



Lords of the Plains

VOLUME 27 EDITION 5

Comanche Nation Public Information Office, Lawton, OK

Totsiyaa Mtra (May) 2026

Annual Meeting Nominates Board Members; Puts Resolutions on Voting Ballot

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the April 18 Comanche Nation Annual Meeting, and not the official minutes. To obtain a copy of the official minutes, please contact the Office of the Chairman, (580) 360-0623.

Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoohrippah called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m. Tribal member Edmond Nevaquaya gave the invocation. Tahdoohrippah announced that there were 290 people who registered, and a quorum was established.

A motion was made and seconded to move the resolutions to the beginning of the meeting agenda. After a vote, the results were 162 to move the resolutions and 71 not to.

The agenda was changed, and the resolutions were moved to the top of the meeting agenda.

Baliente Herrera motioned to approve the new agenda. Ron Burgess seconded the motion, and it passed by verbal vote.

Resolutions

Resolution TC 01-2026 – Resolution affirming the Comanche Nation's Commitment to Increase Civic Participation and Voter Engagement. The resolution that the Comanche Nation is committed to increase civic participation among its citizens for both tribal and general elections; and, that the Comanche Nation Election Board shall provide nonpartisan voter education to Tribal members; and voter registration opportunities shall be made available at Tribal events; and, the Enrollment Office shall make voter registration forms available at the time of enrollment for members who are at least seventeen and one-half (17.5) years of age, with all completed applications to be submitted in accordance with applicable law.

The voting results were: To put on the ballot – 212 to place the resolution on the voting ballot, and 76 not to put on the ballot. The resolutions will be placed on the voting ballot.

Resolution TC 02-2026 – A Comanche Tribal Council Resolution Authorizing Certain Actions Related to Financing the Comanche Nation Casino Project. The resolution says that the Tribal Council expressly authorizes the CBC and Comanche Nation Gaming Board of Directors to agree to a limited waiver of sovereign immunity for the purposes of securing up to \$125,000,000 in financing for the Comanche Nation Casino Project and re-financing such loan as the Board deems appropriate; and, that the Tribal Council hereby exempts contracts related to the Comanche Nation Casino Project from the TERO Tax and directs the Tax Administrator to take any actions necessary to effectuate such exemptions.

A verbal vote was taken to place Resolution TC 02-2026 on the voting ballot, and it was passed.

Resolution TC 03-2026 – Resolution Directing the Comanche Business Committee to Investigate Amending the Revenue Allocation Plan to Provide for a Limited Diversification Policy for Minors. The resolution reads that the Comanche Tribal Council hereby directs the Comanche Business Committee to investigate the lawfulness of amending the Revenue Allocation Plan to allow for a Limited Bitcoin Diversification Policy within trust funds established for minor Comanche citizens under the Revenue Allocation Plan that complies with the following limitations and safeguards: 1. Allocation Cap Investment in Bitcoin shall not exceed two percent (2%) of the total value of any individual minor trust fund portfolio at the time of allocation. 2. Preservation of Low-Risk Framework The substantial majority of each minor trust account shall remain invested in low-risk, capital-preserving, interest-bearing instruments consistent with the requirements and intent of the Revenue Allocation Plan. 3. Fiduciary Oversight All Bitcoin investments shall be managed in accordance with strict fiduciary standards and administered by the appropriate tribal financial authority, trustee.

See MEETING, Page 7

Red Berry Wonder Kids Clinic Opens Doors to Community



Photo by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

Officials, staff, Comanche Nation Princess, Arlene Schonchin, and Junior Princess, Clara Yazzie, and community members gather for a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the grand opening of Red Berry Health System's Wonder Kids facility on April 17.

Story by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Red Berry opened its doors on Friday, April 17, at 6403 W. Gore Blvd. in Lawton, Oklahoma.

The clinic specializes in pediatric care but will eventually expand its services.

Comanche Nation Chairman Forrest Tahdoohrippah, Comanche Business Committee, Tribal Administrator Lisa Dawsey and Lawton Chamber of Commerce cut the ribbon to the new clinic.

"A lot of work went into this but I have to say I'm very grateful for the Indian Health Service, and I'm really grateful for our consultants because they really made it a lot easier on all of us but you know we had to make a plan to make this happen, and we had to make a plan carefully," Tahdoohrippah said. "Because we really didn't want to upset the funding for the Lawton Service Unit, because we didn't want to have the Lawton Indian Hospital have to make

any sort of cuts. So, to make that happen, we met, and by we I mean IHS, myself, and our consultants.

We met on a pretty much weekly basis for the better part of three to four months just to create the plan, go over the funding, you know check everything twice and then we had almost full day negotiation for our annual funding agreement. And then we had a couple partial day negotiations for our pre-award and start-up costs and we ended up, as I mentioned before in the program, getting like six and a half to seven million dollars from IHS to make this happen. So, a lot like I said a lot went into it, but I'm really grateful because all of the different parties they made it easy; they were all very easy to work with and just made it easy to have it all happen."

He's excited to see better health outcomes for Comanche people.

"We want to have healthy people. There is no amount of money that can replace good health. Good health is what is just the most fundamental thing," Tahdoohrippah said. "You know, when you pray for people, you pray for their good health and for their happiness above all else, and so that's what I want for Comanche people. That's what I want for their families. So, the thing I'm looking forward to the most is just seeing our people get healthier and be healthier."

Comanche Indian Veterans Association raised the flags, and Comanche Nation Princess Arlene Schonchin and Jr. Princess Clara Yazzie signed the Lord's Prayer.

Lawton Mayor Stan Booker, Indian Health Services and community members were at the ribbon cutting.



Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

2026 COMANCHE NATION PRINCESS AND JUNIOR PRINCESS. Being announced as new Comanche Nation Princesses are, from left: 2026 Comanche Nation Princess, Arlene Schonchin and 2026 Comanche Nation Jr. Princess, Clara Yazzie. A Coronation Powwow took place on April 4. The two girls will serve as the Goodwill Ambassadors for the Comanche Nation for the next year. See full story on Page 11.

Notice of Comanche Academy School Board Annual Meeting

The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Comanche Academy School Board ("Board") shall take place 5 p.m., on June 22, at: Dorothy Lorentino Education Center Auditorium 1608 SW 9th St. Lawton, OK 73501

Submitted by John Harris/ CACS Board

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

The current Board roster is as follows:

- Director 1: Angela Swenke - Dec. 2025 - 2028 Annual Meeting
- Director 2: Nicole Asepermy - Sept. 2025 - 2028 Annual Meeting
- Director 3: Dr. Wanda Priddy - Nov. 2024 - 2026 Annual Meeting
- Director 4: Vacant - 2026 Annual Meeting
- Director 5: Brianna Tahdoohrippah - Dec. 2024- 2026 Annual Meeting
- Director 6: Lisa Munoz - Dec. 2025 - 2027 Annual Meeting
- Director 7: John Harris - June 2024 - 2027 Annual Meeting

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

- Director 3 currently held by Dr. Wanda Priddy
- Director 4 vacant
- Director 5 currently held by Brianna Tahdoohrippah

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

All nominations must be on the nomination form attached to this notice submitted with a resume and received by the President of the Board, Brianna Tahdoohrippah, via email at btahdoohrippah@comancheacademy.com or received by the school office no later than 11:59pm on June 8, 2026.

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

- Be at least 18 years of age;
- Have a high school degree (equivalent);
- Have complied with any continuing education requirements imposed by the Board during the Director Nominee's prior term on the Board, if applicable;
- Not be a current Comanche Academy school faculty/staff member;
- Not be a member of the Comanche Business Committee ("CBC");
- Not be disqualified from serving under Section III(B) of the Board's Conflicts of Interest Policy, adopted December 1, 2021; and
- Not have been convicted, pled guilty, or nolo contendere, or

See CACS BOARD, Page 5



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THE COMANCHE NATION NEWS

Totsiyaa M̄na (May) 2026

Flower Month The award-winning Comanche Nation News, the official communication of the Comanche Nation, is available at no charge upon request. The deadline to submit information for the June Edition is 5 p.m., May 15.

Contact: The Comanche Nation News P.O. Box 908 Lawton, Okla. 73502-0908 Telephone: (580) 360-0614 Email: pio@comanchenation.com

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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.
The Milestones Page (Birthdays, Anniversaries, Engagements, Memorial Pictures, Weddings, Births) are by submission only.
TCNN will print a Comanche organization's annual event flyer once free of charge as a courtesy to our tribal organizations.

Government

22 Resolutions Pass in the March 31 and April 4 CBC Meetings; New Comanche Holiday Created

Submitted by Jennifer Lee/Comanche Nation Administration

Editor's Note: This is an overview of the March 31 and April 4 Comanche Business Committee (CBC) Monthly Meetings, and not the official minutes. To obtain a copy of the official minutes, please contact the Office of the Chairman, (580) 360-0623.

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

March 31 Special Meeting

Motion to approve the medical lease facility agreement for Red Berry. Vice Chairwoman Diana Doyebi Sovo makes the motion, and CBC No. 1, Hazel Tahsequah, seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolutions

Resolution 53-2026 - Resolution appointing KCA Intertribal Land Use Committee alternate. Sovo makes the motion. Secretary/Treasurer Benny Tahmahkera seconds the motion. The motion carries 4/1/1.

Resolution 54-2026 - Gift Shop Resolution Authorizing a separate bank account for debit card. Tahmahkera makes a motion to accept the resolution. Tahsequah seconds. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Sovo makes a motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:18 a.m. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

April 4 Meeting

Resolution No. 55-2026- Enrollment Eligible Resolution Minor List 1405 Vice Chairwoman Diana Doyebi Sovo makes a motion to approve. CBC No. 1 Hazel Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 56-2026- Enrollment Eligible Resolution to Remove List 1406 Sovo makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 57-2026- Agriculture Operations Resolution for Grant Application for SEC Harvest Now RFA. Kosechequetah makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 58-2026- CIP Resolution for CN Complex Playground. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 59-2026- Tuitua Foundation Resolution for New Board Member Ryland Rivas. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 60-2026- Prevention & Recovery Resolution Zero Suicide No. 4 Fox makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 61-2026- THPO Resolution for Grant Application for IMLS Enhancement 2026. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 62-2026- CBC Resolution to Name Bernard Kahrahrah Community Center. Fox makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 63-2026- CBC Resolution Naming Equine Center and Native American Church Building. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 64-2026- CBC Resolution Regarding Equine Assisted Therapy Program. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 65-2026- CBC Resolution Proclaiming April 4, 2026 Comanche Tribal Princess Day. Tahsequah makes a motion to approve. Sovo seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.

Resolution No. 66-2026- CBC Resolution Proposing Constitutional Amendments (2026). Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Fox seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 67-2026- CBC Resolution to Adopt Travel Policy for CBC. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Tahmahkera seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

See RESOLUTIONS, PAGE 5

From the Chairman's Desk



Maruaweka Numunuu:

Kesu—"wait"—is one of our Comanche words that remains in relatively wide usage today. It is also a word that I frequently must tell myself to remind myself to be patient with the prolonged process that is tribal government.

When I was elected in May 2024, one of my top priorities was to improve the floors at both the Comanche Nation Casino and Comanche Red River Casino Hotel. I discussed the issue with management and the CBC.

Since then, I have come to appreciate the amount of planning that is required for front-line employees to actually execute such a project. Replacing the floors of the entire casino requires moving all of the machines. This is a highly disruptive process that requires significant planning to properly execute to minimize downtime.

All of this is to simply say, I have not forgotten about the need for better floors, or any of the other important projects that have been discussed over the last two years—event center at the casino, restructuring of programs, renovations of our hotel, and the list goes on.

LEGAL NOTICE: SUMMONS

IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT DISTRICT COURT Case no. CV-2025-0012

Comanche Nation, ex. rel. Comanche Nation Tax Commission, Plaintiff, v. Travis Brenneis d.b.a. Brenneis Energy, Defendant.

SUMMONS: TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT: You have been sued by the Comanche Nation in the Comanche Nation Tribal Court. The nature of the suit and demand against you is stated in the petition filed with the Court.

You have thirty (30) days after completion of service of this summons to file a written response to the petition and serve a copy with the Plaintiff's attorney at the address below. There may be a court form that you can use for your response.

Unless you answer the petition within the time stated, judgment will be rendered against you together with the costs of the action.

Attorney for Plaintiff Shoney Blake Pipestem Law, P.C. 401 S. Boston Avenue, #2200 Tulsa, Oklahoma 74103 (918) 419-0484 sblake@pipestemlaw.com

Legal document: IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT DISTRICT COURT MAR 25 2026 FILED. IN THE MATTER OF THE CHANGE OF NAME OF: NANSUWUHKAI A. MENDENHALL. NOTICE BY PUBLICATION TO: ALL CREDITORS or INTERESTED PARTIES.

Legal document: IN THE COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT DISTRICT COURT APR 15 2026 FILED. The Comanche Nation ex. rel. Tax Commission Plaintiff, v. Travis Brenneis d.b.a. Brenneis Energy Defendant. ORDER FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION.

Comanche Nation Officials Chairman Forrest Tahdoohnippah Vice Chairman Diana Doyebi Sovo Secretary/Treasurer Benny Tahmahkera Committee member No. 1 Hazel Tahsequah Committee member No. 2 Darrell Kosechequetah Committee member No. 3 Alice Kassanavoid Committee member No. 4 Jordan Fox Tribal Administrator Lisa Dawsey

To contact officials: Office of the CBC/Chairman: Telephone: (580) 360-0623 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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Programs

Comanche Nation Tribal Court

- Travis Parker: CNCSP-25-07; 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 SUPPORT HEARINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON.

PLEASE TAKE NOTE THAT ALL COURT OF INDIAN OFFENSES CHILD SUPPORT HEARINGS WILL BE CONDUCTED IN PERSON.

April Undergraduate Student of the Month Xavier Klinekole



Courtesy Photo

Klinekole

Xavier Klinekole is currently a third-year student at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, where he is pursuing a major in criminology and a minor in psychology.

