma and Cement. CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary would like to thank the Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez, the Indiahoma Native American Club and the Indiahoma Public Schools for parading in the colors prior to the basketball game.

Color Guard Detail, Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) serves as one of the Color Guards for the 26th Annual Banquet and Induction Ceremony for the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame. Also in attendance was the Kiowa Blackleggings Warrior Society. The event was held at the Embassy Suites Banquet Room in Norman, Oklahoma. CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie sung the National Anthem. Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez, Comanche Little Ponies Princess Arlene Schonchin, TabeNaibi Tahchawwickah and Mesa Tahchawwickah signed the National Anthem at the banquet. The drum was provided by the Cozad and Sovo Singers. During the ceremony, Comanche Veteran 1st Lt. Michael Waddle was inducted into the Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame.

Veteran Information Needed

The Comanche Indian Veterans Association is updating the Comanche Veterans Master List. If you are an Honorably Discharged Veteran and you would like your military service updated and documented, please email Kevin Pohawpatchoko at k_pohawpatchoko@yahoo.com.

Your military service history, documents, records, photographs and your DD-214 will be forwarded to Dr. Bill Meadows, Missouri State University, Department of Sociology-Anthropology/Native American Studies. He and his staff will digitize your military documents and update our Comanche Veterans Master List. Our Comanche Veterans’ military history and documents received will also help in the event of a veteran’s passing.

This is voluntary for the Comanche Nation Veterans and their families.

Former Princess Invitation

To all the former CIVA Princesses, please contact CIVA Auxiliary member Linda Tehauno at (580) 678-2468 or by email veloiswhitefeather@yahoo.com. CIVA is planning a 50th Anniversary event, and we would like to extend an invitation to you.

People, Places and Things Happening



Courtesy Photo
Pahcheka-Ybarra

Pahcheka-Ybarra Highlighted in Dallas Magazine

Comanche tribal member, Christina Pahcheka-Ybarra was recently invited to interview with *Authority* magazine, on how martial arts helped teach self-confidence, bravery, and career success.

She is the granddaughter of Sonia Pahcheka.

Youngman First Runner Up in Football League



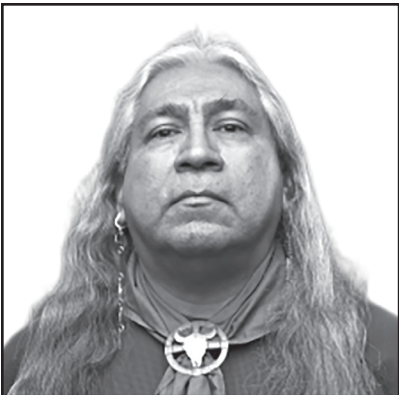
Courtesy Photo
Youngman

Elias Youngman, a member of the Comanche Nation and a 3rd-grade football player for the Anadarko Warriors. They were runner-up in the Washita Valley football league on Nov. 1. Elias is the son of Kalina Youngman, grandson of Victor Youngman and the late Frances Tseele Youngman, and the great-grandson of the late Nathan and Zelma Tahsequah Tseele and the late Rose Nahquaddy.



Courtesy Photo
MARINE. Hayden Sapcutt is 20 years old and has been in the Marines for one and a half years. He began in June 2024 and is stationed in Hawaii. The Sapcutt family is very proud of his achievements.

NSU Alumni Association Recognizes Pewewardy as 2025 Homecoming Honoree



Courtesy Photo
Pewewardy

The Northeastern State University Alumni Association Homecoming was held October 26 - November 1, and honored its 2025 alumni honorees. This year's honorees included Dr. Cornel Pewewardy.

Pewewardy, Distinguished Alumnus: A 1976 and 1977 NSU graduate, and has devoted his career to scholarship, music and service to Native communities nationwide. An award-winning ethnomusicologist and educator, he has been named National Indian Educator of the Year and honored with the National Indian Education Association's Lifetime Achievement Award. He has founded schools, created Indigenous Studies programs, and continues to advance educational opportunities for Native students. A former Vice-Chairman of the Comanche Nation, Pewewardy was inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame in 2024.

"Homecoming is more than just a week of events—it's a chance for our entire NSU family to come together and celebrate the achievements of our alumni, the dedication of our faculty and staff, and the energy of our students," NSU President Rodney Hanley said. "Honoring these outstanding alumni reminds us of the lasting impact NSU has on those who have walked our halls and the communities they serve, while also giving everyone a chance to connect, celebrate and make new memories together."