Throughout his college journey, Xavier aims not only to expand his academic knowledge but also to continuously improve himself as a person by developing valuable life skills, strengthening his character, and preparing for future professional opportunities.

April Higher Education Graduate Student of the Month Melissa Mitchell



Courtesy Photo

Mitchell

Missy Mitchell is a doctoral candidate in the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education at the University of Oklahoma. She received her master's degree in Adult and Higher Education with an emphasis in Intercollegiate Athletic Administration from the Jeannine Rainbolt College of Education at OU and her bachelor's degree in public relations from the University of Central Oklahoma.

She plans to use her doctoral degree to create and teach master's classes in the area of adult and higher education. She sees this as an opportunity to make positive contributions and to give back to the community.

Mitchell and her husband have been married for 33 years and have three adult children and one grandchild. She and her husband live in Norman, where she works for the University of Oklahoma.

She is the daughter of Francene and Phil Monenerkit, and the late Robert Smith of Georgia. She is the granddaughter of Lucille McClung and Margaret Poahway, and the great-granddaughter of Bert and Josie Cable and the great, great-granddaughter of George and Yivah Cable.

Mitchell would like to thank the Comanche Nation Higher Education Department for their invaluable support throughout her years in both her master's and her Ph.D.

April Adult Education Student of the Month Josh Codopony



Courtesy Photo

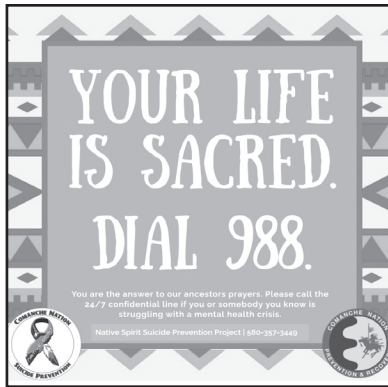
Codopony

Joshua Codopony, is currently a student enrolled in the GED/HiSET course.

Family is very important to Josh; he is the son of Darrell and Diana Codopony, and has three brothers, one sister, and three nephews. In his free time, Josh enjoys listening to music, playing video games, and reading comics.

Regarding his educational goals, Josh's primary focus is to complete his GED/HiSET course and earn his high school equivalency diploma. Once that is achieved, Josh plans to pursue further education by taking auto body and mechanics classes.

Codopony would like to thank everyone for the opportunity to share his story.



Women's Wellness Seminar
Celebrating Sisterhood & Self-Care
"You cannot pour from an empty cup. Take care of yourself first."
- Eleanor Brown

★ May 22, 2026 9:00 am - 4:00 pm ★
Watchtaker Hall - 584 NW Bingo Rd. Lawton, OK

Resource Tables Guest Speakers Chair Fitness Routine Door Prizes Light Lunch	REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED: Scan QR Code or call: 580-360-5021
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"We don't have to do all of it alone, we were never meant to."
- Brene Brown

Presented By the
Comanche Nation Family Assistance Center

For questions or to register a booth:
Laura Gould 580-360-5021
laura.gouldcomanchenation.com

LEGAL AID CLINIC

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

DATES	
5/06/26	10am-2pm
5/13/26	10am-2pm
5/20/26	10am-2pm
5/27/26	10am-2pm

FOR ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS OR INFORMATION
CALL COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT AT
(580)360-0618

Comanche Nation Offices will be closed on May 25, for the Memorial Day Holiday. Offices will re-open on May 26 for regular business.

MEMORIAL DAY
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WICHITA, KS

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JUNE 26TH
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

JUNE 27TH
DALLAS, TX

JULY 23RD, 24TH, & 25TH

ALBUQUERQUE, NM

COMANCHE NATION TRIBAL COURT

WILLS CLINIC

May 15, 2026
10am-2pm

Comanche Nation Tribal Courthouse
Comanche Nation Headquarters
584 NW Bingo Road
Lawton, OK

For more information please call (580)360-0618

Comanche Nation Museum, Cultural Center Invites Community to Artist Event

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Comanche Nation Museum and Cultural Center held an artist meet and greet with Dukon Harris on April 11.

Museum Assistant Tisha Sullivan said it was exciting to invite Harris to give his story about his artwork and see what pieces he's done. Her favorite piece was of Geronimo.

"All of Dukon's art is amazing. I love all of his," Sullivan said. "It's just the Geronimo and Fire Dance was just my favorite."

She said it's important for the community to see Comanche artwork. "So that they learn about the art from the Comanches, know the stories behind the art, and keep Comanche art alive," Sullivan said.

She said each exhibit tells a different history from their time.

Harris is a multimedia artist and created a lot of his work while living in the Northeast.

"Just the ability to do art, I didn't want to just put art on paper or canvas," he said. "I wanted to explore, put art on wood, on shoes, on anything that I could get my hands on, pretty much."

Harris said a lot of his earlier works are his favorite.

"The charcoal drawings...I like doing the wood burning," he said. "That's probably my most favorite style of medium of art."

Harris said wood burning is

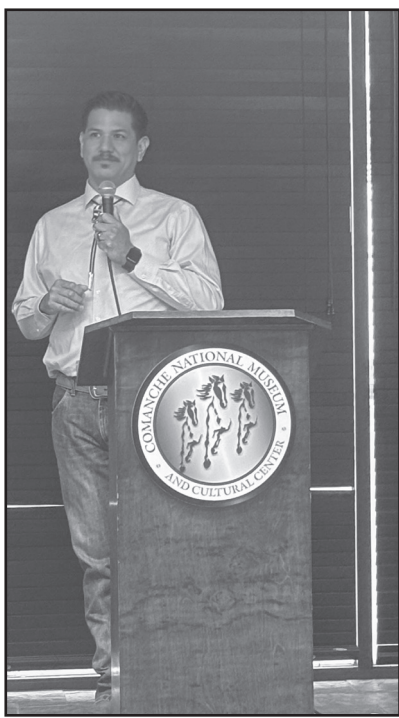


Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Dukon Harris gives a presentation about his work at a meet and greet. The Comanche Nation Museum and Cultural Center invited him to speak at his exhibit.

unique.

"I put a lot of time into doing that type of art. It's very unforgiving. I've had a lot of burnt fingers, a lot of failed pieces," he said. "So, when you see a wood-burning piece, just know that it had to be perfection to be a finished piece."

Harris' grandfather, Doc Tate Nevaquaya, was his inspiration.

"He was kind of like the father figure in the equation," he said. "He raised me, and I just became inspired by his lifestyle, how he created, and art was a way of expression."

Being around the community as an artist is important, according to Harris.

"It inspires people to take this journey as an artist," he said. "When you see your peers, you see people that you've normally seen through your tribe, it gives you a sense of, 'if they can do it, I can do it too,' and it gives inspiration to people."

Harris's favorite part was meeting the people and sharing his background.

"My story and everyone's story is very unique, and when people get to...hear what they don't get to put down in words, it just makes the story even more personal, and to me, when you hear, I like hearing people's personal stories," he said. "It's like you get to see something about them that you normally not get to see, and I hope that my story inspired, shared, and got to take a look into my life."

Harris said when visitors see his artwork, he wants them to also see his journey as an artist from locations to thought process, as well as his love for creating.

His exhibit will run until May 2.

Students Participate in Drivers' Safety Simulation

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

On April 9, Comanche Nation Injury Prevention held a distracted drivers' simulation for high school students at the Comanche Nation Tribal Complex.

Injury Prevention Technician William Owens said there were many partners involved.

"There was a lot of partners and sponsors involved, but what started it out, Mr. Rodney Parker, both Brian and I, my co-worker Brian Jones, he gave us a task to kind of look into the car crash simulation that happened," he said. "Last time it was done, it was done 11 years ago."

Owens said the department worked to gather as much information as possible.

"I took this initiative to get a hold of law enforcement. I wanted them to be part of it and basically spearhead it because that's who we're going to be calling on anyway, and that's all I thought," he said. "When I remember being the administrator in 2015, it was when we did the last car crash simulation, and the law enforcement was very unique, and the ambulance service at that time, we didn't have a fire department, so fire really stepped it up. Kyle Tahpay, Jake Stallings and David Stokes really...stepped up. They were kind of the unsung heroes in all this."

Injury Prevention had around 130 students from Cache, Geronimo, Grandfield and Walters.

"It's not just alcohol, it's texting, and it's basically a driver distraction. That's what it's called now," Owens said. "It's got a big word for it, but on the shirt, it says... 'Distracted Drivers' Simulation.' So, you make one choice, and you make that choice to text, and it can affect a life. So, one choice, one life. You've got to be smart about it."

He was worried about how



Courtesy Photo

Students attend a distracted driver simulation at Comanche Nation. Several area agencies were involved with the project.

the students would confront the simulation, which can be graphic.

"High school students, you know, we were talking to them yesterday, and I was talking about, you know, when you get into, especially seniors, I was one of them, you know, so we think we're on top of the world. We think we know everything and, you know, I just lost my nephew to a car accident three weeks, two weeks ago and... he was from Cache," Owens said. "And really affected his classmates, you know, and I never, they really came together, and it just happened, this car crash simulation happened at a good time because everything's fresh. It just goes to show you that, you know, you might think you know everything, but you don't, and you want to be very careful on your choices, whether it's texting, don't worry about where that phone is, just get it from point A to point B and make sure you get there safe."

He said it was easy to delegate and to work with other departments and entities, such as the Oklahoma Highway Patrol and the Sheriff's Department.

Injury Prevention is planning to have another seminar before the next school year begins in August.

Health Fair Promotes Healthy Habits

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Comanche Nation held its health fair on April 21, at Watchetaker Hall.

Kevin Wahkinney, director of the medical center, said it's the department's biggest event of the year.

"We had 30 vendors show up," he said. "We had close to, well, it was over a hundred participants, so we kind of reached out to the numbers that we were hoping to get, and we were excited to have everybody here."

Wahkinney said he wanted everyone engaged with vendors and collaborators.

"Well, we encourage everybody. That's why we set it up the way we set it up so that the clients and the participants can come and they can stand face-to-face with the vendor for the other programs," he said. "They can ask the questions, whether they're personal questions or for their community, and they're going to get direct answers, and that's what I love about this, because if you notice, in between, we always have questions and answers. You know, we'll call on the audience. We'll see if they have any questions, and we can try to answer everything right then, so there's no beating around the

bush. There's no secondhand information. They're getting it right directly from us. That's why I like this particular event the way we have it set up."

Wahkinney said they try to get attendees out of their shells for group activities.

"So, when we're going around the room, we were asking people to represent themselves. We're just encouraging that more than anything, just that relaxed environment that you're free to say whatever you want to say and how you want to say it," he said. "Because a lot of times people come in and feel like, 'Oh, I can't say it like this' or 'I can't say like that.' We don't have any of that here. Just whatever is on your mind that pertains to these events, we want you to ask in the way that you want to, so that we can answer the question to where you can understand it."

There were several collaborators for the health fair, including the University of Oklahoma, IHS and Comanche Nation health-specific programs.

Wahkinney's next events will be the outreaches, which begin June 20 in Wichita, Kansas. And then continue in Oklahoma City, Anadarko and Dallas on June 25, 26 and 27. The programs will be in Albuquerque, New Mexico, on July 23, 24 and 25.

RESOLUTIONS

Continued from Page 3

Resolution No. 68-2026- CBC Resolution Instructing Sec/Treas to Review Gaming Commission Financial. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Fox seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 69-2026- CBC Resolution to Invest Tribal Transportation Funds. Kosechequetah makes a motion to approve. Sovo seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 70-2026- Social Services Resolution to Extend BIA Contract. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Tahmahkera seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 71-2026- Food Distribution Resolution for Native Food Security Grant. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 72-2026- ECDC Resolution for Grant Application for CCAoA 2026-2027. Fox makes a motion to approve. Tahmahkera seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 73-2026- Fire Resolution for Grant Application to Firehouse Subs Otr3 2026. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

Resolution No. 74-2026- Fair Board Resolution to Amend Bylaws. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Sovo seconds the motion. The mo-

tion carries 5/0/0.

Motions

- Motion to amend the agenda to add both Earth Justice and Val Wahkinney to the executive session of the meeting. Tahmahkera makes a motion to approve. Sovo seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Motion to approve the agenda as amended. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Motion to approve February Special Meeting Minutes and March meeting minutes. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Sovo seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Motion to amend Resolution 59-2026 to add Sr. to the name Ryland Rivas. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Tahsequah seconds the motion. The motion carries 6/0/0.
- Motion to add Arlene Sue Tahkopher to the Princess Resolution 65-2026. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to authorize Chairman Forrest Tahdoahnippah to sign the Finley and Cook engagement letter for the indirect cost proposal. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve the Hearth Act as amended. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve.

Sovo seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

- Motion to approve the representation agreement for Earth Justice. Tahmahkera makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to approve Chairman Tahdoahnippah's travel for April 24-25 to Early, Texas, for the *Penatuka* Trails Grand Opening. Kassanavoid makes a motion to approve. Sovo seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to designate Chairman Tahdoahnippah as the client representative for Earth Justice. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to disapprove the tabled Resolution 41-2026. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Tahmahkera seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to meet with the Gaming Commission at the April 14 work session. Tahmahkera makes a motion to approve. Sovo seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to go into Executive Session. Sovo makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.
- Motion to exit Executive Session. Fox makes a motion to approve. Kassanavoid seconds the motion. The motion carries 5/0/0.

CACS BOARD

Continued from Page 1

named in an outstanding warrant for arrest, to a misdemeanor involving embezzlement or of a felony under the laws of this state or of the United States or of any tribal nation.

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

Approved: April 13, 2026

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

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Culinary Corner/ Fun Page

May 2026						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Inventory	2
3	4 Frederick 1 st Day	5 Frederick 2 nd Day	6 Walters 1 st Day	7 Walters 2 nd Day	8 Cache 1 st Day	9
10	11 Cache 2 nd Day	12 Cache 3 rd Day	13 Cache 4 th Day	14 Lawton 1 st Day	15 TRUCK DAY	16
17	18 Lawton 2 nd Day	19 Lawton 3 rd Day	20 Lawton 4 th Day	21 Lawton 5 th Day	22 Make-Up Day	23
24	25 CLOSED Memorial Day	26 Make-Up Day	27 Make-Up Day	28 Inventory	29 Inventory	30
31						

Mini Recipes of the Month:

Crispy Buffalo Potato Salad Ingredients

- 4 Teaspoons kosher salt, divided
- 3 Pounds baby gold potatoes
- 3 Tablespoons olive oil, divided
- 1/2 Teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 Teaspoon garlic powder
- 3/4 Cup sour cream
- 1/2 Cup mayonnaise
- 1 (1 ounce) Packet ranch seasoning
- 1 Bunch green onions, thinly sliced, divided
- 2/3 Cup diced celery, divided
- 1/2 Cup crumbled blue cheese, divided
- 10 Slices bacon, cooked and crumbled, divided
- 1/4 Cup Buffalo hot sauce, divided

Directions

1. Place potatoes in a large pot and cover with water. Add 1 tablespoon salt and bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat to medium-high; cook until potatoes are tender when pierced with a fork, 12 to 15 minutes; drain.
2. Preheat the oven to 425 degrees F (220 degrees C). Line a rimmed baking sheet with parchment or foil.
3. Coat the prepared baking sheet

with 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add potatoes in a single layer onto the pan. Using a heavy bottomed jar or glass, smash potatoes to 1/4 to 1/2 inch thickness, taking care not to fully separate the potatoes. Drizzle smashed potatoes evenly with remaining oil; sprinkle with remaining teaspoon salt, 1/2 teaspoon pepper, and garlic powder.

4. Roast potatoes in the preheated oven, until very crispy and browned, 30 to 35 minutes, flipping after 25 minutes.
5. While potatoes are roasting, prepare the dressing. Combine sour cream, mayonnaise and ranch seasoning. Reserve 1 tablespoon green onion, celery, blue cheese and bacon for garnish; add remaining green onions, celery, blue cheese and bacon to sour cream mixture. Stir well to combine.
6. Add cooked potatoes to dressing bowl and drizzle with 3 tablespoons hot sauce. Toss mixture together til well coated. Transfer to a serving bowl and top with reserved green onions, celery, blue cheese, and bacon and drizzle with remaining buffalo sauce. Serve room temp or cover and refrigerate until ready to serve.

One-Pan Dirty Spaghetti Ingredients

- 2 Tablespoons olive oil
- 8 Ounces ground beef
- 1 Medium yellow onion, diced
- 1 1/2 Cups diced bell pepper
- 1/2 Cup diced celery
- 4 Ounces andouille sausage, diced small
- 1/2 Teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 Teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 Teaspoon paprika
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 Teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/4 Teaspoon dried thyme
- 1 1/2 Teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/4 Teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 Teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 2 Cups beef broth
- 8 Ounces spaghetti
- 1 Teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 Cup sliced green onions, for garnish

Directions

1. Add oil to a deep skillet with a tight fitting lid and set over medium-high heat. Add ground beef, and cook,

stirring, for 3 or 4 minutes, breaking the meat up into small crumbles while doing so.

2. Once ground beef is browned, add onion, bell peppers, celery, and andouille sausage, and cook, stirring, for 2 more minutes. Season with onion powder, garlic powder, paprika, cumin, oregano, thyme, cayenne, black pepper, and salt, and cook, stirring, for 1 to 2 minutes more. Pour in broth and bring to a simmer.
3. Break spaghetti in half and add to the pan. Distribute spaghetti as evenly as possible and cover the pan tightly. Cook on medium-high for 2 minutes. Uncover and give everything a stir. Repeat this process of uncovering, stirring, and covering every 2 minutes or so, until pasta is cooked to your desired doneness.
4. Turn off the heat and drizzle in Worcestershire sauce, plus another pinch of salt if needed. Stir to combine, and serve in bowls topped with green onions.

Kitchen Tip of the Month

Foil-Packet Meals: Embrace easy grilling with foil-packet dinners for quick prep and easy cleanup, perfect for the start of outdoor dining season.

Fun Fact Did You Know?

May is a month of renewal, marking the end of spring in the Northern Hemisphere. Fun facts include it being the only month whose starting day of the week never matches another, featuring emerald as its birthstone, and containing holidays like Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day.

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: pio@comanchenation.com

Voting Information for the 2026 General Election

By Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

The Comanche Nation Election Board has announced the upcoming election dates and voting information.

Important dates to remember:

2026 Election Dates:

- April 18 – General Council
- May 15 – Early Voting
- May 16 – General Election
- June 12 – Early Voting
- June 13 – Run Off Voting (If Needed)

Early Voting

Early voting for the General Election will be held 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. May 15 at the following sites:

- Comanche Nation Complex
- Bernard Kahrahr Community Center.

Election Polling Sites

- Lawton Polling Site:
 - Comanche Nation Complex Code Talker Room 584 NW Bingo Road, located in Lawton, Oklahoma
 - Oklahoma City Polling Site:
 - Comanche Nation Outreach Office 6051 N Brookline Ave. Suite 106 is located in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Apache Polling Site Comanche:

- Nation Community Center 309 Julia Mahseet Road, located in Apache, Oklahoma.

Anadarko Polling Site:

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

Cache Polling Site:

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

Walters Polling Site:

- Comanche Nation Community Center 905 E. Missouri St., located in Walters, Oklahoma.

All enrolled Comanche Nation citizens who are eighteen or older on Election Day may vote in all Comanche Nation elections.

Voters may choose to vote in person or by absentee ballot. To request an absentee ballot, you may contact the Election Office or print the request form at comanchenation.com under the Election Office page and mail it to the address listed on the form.

When completing your re-

quest, please choose your absentee status:

- Temporary Absentee: You will receive an absentee ballot only for the election(s) you request.
- Permanent Absentee: You will receive an absentee ballot for every election until you ask to update your status.

After your request is received, the Election Office will send an absentee voter packet by U.S. Mail at the proper time. This packet will include everything needed to cast your vote. The absentee voter's signature line on the ballot will not be shown until the voting packet is opened.

Absentee Voting

Absentee Ballots must be received by the Election Board at its Post Office in Lawton, Oklahoma, no later than noon (Central Time Zone) on Election Day. Absentee ballots cannot be delivered in person or accepted in person by the Election Board

Your VOTE is your VOICE!

Comanche Nation ELECTION OFFICE

04/21/2026

Certification of Prospective Candidates

<p>CBC Secretary Treasure Candidates Benny Tahmahkera Jr. Gary Tahmahkera</p> <p>CBC Seat #3 Candidates Asa Attocknie Harley Pennington</p> <p>Election Board Candidates Suzanne Patterson Jan Stumblinbear Adolphus (JW) Marshall</p>	<p>CBC Seat #4 Candidates Jordan Fox Susan Nahwoosky Fred W. Codynah</p> <p>Tribal Attorney Candidates Ben D. Kappelman Wilson Pipestem</p>
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On behalf of the Election Board members, we certify that these candidates have met all the criteria to be certified.

Seberiana Flores
 Election Board Chairwoman

Onaa Kahni's ECDC 2nd Annual Honor Dance Celebrates Youth and Culture!

Story and Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

On April 12, families, educators and community members gathered for the second annual All Gourd Honor Dance, a celebration recognizing young children and cultural heritage at Watchetaker Hall located at the Comanche Tribal Headquarters.

The event was hosted by the Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC) of the Onaa Kahni Childcare Center, the event ran from 2 to 7 p.m., and served as a kickoff to the "Week of the Young Child," as initiative highlighting the importance of early learning.

The honor dance featured music, traditional dancing and placing children at the center of the celebration.

The event was co-hosted by Comanche youth dance groups and the Comanche Academy Charter School. Special invitations were extended to Comanche Nation senior and junior princesses, along with other tribal and organizational princesses.

The All Gourd Honor Dance continues to grow as an annual tradition, reflecting the community's commitment to honoring its youngest members while preserving and celebrating cultural heritage. For many families, the event provided both a joyful experience and a reminder of the vital role children play in shaping the future.



MEETING

Continued from Page 1

investment committee, or designated fiduciary body. 4. Consistency with Trust Purpose All investment decisions shall prioritize the long-term safety, education, welfare, maintenance, and support of minor beneficiaries, consistent with the governing trust provisions. 5. Periodic Review and Adjustment The allocation and performance of Bitcoin investments shall be reviewed regularly, and the Comanche Nation reserves the authority to reduce, suspend, or eliminate such investments as necessary to protect the interests of minor beneficiaries. 6. Security and Custody Requirements Any Bitcoin held within trust funds shall be maintained using secure, institutionally recognized custody solutions consistent with fiduciary obligations and industry standards, that, upon completion of such investigation, the Comanche Business Committee shall present its findings and conclusions to the Tribal Council; that, if the Comanche Business Committee concludes that such amendment to the Revenue Allocation Plan would be lawful, the Comanche Business Committee shall prepare and submit to the Tribal Council a proposed resolution amending the Revenue Allocation Plan to include a Limited Bitcoin Diversification Policy in substantial compliance with the foregoing limitations and safeguards, subject to approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

After discussion by tribal members, a motion was made and seconded to disapprove the resolution and not place it on the voting ballot. The motion passed by verbal vote.

Resolution TC-04-2026 – Resolution to Advance Land Stewardship, Rights of Nature, Outdoor Access and Recreation, Conservation and Cultural Continuity. No one was present to read and propose the resolution.

Resolution TC 05-2026 – Resolution Supporting Access to United States Citizenship Documentation for Comanche Nation Citizens. The resolution reads the Comanche Nation establish a temporary program administered through the Enrollment Office, in collaboration with the Comanche Election Board and the Finance Office, for a period of up to two (2) years, to provide financial assistance to enrolled Tribal members who are otherwise unable to obtain identification, for the purpose of securing passports, passport books, passport cards, certified birth certificates and other required documentation to verify United States citizenship, in accordance with applicable legal requirements; and, the Comanche Nation set aside \$112,000 annually, for up to two (2) years, to financially assist 10 percent, approximately 1,700 Tribal members, pay for passport books, passport cards, certified birth certificates and other required documentation. The maximum support per tribal member would not exceed \$200 per citizen, but unique circumstances would be considered on a case-by-case basis. The budget includes funding for part-time



Photo by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

A Comanche tribal member from New Mexico takes the floor at the April 18 Annual General Council Meeting.

administrative support to implement and manage the program; and, the financial support would be through reimbursement of purchase or direct cash services; and, the Comanche Nation Enrollment Office shall develop and implement a process to incorporate birth certificate verification into enrollment procedures should a citizen want an enhanced identification; and, appropriate language shall be added to Comanche Nation Tribal identification cards to indicate that the identified Tribal member has verified United States citizenship, consistent with applicable laws and regulations.

After discussion, a motion was made and seconded to approve the resolution. The motion failed.

Resolution TC 06-2026 – Resolution Amending Title 1 of the Comanche Nation Code to Authorize the Mandatory Award of Reasonable Attorney Fees, Court Costs, and Litigation Expenses to Prevailing Petitioners in Civil Rights and Employment Actions. The resolution reads that Title 1, Section 1.08(C) of the Comanche Nation Code is hereby amended to read as follows: "Section 1.08(C). Tribal employees, officials, and officers shall not enjoy immunity from suit in an action for declaratory or injunctive relief brought in the Comanche Nation Tribal Courts for the sole purpose of compelling such employee, official, or officer to comply with the Comanche Nation Constitution or Comanche Nation laws, provided such waiver of immunity shall not extend to discretionary actions of such employee, officer, or official or to any claim or judgment for monetary damages, costs or expenses, except as expressly authorized in Section 1.08(E), and all available administrative remedies must have been exhausted", and that Title 1 of the Comanche Nation Code is hereby amended by adding a new Section 1.08(E), to read as follows: "Section 1.08(E). Attorney Fees in Civil Rights and Employment Actions. In any civil action properly brought in the Comanche Nation Tribal Court alleging: (a) a violation of any right secured

by the Comanche Nation Constitution or laws; or (b) an unlawful employment action arising under the Comanche Nation Constitution, laws, ordinances, policies, personnel rules, handbook provisions, or employment contracts, the Court shall award the prevailing petitioner reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and litigation expenses. This Section intends to ensure meaningful enforcement of rights under Comanche Nation law by removing financial barriers to relief and encouraging competent legal representation in civil rights and employment matters. This Section shall be interpreted broadly to effectuate its remedial purpose. Reasonableness of attorney fees shall be determined by the Court based on customary hourly rates, time expended, complexity of the matter, and results obtained. The term "litigation expenses" means reasonable out-of-pocket expenses necessarily incurred in the prosecution or defense of an action, including but not limited to costs for deposition transcripts, witness fees, expert witness fees, investigation services, travel costs, and other expenses customarily billed to a client. The term "costs" shall have the meaning outlined in the Comanche Nation Rules of Civil Procedure. For purposes of this Section, a 'prevailing petitioner' means a petitioner who obtains a final judgment, consent decree, or other court-ordered relief that materially alters the legal relationship of the parties in the petitioner's favor. A petitioner shall not be considered prevailing solely by obtaining procedural relief, voluntary change in conduct absent court order, or interim relief not resulting in a final adjudication on the merits. Pursuant to Section 1.08(B), this Section constitutes a limited and express waiver of sovereign immunity solely for the purpose of permitting the Comanche Nation Tribal Court to award and enforce reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and litigation expenses authorized by this Section. This waiver is limited to proceedings in the Comanche Nation Tribal Court and shall not be construed as consent to suit in any

federal court, state court, or other tribal court. This Section does not authorize punitive damages, consequential damages, or any monetary award other than the reasonable attorney fees, court costs, and litigation expenses expressly authorized herein. Any award under this Section may be entered only after exhaustion of all available administrative remedies, where applicable. Any award of attorney fees, costs, and litigation expenses under this Section shall be paid from the Comanche Nation Administration line item, or any successor tribal administration line item serving the same budgetary function, as approved by the Tribal Council in the annual operating budget or any budget amendment. Approval of this amendment by the Tribal Council shall constitute authorization to use that line item for payment of awards entered under this Section. No separate budget line item shall be required for payment of awards under this Section. The obligation to satisfy any award under this Section shall not be contingent upon the current availability of funds in any specific line item. If sufficient funds are not then available in the Administration line item to satisfy an award, the remaining balance shall be included in the next Tribal Council-approved budget or budget amendment for prompt payment. No award under this Section shall create personal liability for any official or employee", that, to the extent any provision of the CBC Meeting Procedures Code would otherwise require a thirty-day public posting period before action on a proposed amended ordinance, that requirement is hereby waived for this Resolution pursuant to applicable procedural authority and the supreme authority of the Comanche Tribal Council., that if this Resolution is approved for placement on the ballot, the Comanche Business Committee shall cause this Resolution, the full text of the proposed Title 1 amendment, and any ballot language to be publicly posted on the official Comanche Nation website immediately after such approval and shall keep the same publicly available through the date of the General Election, that if this amendment is approved by the Comanche Tribal Council in the General Election, the Comanche Business Committee shall, at its next regularly scheduled meeting following the General Election, place this matter on its agenda and shall formally amend and codify Title 1 of the Comanche Nation Code to conform to the amendment approved by the voters., that the duties required by this Resolution after voter approval are ministerial and mandatory, not discretionary, and the Comanche Business Committee, Tribal Attorney, Court Clerk, and all other appropriate tribal officials shall promptly carry out the publication, codification, notice, and implementation of the voter-approved amendment. Compliance with these duties may be compelled through declaratory or injunctive relief in the Co-

manche Nation Tribal Court to the extent authorized by Comanche Nation law, that in the event of any conflict between this Resolution and any prior CBC rule, procedure, or practice, this Resolution shall control, that if any provision of this Resolution or the amendment enacted herein is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect, that this amendment shall become effective upon certification of the election results, and the Comanche Business Committee shall formally amend and codify Title 1 of the Comanche Nation Code at its next regularly scheduled meeting following the General Election. Formal codification shall be ministerial only and shall not delay the effectiveness of the voter-approved amendment.