Humble Roots

Accolades aside, Pewewardy's journey as an educator and advocate began in modest surroundings. The first in his military family of six boys to attend college, he was born and raised in Lawton, Oklahoma, and credits his mother for encouraging him to pursue higher education.

"My mother would tell me, 'Just go as far as you can go, Cornel, because you've always done the things you've set your mind to,'" Pewewardy recalled. Her words instilled a belief that determination and effort could overcome circumstance—a lesson he carried through every stage of his education.

Challenges marked his first year at Lawton-Cameron University, but a meeting with activist John Trudell changed his trajectory. Trudell's knowledge of American Indian studies inspired Pewewardy to envision a career in Indigenous education and advocacy.

"It always resonated with me," he said. "And so, I thought to myself, that's what I want to do."

He transferred to Northeastern State University for courses in Native American history and philosophy—opportunities unavailable elsewhere.

Finding Community

At NSU, Pewewardy was far from home, without a car or family support. Lacking a personal mentor, he built relationships with professionals and American Indian leaders, fueling his determination.

"I just admired a very professional and traditional person, and so that's what propelled me to seek more higher education," he said.

He also found community among fellow students and the local Native population. As an officer of the Native American Student Association, he helped organize NSU's first powwows, giving students a connection

to their culture. "A lot of the students were not that familiar with their own culture," Pewewardy said. "But I told them I could sing, and I could help bring dancers and drum groups to put on a powwow."

These gatherings became a symbol of pride and belonging for students.

He played a pivotal role in establishing NSU's Native Studies program and advocating for a change to the university mascot—a conversation that began with student-led protests and led to curriculum integration and the adoption of a new mascot over time.

From classroom to Leadership

After graduating with his second degree from NSU in 1977, Pewewardy pursued advanced studies, earning a master's in Educational Management and Development from New Mexico State University, a doctorate in educational administration from Pennsylvania State University and a postdoctoral fellowship in multi-ethnic studies at the University of Oklahoma.

He began his career in New Mexico as a teacher and principal at Ojo Encino Day School, where he developed his leadership skills and commitment to Indigenous education. Over the years, his work expanded across multiple states—including Minnesota, Kansas and Oklahoma—teaching, mentoring and shaping programs for Native students. In Oklahoma, he served as a founding principal of two magnet schools and a charter school dedicated to Indigenous students, creating educational environments that honored culture, identity and academic excellence. He currently serves as an associate professor of political science at the University of Central Oklahoma.

Pewewardy is a founding member of the National Association for Multicultural Education, bringing educators nationwide together to advance inclusion and cultural understanding.

"It's understanding your history and where you come from," he said. "And trying to tell your family and your students about your resiliency, because it's a very tragic history."

Recognition and Research

Across decades of service, Pewewardy has earned more than 20 awards recognizing his leadership, advocacy and scholarship in Indigenous education. A published researcher and ethnomusicologist, studying Comanche and Kiowa music, he has contributed widely to scholarship on Indigenous education and political identity and was inducted into the Oklahoma Educators Hall of Fame. Despite these honors, he remains humble: "I don't look at it as, 'I want to be recognized,'" he said. "I want to do it because it's the right thing. What students see is the effort and the difference you make."

Living tradition

Pewewardy served as keynote speaker for NSU's 2025 Symposium of the American Indian, discussing the political identity of Indigenous peoples in the U.S. He also teaches Southern Plains powwow singing and drumming with OKC's We the People Consulting Inc., helping students and community members connect with cultural traditions.

"It brings community together," he said. "Plus, you get to know the songs of your people and be honored by helping to sing them."

Outside teaching, he enjoys studying and listening to music, especially songs from the 60s and 70s, which he says provide "an algorithm of warmth and need."

From humble beginnings to recognized leader in Indigenous education, Pewewardy's journey exemplifies perseverance, community and the pursuit of knowledge.



Courtesy Photo

COMANCHE NATION FAIR PARADE WINNER. Winning the 2025 Best School Band category during the Comanche Nation Fair parade is the **Pride of Cache Marching Band**. Directors are **Derek Griner** and **Rob Miller**. Drum majors are **Bianca Bui** and **Julie Martin**. The band is made up of 75 members. Comanche Nation Parade coordinator **DeAnn Nibbs LeBeau** and Parade Outreach coordinator **Kelly Wilkinson Jones** presented a check to the Band for \$500. The parade staff was so excited to finally have some high school marching bands participate in this year's parade.

Two Comanche Women are Honored at Gala Event



Courtesy Photo

Parker



Courtesy Photo

Ramos

Comanche tribal members LaNora Parker and Raquel Ramos were honored at the "She Leads Native America: Honoring Women Empowering Nations" Gala Event on November 1, at the OKANA Resort in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Parker received the Wisdomkeeper Award.