After a lengthy discussion, a motion was made and seconded to place on the voting ballot. The motion failed by a vote of 104 'Yes' votes and 180 'No' votes.

Nolan Tahdoohrippah made a motion not to read the program reports. It was seconded by Susan Nahwooksy. The motion passed by verbal vote.

Nominations Secretary Treasurer

Being nominated for Secretary Treasurer were incumbent Benny Tahmahkera and Gary Tahmahkera. Motion to cease nominations was made by Ron Burgess and seconded by Rhonda Williams. The motion passed.

CBC No. 3.

Being nominated were: Louie Pohawpatchoko, Asa Attocknic, Harley Pennington, Joselyn Portillo. A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations. The motion carries.

CBC No. 4

Being nominated for CBC No. 4 were Jordan Fox, Susan Nahwooksy, Fred Codynah, Harley Pennington, and Michael Griffin.

A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations. The motion carried.

Tribal Attorney

Attorneys from Dorsey & Whitney and the incumbent William Pipestem from Pipestem Law spoke about their firms and answered questions.

Election Board

Being nominated for the Comanche Nation Election Board was Weya?kroo Rebecca Burgess, Suzanne Patterson, JW Marshall, Jan Stumblingbear, Cambree Mahsetky, and Virginia Wauqua

A motion was made and seconded to cease nominations. The motion carried.

Nolan Tahdoohrippah made a motion to accept the FY 2026-2027 Budget as it is. Verna Burgess seconds the motion. The motion passed by a verbal vote.

The meeting is adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Students Showcase Talent at Norman Language Fair

Story by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Oklahoma Native American Language Fair took place at Sam Noble Museum on University of Oklahoma's campus in Norman.

The event began with Pre-K through 5th grade on Monday, April 6 and 6th through 12th grade on Tuesday, April 7.

Angela Passi is the site director for *Numu Tutertuu (Numuh Thedethe)*, Early Childhood Development Center. She said they began preparing for the language fair in January.

"We practiced every day. We pulled them out two at a time. They're three and four-year-olds, so their attention span is really short," she said. "So, it was easier for me to pull them out one to two at a time and practice with them. So, the first month, we did the first song. The second month, we practiced the second song. And then on month three, we did both songs, and we went to different tribal programs, and we sang so that they could get used to singing in front of an audience."

Passi's students participated in pre-k through 2nd grade, modern song medium group.

"So, we collaborated with the Comanche language program. We worked closely with Miss Billie Kreger. She used to be our language teacher for us, back in the early years when I had first started here," she said. "We told her that we wanted to do 'Jesus Loves the Little Children,' so they were able to translate that for us, and they chose our first song, which was 'Hymn Number 23' to the tune of 'Is My Name Written There?'"

According to Passi, this age group is the best time to teach.

"Starting them young, because at this age, early childhood development, zero to five, that's where they soak up the most

information you give them. And they look up to us. We're still cool to them. We can still be like that positive role model for them," she said. "So, it's important for us to start them out young. I still retained a lot of the language that my grandmother taught me when I was young. So just starting them out with the basics, of course, the alphabet, your numbers, your colors, and then incorporating the song, because children pick up songs quickly. So, we turn everything into a song. Everything goes into a song because they're able to retain it well. So, it's important. At least they have that. If they don't remember anything else, they'll remember those."

Passi said the event can be hard on some of the students, but they're always supportive.

"Even if we do have like a scheduled performance, if our children show up that day, and they're just not emotionally ready to do that, we're not going to take them, because we don't ever want to put them in a spot where they're going to feel uncomfortable," she said. "Because they're still trying to learn how to manage their emotions, and they deal with big feelings. And even as adults, we sometimes struggle with handling those emotions and our anxiety and all of those things. So, I would never expect these little people to be able to do that. So, we don't ever want to put them in a situation where they're uncomfortable. So that was always my biggest fear: is like, 'What if we get up there, and they're just not having it?' We're going to pull them off stage. They're like our babies. So, whatever we can do to protect them. But like I said, they were just fearless when they went up there, and they did amazing."

The Comanche Academy Charter School also participated in the fair.

Lawton High School Native American Club Princess Emilia Chasenah said it was amazing to showcase the Comanche language in a group hymn and a solo hymn.

"It made me feel really, really amazing to be able to demonstrate and showcase that we as Comanche people, as numunu, are able to sing our hymns," she said. "And it made me feel really good inside to be able to see many different cultures that are still here. And some of these songs are just really ancient. And it's a good thing that our elders are passing these songs and these cultural practices down to us as youth, to be able to go back home with them and teach the people who don't have time to learn these. So, it made me feel really good to be here."

As someone who comes from various tribal backgrounds, Chasenah enjoys seeing different relatives and tribes she hasn't met.

She's passionate about language.

"I learned Comanche language through my father and my grandmother. And it was important for me to carry that on," Chasenah said. "And so, when I moved to Lawton High, I ended up taking Comanche courses. And it made me more passionate to be able to speak the language that my ancestors once spoke. And that's why I'm really passionate about it, because I'm able to carry on that language. And it lives through me, too."

She said she speaks the language for those who can't anymore.

"What got me into language was seeing that it wasn't too natural for Native American people, such as Comanche people, who still have a language just to speak English," Chasenah said. "And it was very hard for me to learn about the history of

residential schools. And so, I speak the language for those who don't, such as dancing. I dance for those who never got to dance."

There was also a skit played by some of the students, including Trey Ramirez.

"So, we had an apple that we would pass around to each other, and we'll toss it to each other. Whoever drops it, you'd be out," he said. "And then you would have to say, when you catch it, a word in Comanche. It doesn't have to be anything specific, but you can't repeat it. No repeat words. It's just a new word each time, and we'll go and go and go until one person [is] left."

The game had several aspects, according to Antonio Negrón and Ramirez.

"When you say, *kwakui nu*, that means, I won. But if you lost, it's, *yai nu*," Negrón said.

"And it'd be like 'You lost.' And then, that's how each person will get out. And then before we start, we'll all say, *nohi tanu*, it means, 'let's play. Let's all play.' So that's how we'll start it off together," Ramirez said.

Negrón and Ramirez said the other groups did well.

"I like the people that got first place. I like the little play they did. That was really good," Negrón said.

"Yeah. Their little stickball, I think they called it. That was pretty fun to watch. Great performance on their part, too. So, you know, it's an honor to go against that as well. Not only did we win second, but we saw the first place....they deserved it," Ramirez said.

They both participated in a prayer.

"I was kind of nervous, mainly just for the prayer, because it was just me and him upstage,"

Negrón said.

"That part was a little nerve-racking, getting up to it, having to keep practicing, rehearsing it over and over and over," Ramirez said.

"We were practicing on the way here, on the whole bus ride, and then when we got here, we were just practicing. But we did good, though. We got second place. We got second place in all of our events, but that's OK. You know, you can't win all the time," Negrón said.

"Can't win them all, but you know what?" Ramirez said.

"But you know what we got?" Negrón said.

"In our hearts. We got them all. See, each one, a win in our hearts. Our hymns that we sang, our prayer that we did ourselves, and then our little game that we played. And it's an honor to be here. It's an honor to do it all and have fun with it," Ramirez said.

Negrón said it was nice to see the complexities of the other languages.

"How different their subjects and vowels are, how they pronounce everything," he said. "It's so crazy, because it's just cool seeing all the different languages."

Ramirez said Comanche language is stoic and bold.

"In our Comanche language...we've been learning it, wanting to spread it everywhere," he said. "The way we do it, it's all bold. It's all stoic-sounding, so you want to, you've got to have a deep voice when you do it. And like, *maruawe*, very stoic, very strong. *Numunu* means our people. It goes for all of us, all Comanches, even other Natives who aren't Comanches, you know."

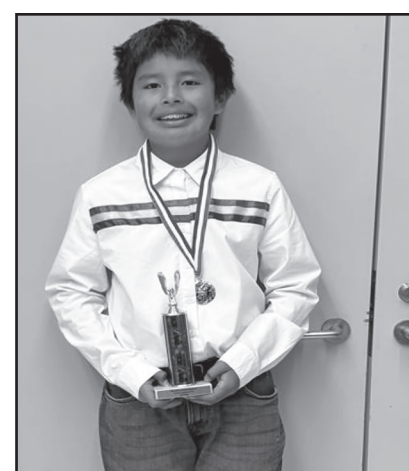
Students from Moore, Elgin, Indianoma and Cyril also represented the Comanche language.



Comanche Academy Charter School students sing a traditional duet song.



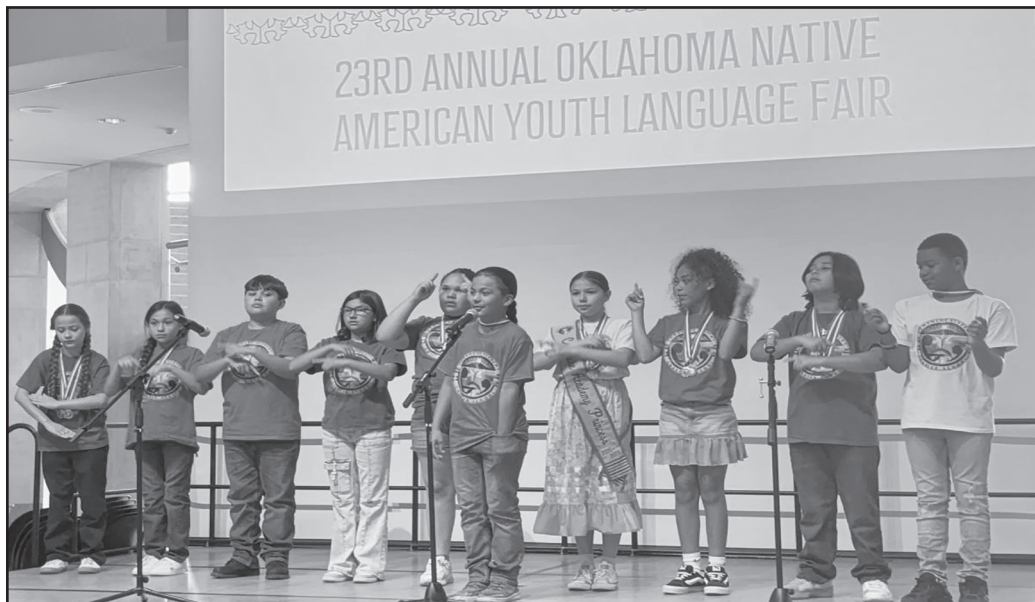
Trophies won by Comanche youth during the 23rd Annual Oklahoma Native American Youth Language Fair, on April 6, in Norman, Okla.



In the Third through Fifth Grade Individual Spoken Language, Comanche Academy Charter School student, Tomi Hawk Portillo, placed first.



The Comanche Nation *Numu Tutertuu* Early Childhood Development Center sings Comanche Hymn No. 23 to the tune of "Is My Name Written There?" and Song No. 2 "Jesus Loves the Little Children."



The Comanche Academy Charter School, 4th grade, signed the poem "Go My Son," while a student recited it in the Comanche language.



Comanche Academy Charter School student sang Hymn No. 2.



The Comanche Academy Charter School, 1st grade, played the game Rock, Paper, Scissors in the Comanche language, placing first.



Indianoma Native American Club students sing Comanche Hymn No. 8, composed by Tavetoah.

Photos by Stacey Heminokely/News Staff

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Comanche Princess Says Farewell, Prepares for New Role

By Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez held her outgoing powwow on March 21, at Watchtaker Hall.

She said her reign went well.

“It was definitely a lot compared to like my past titles, but it was all really worth it, and I was just able to meet a whole lot more family that I knew nothing about and then make a lot more friends,” Ramirez said. “And it’s really nice being able to see people that know about me and just learn more about them.”

Her favorite part was Comanche Nation Fair and said it was hectic.

“We were rushing around the whole time, but it’s a once-in-a-lifetime kind

of event for being the tribal princess, just seeing how much people show up and you kind of get to create a whole bunch of bonds with like teenagers that are there, dancing, and it’s really nice being able to see all the different tribes come together,” Ramirez said. “And also, like another thing I really enjoyed was going to Unity, just hanging out with a whole bunch of different youth from all over the U.S. and being able to show my Comanche culture because I wore a whole bunch of my dresses out there and just seeing the people look at my dress and ask about it. I really enjoyed teaching them about what my stuff is and help teach them...what our Comanche customs are.”