"I am appreciative of being selected as a Wisdom Keeper Honoree among many other Native Women Recipients Nationwide," Parker stated on Social Media. "I was nominated by a Lawton Resident. Many thanks you's to the Impact Church for hosting the 3-Day, 'She Leads Native America Conference', Pastor Ray Garcia and Pastoria Richelle Tippeconnie Garcia. Also, another thank you to the Co-Founders, Dr. Laralyn Riverwind and Dr. Liz Doyle. The Support of Empowering Native Women in the conference was a powerful experience. Among this group, there were a total of 3 Comanche Women. Thank you all for your hard work, and especially for Comanche Nation Treasure, Benny Tahmahkera, attending to support me and 2 other Comanche Honorees."

Ramos received the Eagle Feather Award.

"November 1 was an unforgettable day! I had the honor of speaking that afternoon and later that evening was humbled to receive the Eagle Feather Award from She Leads Native America, along with incredible women in attendance from across Indian Country and Canada," Ramos stated on Social Media. "Sharing the moment with my Hunnie Ramos, daughter Patricia, and granddaughter Lani reminded me how far faith, family, and purpose can take you. Thank you, to my sister-in-law Richelle, for nominating me and always believing in the work I do to strengthen our communities through culture, prevention, and healing. Your support means so much to me."

She Leads Native America (SLNA), a branch of She Leads America, aimed at addressing injustices and promoting cultural heritage through education and advocacy. The organization is committed to uplifting Native American communities and women by promoting cultural heritage through education, advocacy and community engagement.

For more information go to the website: <https://sheleadsnativeamerica.com>

Atauvich Passes Marine Princess Title



Kasey Atauvich, right, puts the Native American Marine Corp Princess banner on their new princess, Kylee Robedaux November 16 in Carnegie, Oklahoma.

Story and Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Kasey Atauvich, the outgoing Native American Marine Corps Veterans Association Princess, passed on her title to Kylee Robedaux on November 16, at the Marine Corps Veterans Gourd Dance in Carnegie, Oklahoma, at the Kiowa Tribe.

She wants to focus on her schooling at Cameron University to pursue a career in marketing after graduating from Oklahoma City Community College with an associate's degree in business.

Atauvich also comes from a military family.

"My grandfather, his name was Vernon Atauvich, and he served in the Marine Corps. He was in the Cold War with my grandpa, too. My grandpa, Carl Atauvich, he was also in the Cold War, but he was in the Navy," she said. "But that was his brother, and that makes him my grandpa also. And my dad, Gary Unah, he was in the Marine Corps also, and he served in Desert Storm."

Atauvich said it was a great learning experience, and she was honored to represent the Marine Corps Veterans Association, her family, and those who have served in the Marine Corps.

Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday
November 15 - Gabriel Flores
November 20 - Waylon Michael Hughes
November 25 - Joella Cullen
November 29 - Cricket Karty



Happy 13th Birthday
Melynn Fagan
December 3
~ Love, Mom, Dad Brother, Sissy and all your nieces and nephews. We love you!



Happy Birthday
Aaliyah Gilliam
December 10
~Happy Birthday Aaliyah! We love you so much! From Kakoo, Rachel and Ariane!



Happy 19th Birthday
Ian Guerrero
December 15
~ Happy 19th Birthday, son! We love you very much! Mommy and Dalyliah.



Happy 28th Birthday
Madison Elaine Stickney
December 16

Happy Birthday!



December 1 - Delbert Karty
December 3 - Melynn Fagan
December 10 - Aaliyah Gilliam
December 12 - Kylo Tahse-quah
December 15 - Ian Guerrero
December 16 - Madison Elaine Stickney
December 18 - Gabrielle McCracken
December 18 - Karter McCracken
December 20 - Gerald Chasenah
December 20 - Jason Flores
December 20 - Kaleb Plata
December 20 - Michael Burgess
December 21 - Mary Crystal Nauni *"Happy 61st Birthday Precious Loved One. Blessings Always."*
December 30 - Rose Ridgway
December 31 - Jerrold Taylor



Happy 10th Birthday
Karter McCracken
December 18



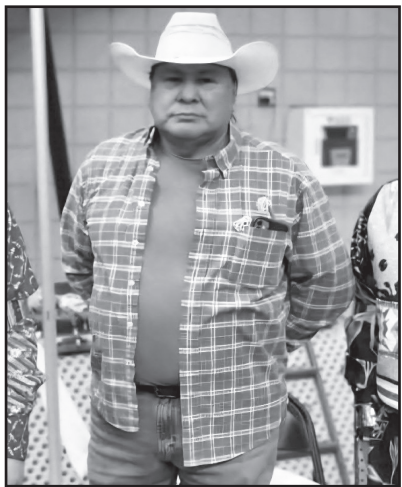
Happy 33rd Birthday
Gabrielle McCracken
December 18