As for her message for anyone who wants to be in this role...

“Like I said, it can get really hectic, but it’s all worth it in the end. You have a whole bunch of older sisters which are the former princesses. If you have any questions, they’re always there for you, and you gain a lot of family from this,” she said. “It’s not just you meet somebody and they become your friends, they’ll really help you along your way and you’ll be able to be a part of the history of Comanche Nation and this is a really rewarding thing because you also just get to go out and showcase your culture and help teach about what your tribe is and you get to

help encourage younger kids get into the arena.”

Ramirez invited past princesses to the powwow.

“I noticed our former princesses don’t really get honored as much as they should. They held this title for a year. Some held it longer than a year,” she said. “And I just feel like they should get paid as much respect as they showed our nation because a lot of people kind of just look at them, and after their title is over, they kind of push them to the side, but I feel like it’s an important role and they should truly be honored.”

Ramirez said having the sorority come together felt like a proper reunion.

“I really enjoyed

seeing them because if you look at them and how they intermingled, they’re really close. It’s a tight-knit family, and I’m glad that I was able to bring a lot of them together because life tends to bring people away from each other,” she said. “You never have time to see them, and I really like that I was able to get us all in one area and we could connect, talk, and just really go back to friendships and everything.”

Ramirez is going to be the next Little Ponies princess in her senior year of high school and plans to attend university in Montana to become an educator.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

ABOVE: Outgoing Comanche Nation Princess, Isabela Ramirez, dances with her family during her Honor Powwow on March 21 at Watchtaker Hall.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

Isabela Ramirez's parents, Erica and Jonathon Ramirez, are honored during the Gourd Dance Session of her honor powwow on March 21 at the Comanche Nation Complex.



Photo by Jolene Schonchin/News Staff

CIVA takes down the flag of Comanche Code Talker, Forrest Kassanavoid, who is Isabela Ramirez's great grandfather.



Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Isabela Ramirez gives her final speech as Comanche Nation Princess. She thanked everyone for their support and announced her upcoming role as Comanche Little Ponies Princess.



Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Isabela Ramirez bids Comanche Nation farewell as their princess. She held a special to honor those closest to her. Ramirez shared her appreciation for the tribe and its members.

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The Comanche Nation Crowns New Royalty at Election Powwow



Comanche Nation Chairman, Forrest Tahdoahnippah, left, smiles at the coronation powwow.



Princess Arlene Schonchin, center, and junior princess Clara Yazzie, dance with participants for the coronation ceremony.



Arlene Schonchin, left, walks with her brother Modesto Schonchin around the arena prior to her coronation.

Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff



Comanche Nation Princess Arlene Schonchin, center, dances with family and friends around the arena following her coronation.



Comanche Nation Junior Princess, Clara Yazzie, center, dances with family and friends around the arena after her coronation.



Alex Akoneto, center, is recognized during the coronation powwow following his return home from Germany.



Singers provide beautiful songs throughout the day of the Comanche Nation Princess Coronation Powwow held April 4 at the Comanche Nation Complex.



Lowell Nibbs, leader of the Comanche Little Ponies, was honored at the coronation powwow.

Story by Natascha Mercadante/News Staff

Incoming Comanche Nation Princess Arlene Schonchin and Jr. Princess Clara Yazzie were crowned on April 4, at Watchetaker Hall.

Schonchin said she's honored to have the position.

"This is the big enchilada. This is the big title, the title," she said. "And I have built my way up to this, and I'm eternally grateful for representing and holding the titles."

Schonchin is now a third-generation Comanche Nation Princess.

"My grandmother was a 1945 Comanche Nation Princess, and my mom was a 1988 Comanche Nation Princess," she said. "And I am the third generation, which is crazy to say because I have been waiting for this for so long too, and to actually have it...words can't express how

much this means to me and my family."

Schonchin is leading the way for 100 years of Comanche Nation Princess.

"I don't only represent me and my family, I represent all the past princesses and their families because it takes a lot to hold this title," she said. "And just being able to actually get past princesses for 100 years is so much, and it carries so much tradition, and just like holding this, it's just amazing and like just breathtaking honestly."

Schonchin said her platform is to be a role model for the younger ladies.

"Because when I was little, I looked [at princesses] and being able to have that glow in your eyes when you look at them, like they're

the perfect princess in the whole world. I want to have that impact on other young ladies," she said. "And hopefully that will like push them to maybe run for princess title even this one."

Schonchin is looking forward to representing Comanche Nation and its tribal members as well as teach others about the culture, traditions and language.

Yazzie said it was relieving to be crowned.

"It's not like a weight has been lifted on me," she said. "I didn't have any...stress about it since I was already given it, but just felt nice because people were smiling at me and cheering me on. It was really great."

Yazzie's first lap around the arena was nice.

"My first time was with my brothers, and we were just joking, and everything's...a little chill, and they're just kind of being brothers, but once I did finally get all my stuff on all my regalia, my crown especially, and I had to walk around alone," she said. "But it was...a little bit scary taking my first step, but once I finally started getting into the groove and seeing all these people smiling at me and woo-wooing and cheering me on...it felt very rewarding."

Yazzie said her mom helped her the most.

"She like pushed me to do this title. You should do it. I'm like, 'Okay, well, I mean, this is only my second title that I can really remember. I mean other than like Little Miss Homecoming,'" she said. But my mom's been there for

me a lot. My dad, my brothers, all my family that came out here, my Navajo family, Comanche family, a lot of people have supported me." Two of Yazzie's aunts have held the title.

As for her platform...

"My platform is to teach kids in my generation, the younger generation, that they can cope using culture instead of turning to substance abuse for their mental health," Yazzie said.

Outgoing Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez crowned both princesses and will later be Little Ponies Princess.

Comanche Nation Prevention and Recovery Hosts the Annual Easter Egg Hunt

Story and Photos by Stacey Heminokky/News Staff

The Comanche Nation Prevention and Recovery held their annual Easter egg hunt on Saturday, March 28, at the Janice Pewewardy Softball fields located at the Comanche Nation Headquarters. The event featured multiple age divisions, allowing participants ranging from young children to adults to take part

in the afternoon activities. Children were excited and moved quickly across the fields collecting brightly colored eggs.

Prizes were distributed following the hunt, adding to the excitement for participants. Attendees also had access to refreshments, including snow cones provided by Snowie vendor,

as well as community resources. Representatives from Lawton Indian Hospital Dentistry were present to engage with families and provide information.

Organizers said the event is intended to provide a safe, family-friendly environment while encouraging community involvement. The

gathering was free and open to the public.

The annual Easter egg hunt continues to be a long-standing tradition, bringing together residents for seasonal celebration and fellowship.



Community organizations, including the Lawton Indian Hospital Dentistry, provide information and resources at the event.



Children and families gather to collect Easter eggs during the annual Easter egg hunt hosted by Comanche Nation Prevention and Recovery on March 28 at the Janice Pewewardy Softball Fields in Lawton.



Attendees line up for snow cones from a Snowie vendor at the Easter celebration.



Participants collect brightly colored eggs for the older adults category. Their baskets filled up quickly.



Participants carry baskets across the field while collecting eggs during the older adults category.



A young participant wearing bunny ears carries a basket while enjoying her snow cone during the Easter egg hunt.



Children quickly collect eggs during one of several age-group hunts.



Families assist children as they gather eggs across the field.



Young egg hunters help the older ones collect colorful eggs at the annual Comanche Nation Easter Egg Hunt at the Comanche Nation Complex.



Participants search for brightly colored eggs as the hunt begins Saturday afternoon.

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People Places and Things Happening

Lewis Junior Competitive Cheerleader at Oklahoma City University



Courtesy Photo

Lewis

Aaliyah Lewis, a proud member of the Comanche Nation, is a junior competitive cheerleader at Oklahoma City University. Originally from Walters, Oklahoma, she continues to grow as both an athlete and a student while representing her community at the collegiate level.

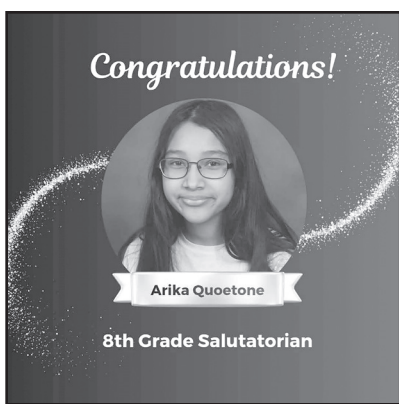
Lewis began her cheer journey by teaching herself how to complete a back handspring, showing early determination and drive. She later advanced her skills by joining Extreme Thunder in Duncan, Oklahoma, where she continued to develop in tumbling and stunting. She also cheered at Walters Junior High (WJH) and Walters High School (WHS), building a strong foundation that led her to the collegiate level.

Known for her work ethic and commitment to improvement, Lewis has continued to elevate her performance through multiple seasons at OCU. In addition to cheerleading, she has demonstrated her athletic versatility by competing in powerlifting and qualifying for state-level competition.

Lewis represents the Comanche Nation with pride, serving as an example of dedication, resilience, and the pursuit of excellence both on and off the mat.



COMANCHE NATION EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT HOT LINE (580) 919-1098



Courtesy Photo

Quoetone

Quoetone Announced the Eighth Grade Salutatorian

Arika Quoetone is the 8th grade Salutatorian at Gracemont Public Schools, graduating with a 3.8 GPA. In addition to her academic success, Quoetone is an active athlete who plays basketball and runs cross country. She is a proud enrolled member of the Comanche Nation and enjoys attending church at Mt. Scott Kiowa U.M.C.

Quoetone is the daughter of Mary and Jeff Quoetone. Her grandparents are Marla and Nick Quoetone and the late Tracy Hernasy. Her great-grandparents are the late Rev. Charles Quoetone and Sandra Quoetone, the late Marty and Carol Autaubo, and the late Ernestine and Richard Hernasy Sr.

Her family expresses how proud they are for her accomplishment.



Courtesy Photo

Pekar

Tribal member Zoe Pekar was selected to participate in the NASP National Archery Tournament in Louisville Kentucky. Zoe is in 8th grade and belongs to the

Redbird Archery team of De Pere, Wisconsin where they are also an honor student. Zoe's grandfather is Willie Pekar, famed Comanche bowmaker.

Lonelodge and Team Undeclared in April Tournament



Courtesy Photo

Congratulations to Comanche Tribal member Chrissie Lonelodge with her team XTREME Chaos, who went undefeated in the CYS April 19th Autism Awareness Softball Tournament, going 4-0 for the day and ending the day as champions! These girls bring the 'Chaos' wherever they go! Pippir Gaebler, Brinley Carruth, Stasalyn Porterfield, Graycie Farris, Gabi Gonzalez, Arya DeGuzman, KJ Keller, Mikka Brumley, and Paisley Nichols.

Comanche Nation Language Program's Crossword Puzzle. Answers on Page 15.

Cities and Towns

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	DOWN	WORD BANK
2. NORMAN	1. COMANCHE	N̄M̄M̄ NAR̄M̄M̄ SOOKĀNI
3. CACHE	2. OKC	PIA SOOKĀNI APAITSI
4. CYRIL	6. WALTERS	PASIWA NAR̄M̄M̄ PISI NAR̄M̄M̄
5. FLETCHER	7. LAWTON	PISU NAR̄M̄M̄ WOTAS̄
8. ANADARKO	9. APACHE	PIA T̄BOO NAR̄M̄M̄ TUSOKWE

Dear TCNN

Letters to the Editor

Dear TCNN,

I am writing about the Lawton Casino Expansion Project for a Convention Center and Hotel 04/12/2026

The two main parts of the Project are to build a Convention Center on the South side of the Casino and build a Hotel on the North side of the Casino, where the Smoke Shop is. Cost Estimate is \$100 million or over. The following are factors in this development:

1. The Lawton Casino is located on Comanche-owned trust land. The 40 acres South of the Casino, purchased from Jake Sharp, is not on trust land. Montego Bay is not on trust land.

2. The federal tax rate is 21%. The state corporate tax rate is 4%. The Oklahoma state sales tax on hotel stays is 4.5%. The Lawton city & county tax is 4.51%. 21%+4%+4.5%+4.51% = 34.1% is not taxable to Indian hotels on trust land. Non-Indian hotels and motels not on trust land pay these taxes.

3. We managed our own Red River Casino Hotel for 11 years and now the Comancheria-Montego Bay Ho-

tel. And we can manage the new hotel expansion & Convention Center. And we do not need a Lawton Casino Management Contract. We manage our own Casinos and contract with the Machine Companies. No middlemen to split the profits.

4. Marketing Study. The Market for a hotel and a convention center, with the competition, number of hotels, rooms, type of customers, city and county hotel tax records, and percentage of occupancy needs to be determined. Events. Ft. Sill market. We have a location advantage over our competition and a captive market.

5. Factors: Parking, size, capacities, of the Project, Phases or steps, timeline, in the development process, restaurant(s). Construction bidding. architect. Site development. Traffic flow study on and off I-44. The Convention center can extend past the trust land onto the Jake Sharp 45 acres of land and a raised parking lot, if there is no problem with our jurisdiction concerning the state.

6. Financing. We do not need a joint venture or a management contract

for a split of the profits. The main development part of this project is financing. Interest rates. Payoff time length. We can contract with a financial consultant to determine the types of financing, banks, other financial institutions, Indian owned banks. Or maybe we can do it ourselves. Remember, we obtained a \$13 million loan from the Shawnee Bank owned by the Potawatomi Nation to build the Red River Casino Hotel for \$10 million and the Truck Plaza for \$3 million. And, we have other economic projects that we will do.

7. Gaming Laws. If the federal and state laws change to allow online gambling and decrease all Indian gaming revenue, then the proposed project can continue as a hotel and a convention center because of our advantages.

8. Flood Plain. Some type of dam barrier or levee is needed to protect the Comancheria and the Casino. The flooding is controlled by the flood gates at Lake Ellsworth dam. Water must be let out a little at a time. Building up the land by Cache Creek is a good idea, and the cost is worth

it. The smoke shop flooded one time. The water park and building flooded with no flood insurance because it was too costly. The flood barrier will save money on flood insurance.

9. Competition. The Ft. Sill Apache Hotel is built on non-trust fee land. Their casino sits on 1-1/4 acres. We can use our own convention center for our own events. More cost savings

10. The Business Evaluation of the Lawton casino and other casinos can be determined by the net profits, the costs (FMV) of the buildings and furnishings, and the value of the trust lands, in our finance negotiations.

11. Accountability. We are establishing our New Accounting System with our own Comanche accounting technicians and CPA (s) for more accountability Important in the establishment of a Credit Union. We will not be contracting with Finley & Cook to do our accounting and waiting for information and transactions.

12. Stealing Law. We have our own Misuse of Public Funds-Embezzlement Laws with three (3) years Im-

prisonment to protect all Comanche members.

13. Water. Another item or factor is whether or not to drill a well to provide water for the present hotel and casino and future expansion, if feasible, with costs of the well, pump & filtering system, pipes, and decreased water bill. A lagoon on the land South of the Casino, if allowed.

14. Budget. We got a \$1 million budget item for New Business in our proposed Annual Budget. Our Gaming Revenue Allocation Plan (RAP) contributes \$33.5 million, which is 40% of the total RAP contribution. The Total Annual Budget is \$88 M.

A one-million-dollar budget for a multi-million-dollar project of \$125 million Economic Development is not a priority of our CBC or our KCAILC. Both the Comanches and the KCA have no Economic Board and no Economic Staff, budgeted. The CBC does not have the time to do this Project or to direct our land acquisition, which needs a land board.

Thomas Narcomey

Military News

Submitted by Kevin Pohawpatchoko/Comanche Indian Veterans Association (CIVA) Vice Commander

Benefit Indian Taco Sale



Courtesy Photo

Bingo players in action supports CIVA's 50th Anniversary.

Saturday, March 14, 2026, CIVA held a Benefit Bingo event at the Lawton's Farmer Market in Lawton Oklahoma. There was a good crowd as the event was a great success. All the prizes and cake walks were won as everyone in attendance had a real great time. Food items were also sold in the concession stand. CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary would also like to thank Jared Kopaddy for serving as the BINGO caller as money raised is for helping with the offset of the cost for CIVA's 50th Anniversary which will be held on August 22, 2026.

Color Guard Detail



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Color Guard with US Army SSgt Tennyson Kerchee.

Saturday, March 21, 2026, CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary were honored to serve as Color Guards during grand entry for Comanche Nation Princess, Isabela Ramirez Honor Powwow which was held at Watchtaker Hall. CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary would like to thank Comanche Nation Princess Isabela Ramirez for this honor as prayers will be sent to Tennyson Kerchee on his upcoming deployment.

CIVA Secretary Honored



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Secretary Dominic Pawlowski is honored.

March 28, 2026, The Indianahoma Native American Club held their 3rd Annual Powwow in the Indianahoma Public School Gymnasium. CIVA Secretary Dominic Pawlowski was selected to serve as Honored Veteran.

Vietnam War Veterans Breakfast



Courtesy Photos

Vietnam Veteran enjoying breakfast with his spouse.

Sunday, March 29, 2026, CIVA Auxiliary served breakfast to all the brave men and women Vietnam Veterans who served during the Vietnam War. The CIVA Auxiliary Breakfast is a special occasion filled with camaraderie, gratitude, and reflection. CIVA Auxiliary wishes to foster a sense of community and support for those who have given so much to our country during the Vietnam War.

Flag Detail



CIVA Veterans fold the flag of Msgt. Timothy Nibbs.

Sunday, March 29, 2026, CIVA Veterans were invited by Eugene Blackbear Jr., to lower the flag of US Army (Special Forces) Vietnam Veteran Msgt. Timothy Nibbs. His flag flew during the Native American Church Prayer Service in Concho, Oklahoma. Due to extreme windy conditions, his flag was folded inside to the Native American Church Community Building. CIVA would like to thank the Nibbs Family and Eugene Blackbear Jr., for this honor.

Welcome Home



Courtesy Photo

Alexander Akoneto Family.

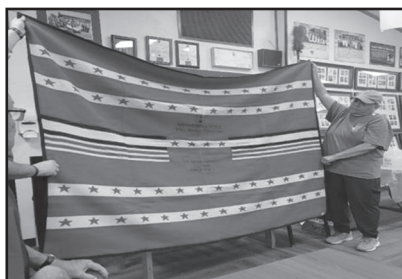
CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary would like to say "Welcome Home" to Alexander Akoneto from his recent deployment.

CIVA Monthly Meeting

On Thursday, April 2, 2026, CIVA held its monthly meeting in the Patriot Room. A call to order was conducted by CIVA Commander Dr. Thomas Boyt followed by a prayer by CIVA Chaplain Ramonah Davis. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Aalynn Codopony as birthday blessing and recognitions to CIVA Commander, Dr. Thomas Boyt. The evening meal was provided by CIVA Auxiliary members, Elizabeth and Victoria Plata. CIVA Secretary Dominic Pawlowski conducted a presentation as Sgt. Melvin Permansu Comanche Code Talkers blankets were returned to Tom and Sue Morris. A change into the CIVA Meeting Agenda was presented and approved by the CIVA Veterans for the CIVA Princess interview and selection. Aalynn Codopony was interviewed by the CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary. She was voted unanimously to serve as the 2026-2027 CIVA Princess. CIVA Officer's and Veterans conducted their monthly meeting as old and new business was presented and discussed. The CIVA monthly meeting ended with discussion on CIVA's 50th Anniversary and Memorial Day Events.



Birthday recognitions to CIVA Commander Dr. Thomas Boyt.



Sgt. Melvin Permansu Comanche Code Talkers blanket.



Courtesy Photos

Aalynn Codopony is interviewed by CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary.

2026 Comanche Nation Princess Coronation Powwow

Saturday, April 4, 2026, CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary attended the 2026 Comanche Nation Princess Coronation Powwow held at Watchtaker Hall. CIVA would like to congratulate In-Coming Comanche Nation Princess- Arlene Schonchin and In-Coming Comanche Jr. Princess Clara Tee-Ohms Yazzie on their new titles representing Comanche Nation. Arlene Schonchin served as the 2022-2024 CIVA Princess and Clara Tee-Ohms Yazzie served as the 2024-2026 CIVA Princess. CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary are very proud of these two Princesses!



Courtesy Photo

Comanche Nation Princess Arlene Schonchin and Comanche Nation Jr. Princess Clara Tee-Ohms Yazzie.

US Marine Corp Send Off

Tuesday, April 8, 2026, CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary received an invitation from the Atauvich Family to help send off Jonathan Apolar who was enlisting in the US Marine Corps. Also in attendance was the Comanche Nation Princess Arlene Schonchin. CIVA will be sending their prayers to Jonathan Apolar as he travels for training.



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veterans, Auxiliary and the Comanche Nation Princess Arlene Schonchin with Jonathan Apolar.

CIVA Indian Taco Sale

Friday, April 10, 2026, CIVA held a Benefit Indian Taco Sale at the Bernard Kahrahrah Community Center. This event was a success as the money raised is for helping with the offset of the cost for CIVA's 50th Anniversary which will be held on August 22, 2026.

Comanche Man Dance



Courtesy Photo

CIVA Veteran at the Spring Comanche Man Dance.

Saturday, April 11, 2026, CIVA received a Special Invite to attend the Spring Comanche Man Dance which was held at Watchtaker Hall. CIVA Veterans and Auxiliary would like to extend their gratitude to the Committee: Gerald Chasenah-Heads Man, Larry Liles, Morgan Tosee, Donald Chasenah and Jacob "JT" Liles-Whip Man.

Aalynn Codopony elected as the 2026-2027 CIVA Princess



Courtesy Photos

Codopony

CIVA elected Aalynn Codopony as its 2026-2027 Princess during its monthly meeting on April 2, 2027. She will assume her title as CIVA Princess during the CIVA's Armed Forces Day Banquet which will be held on May 16.

Outgoing CIVA Princess Clara Yazzie assumed her new role and title as the Comanche Nation Junior Princess during the 2026 Comanche Nation Princess Coronation Powwow. Aalynn Codopony, is an enrolled member of The Comanche Nation and is also of Kiowa descent. She is from the Kwaharu and Penatuka bands. She comes from the Codopony, Tahdoohnippah, Yellowwolf, Pechedo, Tahah, Tahmahkera, Tahchawwickah, Weryavah, and Cable families. She is the daughter of Lantz Codopony and Dayna Gerlich Codopony and has three siblings: Kali, Annikah, and Esa.

She is the granddaughter of Marlon and Janet Codopony Tahah and her great-grandparents are Alene Woodard, Ferrill Codopony, Jolene Weryavah Tahah, and Helmar Tahah. Her great-great-grandparents are Dick and Hazel Yellowwolf Codopony, Day and Lela Yellowwolf Tahdoohnippah, Frank and Lorene Cable Tahmahkera, Joe Weryavah, Sarah Tahchawwickah Woodard and Owen Tahah. Her great-great-grandparents are Oscar and Ada Pechedo Yellowwolf, Codopony and Tachey, Tahdoohnippah and Towaucy, George and Wyva Cable, Pete "Jacob Tahchawwickah" Coffey and Jennie Tooahvonie Wallace. Her father, Lantz Richard Codopony, served in the Navy from 2008-2018 as a Petty Officer First-Class. He served on board the USS Enterprise (CVN-65) and the USS George H. W. Bush (CVN-77) and was Ships Self Defense System Instructor at Center for Surface Combat Systems, Dam Neck, VA. Her grandfather, Marlon Tahah, was a Boiler Technician and served in the Navy aboard the USS Vancouver LPD-2 (amphibious assault) from 1980-1984. Her great-grandfather, Day Tahdoohnippah, served in the Army as a Private from 1941-1945 and fought in the European Theater during World War II. She resides in Cache with her father and is a junior at Cache High School. She has been active in Cache volleyball and track for three years and has played travel volleyball for the Great Plains Volleyball Club for two years. She is also concurrently enrolled at Cameron University: with plans to attend college at the University of Oklahoma to study to become an RN to be a NICU Nurse. She served as the 2025-2026 Cache Johnson O'Malley Princess.

She said she is honored to represent the Comanche Nation Veterans Association as their princess because she is the child of a Navy veteran and understands the value of commitment, time, and duty to the country and her people.

CIVA 49th Annual Memorial Day Ceremony



The Comanche Indian Veterans will host their 49th Memorial

Day Ceremonies on May 25, starting at 11:00 am, at Watchtaker Hall, Circle of Honor and the CIVA Court of Honor. They will all be remembering our Fallen Warriors during this sacred Ceremony.

Memorial Day (originally known as Decoration Day) is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30 Since 1971, it is observed on the last Monday of May.

Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries. Memorial Day is also considered the unofficial beginning of summer.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War. This national observance was preceded by many local ones between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credits Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers—Union and Confederate" with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The world wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May.

Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day (which is earlier in May), an unofficial U.S. holiday for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day (on November 11), which honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.



Calling for all former CIVA Princesses

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 as we are extending an invitation to you. Thank you!

Comanche Veteran Information Needed

The Comanche Indian Veterans Association are updating the Comanche Veterans Master List. If you are a Honorably Discharged Veteran and you would like your military service updated and documented, please email Kevin Pohawpatchoko at k_pohawpatchoko@yahoo.com. Your military service history, documents, records, photographs and your DD-214 will be forwarded to Dr. Bill Meadows, Missouri State University, Department of Sociology-Anthropology/Native American Studies. He and his staff will digitize your military documents and update our Comanche Veterans Master List. Thank you!

Yellowfish Descendants Powwow Set for May 24 at Watchetaker Hall

Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith, known as Yellowfish, was born into the *Kwahada*, Antelope Eaters band of Comanches.

He survived the Second Battle of Adobe Walls and is remembered as the last traditional leader of the *Teh Da Puh Ku Nu* the Comanche "Little Ponies."

In 1972, his grandchildren organized as the Yellowfish Descendants, originally holding their dances in Apache, Oklahoma, on original allotment land. Today, seven, eight and nine generations of his descendants gather to honor and remember their leader. The Yellowfish Descendants Annual Powwow continues as a living celebration of Numu culture, history, and identity.

The Yellowfish Descendants family invites everyone to attend on Sunday, May 24, at Watchetaker Hall at the Comanche Nation Tribal Complex, located nine miles north of Lawton.

Join the Yellowfish Descendants as they honor his legacy and carry his story and songs forward for generations to come. Comanche Nation Senior and Junior Princesses, along with all royalty, are cordially invited to attend.

Master of Ceremonies

Edmond Tate Nevaquaya

Edmond Tate Nevaquaya is an enrolled citizen of the Comanche Nation. He is a father, grandfather and the patriarch of the Nevaquaya family. He currently resides in Apache, Oklahoma. He is employed with the Comanche Nation's Prevention and Recovery program as a cultural counselor. He is also long time member of the Comanche Native American Church. Edmond has served as Master of Ceremonies for many celebrations across the United States and Canada. He is honored to serve in any capacity when it comes to his Comanche people. *Urakoki* to the Yellowfish Descendants for asking him to be a part of this year's annual celebration.

Head Singer

Keith Satepeahntaw

He is honored to serve as this year's Head Singer for the *Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith* Yellowfish Descendants Annual Powwow. Satepeahntaw is Comanche and Kiowa. On his Comanche side, Satepeahntaw the son of Cayle Tonips Klinekole, grandson of the late Otto Tonips Jr. and the great-grandson of the late Otto Tonips Sr. and May Wauqua.

He makes his home in Norman, Oklahoma, with his companion, Aiden Cozad and our children Andrew and Deanna. It is truly a privilege to be asked to serve as this year's head singer and gives thanks to the Yellowfish family for this honor. *Ura*ko.