Happy Belated 5th Birthday
Waylon Michael Hughes
November 20



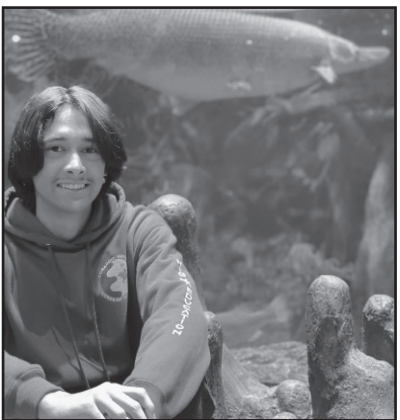
Happy 19th Birthday
Kaleb Plata
December 20
~ Love, your family.



Happy Birthday
Gerald Chasenah
December 20
~ Happy Birthday to dad Gerald Chasenah. From kids and grandkids.



Happy 31st Birthday
Jason Flores
December 20

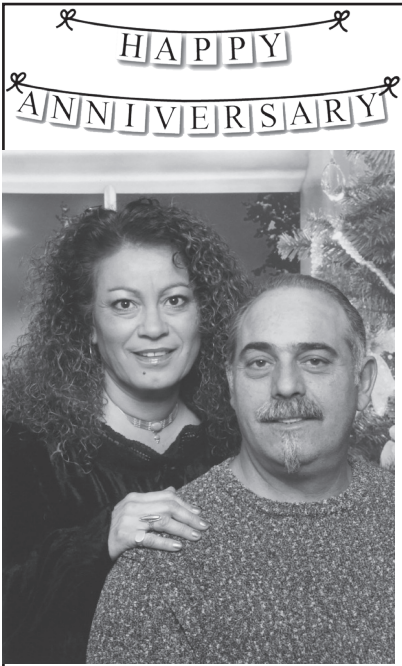


Happy Belated Birthday
Gabriel Flores
November 15



Pryce and Madison Stickney
November 20, 2021
Celebrating 4 years of Marriage!

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



David and Rose Ridgway
December 30
*Celebrating 44 years of Marriage!
~Happy 44th Anniversary - Love you long time ♥*

In Loving Memory
Judith "Chrissy" Gilliam
January 18, 1985 - December 7, 2024



~ We will always love and miss you. Love, your family.

In Loving Memory
Happy Heavenly Birthday



Leona Johnson
December 24
~ Happy Heavenly Birthday to Our Gigi/Mom.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
From, the PIO Staff:
Jolene, Paula, Natascha, and Stacey!

DIVORCE?

WRITS?

WILLS/CODICILS?

ATTESTATIONS?