Head Man

Forrest Tahdoahnippah

Chairman Forrest Tahdoahnippah is the son of Teresa Whitman and the late Cornell Tahdoahnippah. He comes from the Tahdoahnippah and Monetathchi families. His grandmother was Esther Tahdoahnippah Onco. His great-grandparents were Mikey Tahdoahnippah and Martha Monetathchi, and his great-great-grandparents were Tahdoahnippah and Towaucy, as well as AA Mon-

etathchi and *Wah-per*.

Tahdoahnippah is a member of the Comanche Native American Church 1918 Chapter. His Comanche name, *Tubitsi Tsaa Pih*, was given to him by Yellowfish descendant, Michael Burgess in the Native American Church.

He is a graduate of Stanford University and the University of Minnesota Law School. Prior to being elected as chairman, he served as an attorney and law professor.

Head Lady

McKenzi Sovo

Haa, maruawe! McKenzie Denese Sovo is the 21-year-old daughter of Kevin "Bubba" Sovo and DeAnn Nibbs LeBeau. She is from Lawton, Oklahoma. Sovo's paternal grandparents are (the late) June Eddie Sovo and (the late) Sharon Reed Kolzen, and her maternal grandparents are (the late) Reginald "Geto" Nibbs and Brenda "Little Red" Tonips Nibbs. Sovo comes from the *Ohnanuu, Pinahtukah, Kuhtsutuuka, Yapatuuka* bands on my paternal side. On her maternal side the Bow String Society and the Yapatuuka band.

Sovo is enrolled member of the Comanche Nation and a descendent of the Cheyenne Tribe. Also, Sovo is proud to have held the title of the 2023-2024 Comanche Nation Princess.

Currently, she is a business owner of Glow with Sovo. She attended school at Paul Mitchell in Norman, Oklahoma and earned her Esthetician state license. In Sovo's free time, she enjoys attending powwows and spending time with her relatives and friends. Sovo would like to thank the Yellowfish Family for this honor to have been asked to be this year's Head Lady Dancer for the Yellowfish Descendants Annual Powwow. Sovo continually asks for traveling mercies for all who are coming to celebrate. God Bless each and everyone and their homes. *Ura*ko.

Co-Host

Esa Rosa Descendants

The Esa Rosa Descendants organization was formed in the mid 1970s in the heart of 4-Mile Road to honor the renowned chief Isa Tosa-Vit (Whitewolf). Esa Rosa Descendants has had the privilege to host an annual powwow, as well as the opportunity to co-host throughout Oklahoma, Texas and Kansas. The children and grandchildren honor the memory of Howard and Thelma Whitewolf; as well as the numerous family, relatives, and friends whom have come before. The family and organization is pleased to accept the co-host position for the *Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith* (Yellowfish) descendants. *Ura*ko.

Co-Host

The Red Rock Creek Gourd Clan

The Red Rock Creek Gourd Clan would like to thank the Yellowfish Descendants for the invitation to serve as a co-host for this year's annual powwow. Red Rock Creek is a cultural organization from the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. The group takes its name from the creek that flows through and around the Otoe-Missouria Tribal Agency and Encampment Grounds. Red Rock Creek was

organized in the late 1990's by founding members: Alvin Moore, Teddy Wayne Grant, Jim Grant, Wesley Hudson, Dennis Black, Moran Bible and other Otoe-Missouria relatives with the guidance of their fathers and uncles. They organized in order to be useful to the Otoe-Missouria Community by supporting the various dances and celebrations held throughout the year and to fellowship with one another through their shared enjoyment of gourd dancing. Today our membership includes our sons, nephews, grandchildren and many more Otoe-Missouria relatives. Red Rock Creek has been invited to participate in tribal celebrations in Native American communities throughout the United States. Red Rock Creek does its utmost best to respect the Gourd Dance by following the rules and protocols that were shared with the Otoe-Missouria People when the Kiowa Tribe gave the Otoe-Missouria Tribe the right to utilize the Kiowa Gourd Dance and songs. It is our honor and pleasure to be asked to be a part of this year's Yellowfish Powwow. *Aho*.

Arena Director

Larney Haungooah

Larney Silverhorn, of the Caddo Nation, resides at Richard's Spur with his family. He brings over 45 years of experience as an Arena

Director, a role he has carried with dedication and respect.

He is a proud father of three daughters and grandfather to eleven grandchildren.

Larney extends his sincere gratitude to the Yellowfish Descendants for the honor of being asked to serve as Arena Director for this year's gathering. *Aho*.

Arena Director

Modesto Schonchin

Modesto Schonchin is 18-years-old and an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation with Modoc, Piute and Klamath bloodlines. He resides in Elgin, Oklahoma's "Richard Spur" area.

Schonchin is a descendant of Comanche Chiefs Wildhorse and Whitewolf (Esa Rosa) on his maternal side and a descendant of Schonchin John (Modoc) on his paternal side.

He is the son of Lynn and Jolene (Jimenez) Schonchin, the grandson of the late Arlene Wockmetooah Jimenez and Joe "Papa Joe" Jimenez on his maternal side, and the grandson of the late Lynn Schonchin Sr. and Linda Jimenez on his paternal side. His great-grandparents are the late Roy Wockmetooah and Lillie Tomahsah Pratt Teyah, and the late Anna Wockmetooah Tahmahkera.

Schonchin's great-great-grandparents are the late Charles Pratt and Rose Nahwats, and Judd (Wockmetooah) Komah and Edith Kowenoah.

His *tsa*, Anna Wockmetooah Tahmahkera, gave him his Comanche Name, *Tubitsi*, when Schonchin was an infant.

He's from the *Kwaharu* and *Yapurahka* band. Schonchin has been in the powwow arena since he was a toddler. He's represented his family and tribes at celebrations and powwows in Washington, D.C., Texas, New Mexico, Missouri, Oregon and other states. He's a member of the Comanche War Dance Society, the Comanche Youth Dancers, Comanche Man Dance, Comanche Little Ponies and the vice president of IAMNDN Youth Group—he Gourd Dances and Straight Dances.

He's senior at Elgin High School, a member of the National Honor Society and plays varsity soccer. Schonchin is a soccer coach for the Comanche Academy Charter School and is active in his church, and volunteers whenever he can.

He will attend the University of Oklahoma this fall and major in electrical engineering.

He is honored to serve as the Arena Director for the Yellowfish Descendants Powwow.

"Pa-Que-O-Haw-Pith"

**Watchetaker Hall
Lawton, OK** **May 24, 2026**

Yellowfish Descendants Annual Powwow

Schedule

**FLAG RAISING 8 A.M.
FLYING THE FLAG OF
DARRELL MILLER SR.
US ARMY**

**BRUSH DANCE - NOON
SCALP / VICTORY
GOURD DANCE**

SUPPER BREAK - 5 P.M.

**-EVENING SESSION-
GOURD DANCE
ROUND DANCE
SOCIAL DANCES
CONTESTS :**
ADULT : STRAIGHT • FANCY • BUCKSKIN • CLOTH
\$ 300 • \$ 200 • \$ 100
JR GIRLS (7-12): IN HONOR OF MINNIE "TAUMAHVOYAH" POORBUFFALO
POWWOW CLOWN CONTEST: SPONSORED BY DENISE LAWRENCE

Head Staff

M.C. : EDMOND NEVAQUAYA
HEAD SINGER : KEITH SATEPEAHTAW
HEAD MAN : FORREST TAHDOOAHNIPPAH
HEAD LADY : MCKENZI SOVO
A.D. : LARNEY HAUNGOOAH
A.D. : MODESTO SCHONCHIN

**CO HOSTS : ESA ROSA DESCENDANTS
RED ROCK CREEK GOURD CLAN**

VENDOR FEE: \$25 PER TABLE
VENDORS MUST PROVIDE THEIR OWN TABLES.
VENDOR CONTACT: RICHARD KOMAH
405-829-0045

RAFFLES !

CAKE WALK !

FREE ADMISSION !

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

Answers to Language Puzzle on Page 13.

Cities and Towns

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

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

ACROSS

2. NORMAN
3. CACHE
4. CYRIL
5. FLETCHER
8. ANADARKO

DOWN

1. COMANCHE
2. OKC
6. WALTERS
7. LAWTON
9. APACHE

WORD BANK

NUMU NARUMUU SOOKAHNI
PIA SOOKAHNI APAITSI
PASIWA NARUMUU PISI NARUMUU
PISU NARUMUU WOTASU
PIA TUBOO NARUMUU TUSOKWE

Lil' Darfin's

HOME COOKING

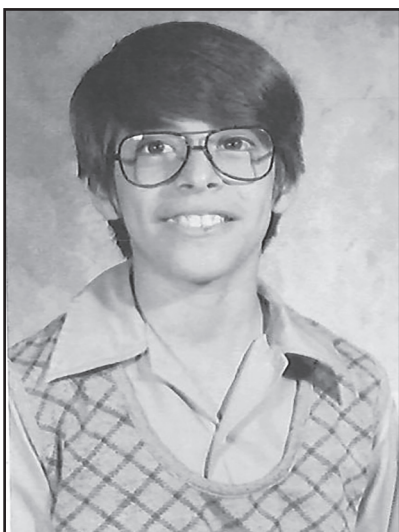
SONIA AND PATRICK ATTOCKNIE (580) 483-9326

Milestones

Happy Belated Birthday!

April 27 - Jim Tiddark

Happy Birthday!



Happy Belated Birthday
Jim Tiddark
April 27

~Happy B.D. Little Brother. Love you, Sister Rose.



Happy Birthday
Ashyn Taylor Meurant
May 13

~Happy Birthday, Sissy! Love, Momma and Bubs.



Happy Birthday
Modesto "Mojo" Schonchin
May 17

~Happy Birthday, Mojo! We love you beyond words and are so very proud of you!



Happy Birthday
Samuel Cozad
May 31

~Happy Birthday Brody! We love you so much. Wishing you all your hearts desires in Jesus name. Amen!
From, big sis Sienna and kids!
XOXOXO

- May 6 - Josh McCune
- May 8 - Andrew Dustin Addy
- May 10 - Sheldon Bennett
- May 13 - Jon "Sonny" Red Elk
- May 13 - Ashyn Taylor Meurant
- May 17 - Reuben Montanez
- May 20 - Charles Poco
- May 31 - Samuel Cozad

The Comanche Nation News
June Edition
Deadline:
May 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

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COMANCHE LITTLE PONIES

56th Annual Celebration

MAY 8TH & 9TH, 2026

920 S. Sheridan Rd., Lawton, OK- Comanche County Fairgrounds, Expo Center

Comanche Little Ponies Princess 2025-2026: *Arlene Schonchin*
Comanche Little Ponies Princess 2026-2027: *Nabela Ramirez*

Special Invitation
2026-2027 Comanche Nation Princess & Comanche Nation Jr. Princess
As well as All Mothers, Happy Mother's Day

FRIDAY, MAY 8TH, 2025

12:00p.m. Cedar Ceremony
1:00pm Gourd Dance
3:00 pm New Member Initiation
5:00 pm Supper Break
6:00pm Calling Song & Contest
10:30 pm Announcement of contest Winners

FRIDAY NIGHT CONTESTS
BOYS & GIRLS TINY TOTS (COMBINED, 0-6 YRS)
Sponsored by Comanche Little Ponies Princess
Arlene Schonchin

JR. BOYS (COMBINED, 7-15 YRS)
JR. GIRLS (COMBINES, 7-15 YRS)
1st- \$125, 2nd- \$100, 3rd- \$75, 4th- \$75
(PER CATAGORY)

FRIDAY SPECIAL CONTESTS:
Women's Buckskin Contest (18 years +)
In Honor of Kay Cable, sponsored by sons and family.
1st \$300 2nd \$200 3rd \$100

Boy's Straight Dance Contest (15 yrs & under)
1st \$400 2nd \$300 3rd \$200 4th- \$100

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

HEAD STAFF

Master of Ceremonies
Edmond Nevaquaya

Head Singer
Robert Tehauno

Head Gourd Dancer
TJ Parker

Head Lady Dancer
McKenzi Sovo

Head War Dancer
Morgan Tosee

Arena Directors
Travis Codynah
Ashley Kerchee

Water Carrier
Eli Yazzie

*Honored Elder
Garrison Tahmahkera*

SATURDAY, MAY 9TH, 2025

12:00 PM Gourd Dance
2:00 PM New Princess Coronation
5:00 PM Supper Break
6:00 PM Grand Entry & Contest
10:30 PM Host Organization Special & Announcement of contest Winners

SATURDAY NIGHT CONTESTS

GOLDEN AGE MEN (COMBINED 54+ YRS)
GOLDEN AGE WOMEN (COMBINED 54+ YRS)
WOMEN'S CLOTH, BUCKSKIN, JINGLE, APPLIQUE (16 YRS - 53yrs)
MEN'S GRASS, STRAIGHT (16 YRS- 53 yrs)
1st- \$500, 2nd- \$300, 3rd- \$200, 4th- \$100
(PER CATAGORY)

SATURDAY SPECIAL CONTESTS:
Speical Men's Traditional & Chicken Dance Contest (16- 53 yrs)
1st- \$1500, 2nd- \$400, 3rd- \$300, 4th- \$200
1st place sponsored by Travis Codynah & JT LeBeau in honor of CLP Chairman Lowell Nibbs

MEN'S FANCY (16 YRS- 53 yrs)
1st- \$600, 2nd- \$400, 3rd- \$200, 4th- \$100

IN VITED NORTHERN DRUM (SAT.) THUNDER BOY

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

EVENT COMPLETELY BROADCASTED BY:

LONGHORN PRODUCTIONS

All Singers, Dancers, Princesses, Clubs & Organizations are cordially invited. Arts & Crafts Vendors, 4 Concession Stands, Raffles & Giveaway

Vendors: All vendors must provide your own set-up, including tables/chairs, arts & crafts vendor fee is \$80.00 (per 10'x10' space) and includes both days. For vendor applications, please contact: Marc Wilson- (580)321-8862, or damarc@comon.com

For General Powwow Information: Lowell Nibbs @ lowellnibbs@yahoo.com or (580)583-6270

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

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398 TRIBAL RESPONSE

COMANCHE NATION
PREVENTION & RECOVERY

IAMNDN GRADUATING SENIOR HONOR POW-WOW

Comanche Nation Wachusetaker Hall

HEAD STAFF

MC: Martin Flores
Head Singer: Jeffrey Lightfoot
Head Man Gourd Dancer: Malachi Large
Head Man War Dancer: Elias Saupitty
Head Lady: Mikalyn Hoahwah
AD: Modesto Schonchin
CoHost: CIVA/Comanche Little Ponies

GOURD DANCE: 2PM-5:PM
HONOR IAMNDN SENIORS: 3:30PM
SUPPER BREAK: 5:00PM-6:00PM
GOURD DANCE: 6PM-7PM

GRADUATING SENIORS

MALACHI LARGE
MIKALYN HOAHWAH
MICHAEL MILLER
EMILY CHASENAH

ELIAS SAUPITTY
MODESTO SCHONCHIN
ANTONIO NEGRON

GRAND ENTRY & CONTEST: 7:30PM

Tiny Tots
Teen Boy Southern Straight 13-19 Yrs
Teen Fancy Boys & Girls Combined 13-19 Yrs
Teen Girls Southern Cloth 13-19 Yrs
Men Southern Straight 19+Yrs
Womens Southern Cloth 19 Yrs
Special Northern Traditional Contest
Sponsored by Elias Saupitty & Family

Saturday May 23, 2026

20 She opens her hand to the poor, and reaches out her hands to the needy.

21 She is not afraid of snow for her household, for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

22 She makes herself coverings; her clothing is fine linen and purple.

23 Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits among the elders of the land.