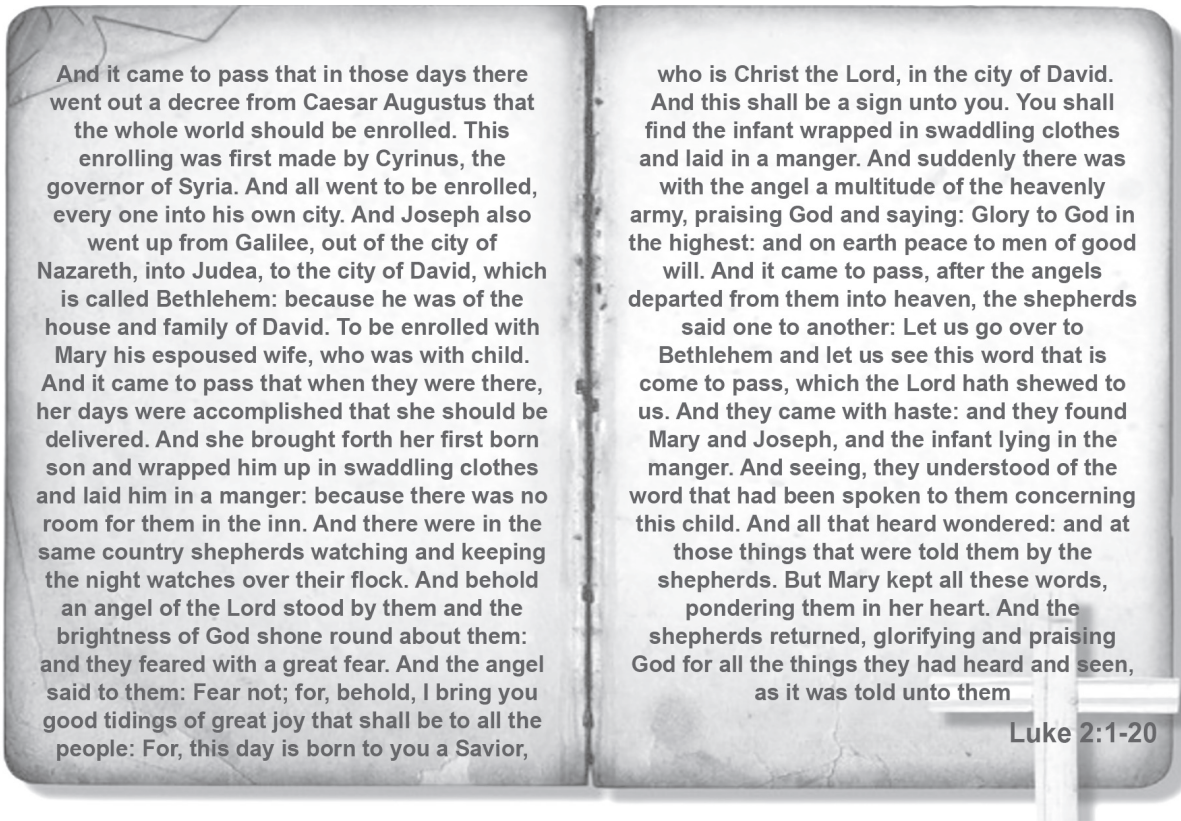
Notary Services

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

REASONABLE PREP FEES

Contact: Jewell Laurenzana Tieyah

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



Obituaries

Rita Coosewoon



Courtesy Photo

Coosewoon

Rita (Grandma) Coosewoon, 93 of Apache, went to be with the Lord on October 30, 2025, with her loving family by her side. She was born on April 24, 1932, to George and Blanche (Tissyhy) Sapcut in Lawton, Oklahoma. She was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma.

She was a teacher of the Comanche language, culture and helped with the creation of the Comanche dictionary. She loved to sew, knit, bead, make jewelry, sing and enjoyed playing the piano. She loved traveling, shopping and collecting hats and shoes.

Rita was a member of CIVA, Comanche Little Ponies, War Mothers, and Petarsy United Methodist Church, Spur. She always had a smile on her face that lit up the whole church.

She is survived by her son, Blu Sau-Pa Pahdocony; daughters, Bethany Denise Giles and Kimberlyn McGarry; son, Terrance Shawn Barnhart; 40 grandchildren; 19 great-grandchildren; her sisters, Georgia Sapcut, Yonevea Sapcut, Aruillia Craig and Beverly Isaac. Everyone she spent time with was her family and loved ones. She told her children that the most valuable thing on earth is our soul; nothing else is going with us to heaven. It's a beautiful thing to know that we will be with our loved ones; that we will all be together one day. She was so strong in her beliefs. She is preceded in death by her parents, George and Blanche Sapcut; her husband, Kenneth Coosewoon; and her children, Gaylon Pahdocony, Sheldon Pahdocony, Allen Barnhart, and Renee Barnhart.

Betty Hood Hargis



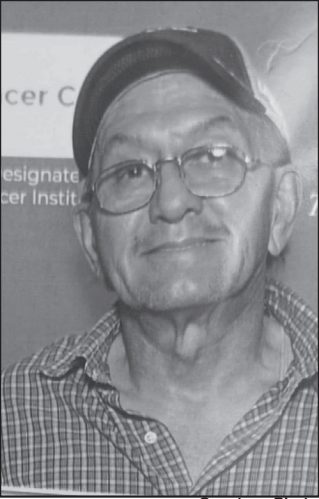
Courtesy Photo

Hargis

Betty Hood Hargis went to her heavenly home on January 5, 2025. She is at rest and in peace with her brothers, Clifford, Larry and Rance Hood; her beloved grandparents, Oscar and Agnes (Tahkomah) Tenequer. Grandma's Comanche name is Sockama, which means by the river's edge. Internment at Post Oak Cemetery. I love you, Pia, SC.

“The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He leads me beside still waters; He restores my soul. Goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.” Psalm 23.

James Wallace DeFate



Courtesy Photo

DeFate

James Wallace DeFate, affectionately known as J.W., passed away on October 23rd, 2025, in Duncan, Oklahoma, after a courageous battle with cancer since 2016.

Born on March 24, 1958, in Lawton to Elaine Kosechata and George DeFate, J.W. lived a life defined by hard work, family, and an unmatched ability to fix anything with his quick mind and skillful hands.

J.W.'s childhood was shaped by responsibility, trading toys for tools and turning work into a lifelong passion. A self-described “jack of all trades, master of none,” he was, in truth, a master at solving problems and teaching others.

In the early 1980s, he married and welcomed his first son, Waylon DeFate, in 1982, followed by Bradley DeFate in 1987. After his first marriage ended in the early 2000s, J.W. fought for and won custody of his sons, raising them with unwavering dedication as a single father.

In 2004, J.W. met Janet Bowen, a woman who became his salvation and the love of his life. They married on February 11th, 2006, and J.W. embraced Janet's children, Justin and Sarah, as his own.

His life revolved around family and work, often found under the hood of a car or with a wrench in hand, racing or checking cattle. After years in the service of car dealerships, J.W. served the City of Duncan for 15 years, retiring just one week before his passing, a testament to his relentless spirit.

J.W. was preceded in death by his mother, Elaine, his brothers, Cornell and Tommy, and his sister, Carolyn. He is survived by his devoted wife, Janet DeFate, who cared for him until his final breath; his children: Waylon, Bradley (Yoli), Justin (Julia), and Sarah; grandchildren: Matt, Shalyn, Gavin, Kole, Tyler, James, Issac, Eli, Kypton, Cleo, and Jaye; brothers: Hoss, Paul, and Tony; and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

David Martin Pete



Courtesy Photo

Pete

David Martin Pete Jr. went to be with the Lord on October 24, 2025, with his family by his side. He was born on February 19, 1985, in Lawton, Oklahoma, to Shirla Jo Caddo and David Pete, SR.

He was a proud member of

the Comanche Nation.

He loved working at D&K Fencing, where he spent 10-15 years.

He was a big OKC Thunder and OU football fan. He loved his family very much, as well as his animals, which included Spot, Brownie, Missy, Miss Lady and Tiger.

He is survived by his mother Shirla Strickler; father David Pete, Sr., Cache; sister Alicia Pete, Oklahoma City; brother Anthony Pete, Lawton, niece Ayanna Noble, nephew Nathan Kiesecker, both of OKC; grandfather Jimmy Ray Caddo, Lawton; great nephews Anthony Pete Jr. and Rylen Pete, Lawton; uncle Michael Caddo, Cache; aunts Jackie Pete, Cache and Caroline Miranda, Lawton; many cousins and friends.

Preceded in death by his grandparents: Jackson and Betty Pete, Leatrice Wermey; uncles Marlon and Richard Caddo; aunts Sandra and Jamie Caddo; nephew Nodin Kiesecker; cousins Stephen French and Verdell Caddo.

Erma Jean Yougman



Courtesy Photo

Youngman

Erma Jean Youngman passed away peacefully on October 29, 2025, with her loving family by her side. Erma was born to Bert Youngman and Lena Hoahwah Youngman on March 6, 1937, in Canton, Oklahoma.

Erma was a proud member of the Comanche Nation and was a descendant of the Arapaho tribe. Erma entered Fort Sill Indian School in 1947 at the age of 9; while attending FSIS, she excelled in Basketball and was also a member of the Pep Club and 4-H Club.

Erma graduated from Fort Sill Indian School Class of 1956. Upon graduating, she attended Okmulgee Technical School, now known as OSU-Okmulgee I.T. Erma began her career at ESECO Speedmaster in the early 1970s as an offset printing press operator. A role she held for nearly 50 years in Cushing, Oklahoma; she retired at the age of 83 due to the COVID-19 shutdown.

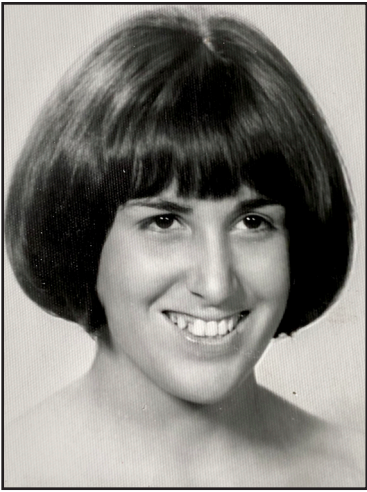
Erma loved to sew, quilt, and scrapbook. She also collected many coins, tin cans, books, and magazines. She also enjoyed reading various genres of books, especially Steven King. Erma also loved her Fort Sill Indian School memorabilia, which she cherished.

Erma adored her friends and family; she especially loved watching her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and great-great-grandchildren dance at pow-wows and play sports. She loved her culture and enjoyed camping at powwows, especially the Comanche Nation Fair, which was held at Craterville Park and later at the Comanche Nation Complex.

Erma is survived by children Don Youngman of Lawton; Jody Youngman of Lawton; Brent and wife Lavonda Youngman of Cushing; brother Victor Youngman of Ft. Cobb; grandchildren Keela, Paula, Adam, Casey, and Brittany;

9 great grandchildren; 4 great great grandchildren; step siblings Bentle, Beverly, Brenda and Lowell Tonips; nephew Steven Youngman from Fort Yates, ND; and several other nephews and nieces. Along with good friends Brenda and Larry Don Lewis, Debbie Franklin and family, Norleen Rice, all of Cushing, Oklahoma. Erma is preceded in death by parents; brothers Rod Youngman, Merrick Youngman and Fredrick Youngman; sisters Rosalie Youngman, Lisa Tahpay, Carlene Youngman; 3 angel babies; nephews Eddie Johnson and Wayne Tahpay; niece Jeannie Apauty; great-grandson Tahlil James (T.J.) Cooper and stepbrother Algermon Tonips.

Rosemary Hettich Anderson



Courtesy Photo

Anderson

Rosemary Hettich Anderson returned peacefully to her Heavenly Father, leaving behind a legacy of devotion, service, and quiet strength. A member of the Comanche Nation, she was born on December 6, 1950, in New Brunswick, New Jersey, to Thomas and Ada Riddles Hettich, the fifth of eleven children in a bustling, loving home. Her early years were spent in Edison, New Jersey, where she grew up surrounded by family, faith, and the foundations of her lifelong desire to help others.

After the passing of her father at the conclusion of her junior year of high school, Rosemary moved with her mother and siblings to Provo, Utah, graduating from Provo High School in 1969. She then attended Utah State University, where she met and married Dickson Michael Smith and welcomed two loving children, Jewelie (Matt) Rhodes and Jonathan (Katherine) Smith. In 1978, her marriage ended, and Rosemary returned to Provo, where she lived as a devoted single mother of two who continued her studies in social work at Brigham Young University while teaching English as a second language at Provo High School — her determination demonstrated a heightened intellectual disposition and ability to balance family, education, and work.

Rosemary devoted much of her professional life to serving vulnerable youth and families. She worked with troubled teens at Salt Lake County Youth Services and later supported children and families as a Child Protective Services social worker for Davis County. Her work was challenging, yet she approached every child and family with unwavering kindness, dignity, and a belief in their potential.

On April 7, 1990, Rosemary married Craig Anderson, and with this union came a new chapter of love and blended family. They made their home in Grantsville, Utah, where Rosemary continued working in Davis County. After retiring, she remained active in her community, serving as a substitute teacher and participating in the Youth City Council.

A woman of many talents and simple joys, Rosemary loved quilting, family history, genealogy, and any opportunity to use her hands and heart in quiet acts of creation. She

found joy in serving many church callings, including Primary teacher, ward librarian, and, most recently, as a family history consultant.

Rosemary is survived by her beloved husband, Craig; her two children; five stepchildren; twenty-three grandchildren, including Morgan (Cameron) Bale, Brendon (Catherine) Rhodes, Marlee (Isaac) Sefcik, McKelle Rhodes, and Brock Rhodes; nine great-grandchildren including Laityn Bale, Kenna Bale, Myles Sefcik, with two more on the way; and her ten siblings Grant (Arlene) Williams, Katherine Hughes, Jane (Bill) Bridge, Thomas Jr. (Linda) Hettich, Carl Hettich, Anthony Hettich, Richard (Lisa) Hettich, Adam Hettich, Rebecca Hettich, and Apryl (Kenneth) Allen — each of whom held a special place in her heart. She rejoins in peace her grandson, Jonathan Doerr, who passed before her.

Those who knew Rosemary will remember her spirited personality, her dedication and generosity, and the deep love she carried for her family and faith.

Funeral services was held on Monday, November 24, 2025, at 12:00 p.m., with a viewing preceding the services from 10:00 to 11:30 a.m. at the LDS Chapel, 81 North Church Street, Grantsville, Utah. Interment followed at Grantsville City Cemetery.



CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below, With tiny lights, like Heaven's Stars, reflecting on the snow. The sight is so spectacular; please wipe away the tear, For I am spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year. I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear, But the sounds of music can't compare with the Christmas choir up here. I have no words to tell you the joy their voices bring, For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing. I know how much you miss me; I see the pain in your heart, But I am not so far away we really aren't apart. So be happy for me, dear ones, you know I hold you dear, And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year. I sent you each a special gift from my heavenly home above, I sent you each a memory of my undying love. After all, love is a gift, more precious than pure gold, It was always most important, in the stories Jesus told. Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do, For I can't count the blessings or love He has for each of you. So have a Merry Christmas, and wipe away that tear, Remember, I am spending Christmas, with Jesus Christ this year. In Memory of those who have lost a loved one.

HALL OF FAME

Continued from Page 1

suspected enemy stronghold. After several hours, the 4th Platoon again encountered heavy enemy fire from automatic weapons, rockets, and mortars. During the initial barrage, two squads were pinned down and sustained heavy casualties. Although our numbered, 1LT Waddle organized his men into a defensive position and called for air strikes, which enabled Waddle and his platoon to overrun and rout the enemy. Waddle's other awards include the Bronze Star with Oak Leaf Cluster and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Following discharge in 1969, 1LT Waddle graduated from Texas A&M University and lives in Berryville, Arkansas. Waddle continues to serve veterans as a Veteran Service Officer and Public Speaker on Veteran Affairs.

The Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame is an all-volunteer 501 (c) 3 non- profit organization which is funded entirely by donations, their ambassadors provide invaluable support throughout the year in various capacities such as creating public awareness, securing, assisting nominations of prospective honorees, and identifying potential donors to help support of their mission.



First Lieutenant Michael Waddle, U.S. Army, speaks at his induction .



From left: CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie, Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez, Comanche Little Ponies Princess Arlene Schonchin, Tabenaibi Tahchawwickah and Mesa Tahchawwickah perform the National Anthem at the 2025 Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on November 1 in Norman, Oklahoma.



CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie sings the National Anthem.



Clockwise: CIVA Auxiliary Suzanne Patterson, Linda Tehauno, Shirley Pohawpatchoko, Tavia Torralba and Liz Plata; Mark Davis, Michael Squire, Kevin Pohawpatchoko, Ramona Davis, and James Czerniak of CIVA bring in the colors; and the Kiowa Black Leggings Warrior Society lead the Opening Ceremony of the 2025 Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony on November 1 in Norman, Oklahoma.

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Smart Holiday Spending

With December comes holiday sales for the upcoming gift giving season. Here are some tips to make the most of your money:

Make a gift list. List in detail everyone you plan on buying a gift for and the limit of how much you will spend on that person. This will help lower the risk of impulse purchases.

Do your research. An item listed on Black Friday, Shop Local Saturday, or Cyber Monday may not always be the best deal. Compare prices between retailers before making that purchase.

Use cash or a debit card. This can help you better stick to your budget and rely less on credit cards.

Check your investments. Are you close to maximizing retirement contributions? If you have required minimum distributions, have you made those? If you have a flexible spending account, have you used your remaining funds if they expire at year end?

December is a great time to spend with those you care about but also a time to make the most of your finances.

CELEBRATE THE NEW YEAR WITH COMANCHE!

JOIN US FOR BIG FUN & BIGGER WINS ON NEW YEAR'S EVE AT NATION, SPUR & CACHE - ASK US FOR DETAILS!

CANDY CANG CASH

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
DEC 5-27 • 7PM-11PM
DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES TO WIN \$100 - \$500 COMANCHE CREDIT OR \$2,000 CASH!

Legend and Select members will have their \$100-\$200 prizes doubled.

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



COMANCHE NATION
CASINO

DECEMBER WINTER WINS

FRIDAYS-SATURDAYS
DEC 5-28 • 8PM-MIDNIGHT
DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES TO WIN \$100 COMANCHE CREDIT OR \$1,000 CASH AT MIDNIGHT!

RECEIVE 1 ENTRY FOR EVERY 50 POINTS EARNED 8AM-MIDNIGHT

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



COMANCHE NATION
CASINO

SPUR

CREDIT RODEO DRAWINGS

FRIDAYS & SATURDAYS
DEC 5-27 7PM-11PM
DRAWINGS EVERY 30 MINUTES TO WIN \$100-\$500 Comanche Credit!

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

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



COMANCHE NATION
CASINO

CACHE



COMANCHE NATION ENTERTAINMENT

TOY DRIVE

TUES-THURS • NOW-DEC 18 • 10AM-10PM

'TIS THE SEASON OF GIVING!

DONATE BRAND NEW TOYS AND BRING IN YOUR NOV & DEC 2025 RECEIPT TO RECEIVE UP TO \$50 IN COMANCHE CREDIT!

DONATE AT ANY OF OUR CASINO LOCATIONS!
Offer is redeemable once per member, per day, per property.