24 She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers girdles to the merchant.

25 Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

26 She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

27 She looks well to the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.

28 Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

29 "Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

30 Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

31 Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates

- Proverbs 31:10-31

Obituaries

Joyce Swift



Swift Courtesy Photo

Joyce was born on August 3, 1944 in Lawton, OK to James and Ollie (Parker) Wahkinney. She graduated from Lawton High in May 1963. She enjoyed sewing, attending powwows, taking care of Corbyn, playing bingo and crossword puzzles. She was a proud member of the Comanche Nation and the Shoshone Reunion. She worked for Comanche Nation for 10 years, Wal-Mart for 14 years and OSHD for another 14 years, retiring in 2013.

She is survived by her children: Ronald and Shana Wahkinney, Frank and Angela Swift; ten grandchildren: Aron and Korney Wahkinney, Travis Kurtz, Kayla Dunn (Braven), Von Rawls-Smith (Kaylynne), Corbyn Swift (Simone), Bailey and Coyote Foster, Shelby and Tanner Gray, Lacey and Nick Larson, Jobey and Blake Collins and Keilee Jay; 13 great grandchildren, Parker, Olihna, Ah'Liyah, Ah'Zire, Carter, Kiah, Landry, Kandon, Lane, Beckham, Riley, Paisley, and Jett.

She is preceded in death by her parents: James Wahkinney and Ollie Parker; numerous brothers and sisters.

Ruben Cable



Cable Courtesy Photo

Cable

Ruben Benjamin Wallace Cable
November 14, 2005 ~ March 22, 2026
"Once a Bulldog, Always a Bulldog"

On the morning of Sunday, March 22, 2026, Ruben Benjamin Wallace Cable went to his heavenly home. He was 20 years young.

Cable was born November 14, 2005 in Chickasha, Oklahoma to Jonie Ramirez and Darin Cable. A 2024 graduate of Cache High School and a proud member of the

Comanche Nation, Ruben lived with deep roots in both his community and his Native culture, and in his faith in Jesus Christ.

Today, we pause to honor one of our own. His contagious smile, laugh and genuine spirit left a mark on everyone who knew him. He was a son, a brother, a grandson, a nephew, a friend, a teammate, and a young man who understood exactly who he was and where he came from.

Cable worked for Dobson Fiber as a construction technician, drilling for fiber optic cable across Oklahoma. He was a hard worker who took pride in his craft and made friends everywhere he went.

A FRIEND TO EVERYONE

Cable was the kind of person a room felt when he walked in. His smile arrived before he did, and his laugh had a way of making whatever was heavy feel a little lighter. No one ever saw him angry, not once. He simply did not carry that in him.

He answered the phone. Every time. And he would stay on as long as you needed, because to Cable, there was nowhere more important to be than present for the people he loved. If you were hungry and had nothing, he paid. If you were struggling and needed

someone, you called Cable. He would give the shirt off his back. He never thought twice about either.

Friends were not just friends to him; they were family. And he treated them as such.

ON THE FIELD

Cable wore #73 for the Cache Bulldogs as a standout offensive lineman, where he made a lasting impact on the football team and the Cache community. He went on to sign with Bethany College in Kansas, carrying the pride of Cache with him. In his own words, he captured what football meant to him: and "I enjoy playing with all my brothers out here because it feels like we all just one together. And I feel like if you ever need somebody to go [to turn to], any of the coaches they are always there for you; any of your people are always there for you. So like it just feels like it all a family."

"Once a Bulldog, always a Bulldog."

HIS CULTURE, HIS IDENTITY

Beyond the field, Cable was deeply committed to his Native culture. He was an active member of the Cache Native Club and served on the IAMNDN Youth Council. He spoke openly about what that connection meant to him: "It brought me closer to who I am and what my culture is. We went to Unity last year and I feel like going to that makes me realize who we are as a people and what people are trying to take away from us."

That awareness, that pride, was central to who Cable was.

THOSE HE LEAVES BEHIND

Cable is survived by his mother, Jonie Ramirez and her companion TJ Parker; his father, Darin Cable and his companion Janaye Toppah; his siblings, Natayla Ramirez, Julia Spikes, Jaylen Ramirez, Jessica Cable, Ashlynn Sims, and Elisha Cable; his maternal grandmother, Lydia Ramirez; his paternal grandfather, Eddie Bigbow; those who loved him as their own, Chloe Mote and her companion Trey Dempley, Shaun and Robin Hughes, Corey Choney, Joey and Robin Frickie; his aunt, Chenoa Bigbow Barhydt; his uncles, Wayland Bigbow and Willie Bigbow; and numerous extended family members and friends.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandmother, Ruby Cable Bigbow; his great-grandparents, Rowena Marie Tselee, Wallace Tselee, Nelson Bigbow, and Johanna Bigbow; and his uncle, Christopher Ramirez.

Videll Yackeschi



Yackeschi Courtesy Photo

Yackeschi

Videll Yackeschi (*tsa urapu*) was born to Wood Yackeschi and Suam Titchywy on November 15, 1935 at the PHS Indian Hospital in Lawton, Oklahoma, he was raised near Walters, Oklahoma, and departed this life in Meridian, Oklahoma on April 7, 2026 at the age of 90 years old. He was the youngest child of 11 siblings.

At the age of five, Yackeschi, contracted tuberculosis. When his health did not seem to be improving, his mom and Aunt Lynn took him out of the hospital. His Aunt Lynn would read him the Bible every day and he memorized the 23rd Psalm. Later in his youth he would find comfort in a creek on his fathers land that he would go by himself and pray. And that is how his relationship and love for God began.

Yackeschi first preached in 1958 at the Emerson Nazarene Church west of Walters, Oklahoma and from there many other Indian churches. After many years of preaching, he

found himself back at his childhood church that was founded in 1935. In 1969 when the pastor of that church passed, Yackeschi's dream of owning his own church came true. Videll was the sole pastor of Westside Baptist church for 59 years and was the first pastor to hold services annually at the Comanche Nation Fair since 1986.

Yackeschi attended Walters grade school and Temple High School where he graduated in 1955 and enjoyed football, basketball and track and field. He began his college education at Harmons Simmons College in Abilene, Texas. In 1961 he attended the Nazarene Indian Bible College in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Later in 1978, he took a teaching position in Duncan, Oklahoma at the Red River Technology Center as Automotive Instructor. Also, during this time he received a Bachelor's degree from Cameron University in Lawton, OK. On June 18th, 1998 he was inducted into The Indian Falls Creek Baptist Assembly Hall of Fame, by virtue of long service in the Kingdom. Later in life Videll began working for the Comanche Nation Headquarters, where he began his work with the education department. He was considered a Comanche Language expert and spent the majority of his time translating the Comanche language, sharing his tribe's history, and helping youths get scholarships. Yackeschi continued his teachings of the Comanche language at the Comanche Nation College.

He met his one true love in Los Angeles, California at the Indian Nazarene Church while he was attending Pasadena College. Yackeschi married Isabelle Werito on February 1st, 1958. To the union two children, Karen and Kevin were born, and later a son, Chad, was added to the family.

In Yackeschi's free time, he enjoyed many hobbies and interests. He raised horses, and many other animals. He enjoyed Native American art and was an artist himself. He enjoyed singing, music and playing the piano and guitar. Yackeschi was a huge Dallas Cowboys fan and attended many of their games. He loved spending his time with family and friends and enjoying a good meal.

Yackeschi was preceded in death by his parents Wood and Suam Yackeschi, siblings Leo, Eli, Willis, Frank, Ethel, June, Winford (Bud), Tincy, Betty Jean, Herbert, Edgar.

Survivors include three children, Karen (*Ohop Totsiya*) and Doyle Goss of Walters, Oklahoma, Kevin Yackeschi (*Tunapi*) and Marie of Comanche, Oklahoma, and Chad Yackeschi (*Peecoo*) of Meridian, Oklahoma. Four grandchildren, Ralynn Goss (*Suam*) and Mike of Walters, Oklahoma, Lucas Goss (*Wasape*) and Jennifer of Walters, Oklahoma, Rainy Yackeschi (*Sahoodop*) and Jeff (*Motso*) of Duncan, Oklahoma, Windy Yackeschi (*Soo Yake*) and Lane of Comanche, Oklahoma. Six great grandchildren, Zoe Goss (*Sahoodop*) and Zalachi Goss (*Tue Wasape*) of Walters, Oklahoma, Caison Yackeschi (*Sutenapu*) and Allie Yackeschi (*Pia wa?oo*) of Comanche, Oklahoma, and Ethan (*Tuupe*) and Connor Findley (*Tami*) of Duncan, Oklahoma and many other nephews, nieces and relatives.

Pallbearers included Chad Yackeschi, Caison Yackeschi, Lucas Goss, Zalachi Goss, Jeff Findley, Ethan Findley, Connor Findley, Mike Wauqua Jr. and Kyle Tahpay.

Honorary pallbearers include Kevin Yackeschi, Doyle Goss, Herschel Yackeschi, Dwayne Yackeschi, Lenny Wooth, Ted Wooth, Videll Wauqua, JD Wauqua, Sam Desselle, Richard Jacobs and Robert Smart.

Though your smile is gone forever, and your hand we cannot touch. Still we have so many memories of the one we loved so much. Your memory is our keepsake with which we will never part. God has you in His keeping. We have you in our hearts.



Michael Tosee



Tosee Courtesy Photo

Tosee

Michael D. Tosee, a respected educator, public servant and American Indian historian traveled to "The Other-Side Camp" on March 18, 2026, at his home on the Crow Reservation near Pryor, Montana.

Throughout his life he devoted himself to ensuring educational opportunities for American Indian students, while strengthening their traditions and cultural identities. Services will be held at the Comanche Nation Funeral Home Chapel in Lawton, Oklahoma on March 26, 2026, with his uncle, Rev. Leon Hawzipta Jr., officiating. Interment will be at the Cache Creek Cemetery, west of Apache, Oklahoma.

He was born on March 24, 1951, in Lawton, Oklahoma to Fern Asepermy Tosee. Tosee is an enrolled member of the Comanche Nation (Penateka "Honey Eaters" Band) and also of Kiowa descent. He was raised from age one to five years by his aunt, Ruth and her husband, Walker Myers, in Houston, Texas. Tosee lived west of Apache, Oklahoma with his grandparents George Sr., and Hattie Jones Asepermy from his sophomore year until his high school graduation, in 1969.

He was a standout multi-sport athlete, participating as a starter his junior and senior years on the football, basketball and baseball teams. He was an All-District football and basketball player leading all scorers in basketball, in the Southwest Oklahoma area his senior year.

Tosee received his Associate degree from Bacone Junior College where he started two years for legendary basketball Coach George Hauser. The team averaged 106 points per game and played in the National Junior College Tournament both years. Tosee was inducted into the Bacone Hall of Fame in 2017.

He attended Oklahoma City University (OCU), then a Division I university, on a basketball scholarship. He was a starter for the "Chiefs" for two years under famed head coach, Abe Lemons. They were selected to play in the then 32-team NCAA National Tournament his junior year. During his senior year OCU played in the National Invitation Tournament at Madison Square Garden.

After receiving his Master's degree from Kansas University (KU), he served as the Director of American Indian Studies at Dakota Wesleyan University in Mitchell, South Dakota. He taught American Indian Culture and History of American Indian Leaders: Past and Present.

In 1985 he graduated from the grueling 18-week Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Academy as a Special Agent. He then spent a total of six years at the Sacramento, California and the New York City field offices. He left the FBI and took a massive pay-cut for his dream job and passion, to teach Native American students.

From 1991 until his retirement in 2018, Tosee taught American Indian Studies/U.S. History courses and served as a Union Steward at Haskell Indian Nations University in Lawrence, Kansas. He also coached the women's basketball team at Haskell for one year as a graduate student at KU.

In 2010, he received his doctorate degree in U.S. History from KU. His dissertation was titled "20th Century Comanche History: A Period of Continued Resistance, Modification, and Cultural Transitions."

Despite a busy career he played independent basketball and softball, mostly for the Haskell Indian teams from about 1971 until the mid-80's. The "Fighting Indians" were the Oklahoma City National State

tournament champions in 1972 and 1973, and runner-up in 1971, 1975, 1976 and 1977. Their basketball team won the National Independent basketball tournament, in Phoenix, Arizona in 1975.

In addition, to his athletic prowess, Tosee produced numerous documentaries about American Indians including "In the Tradition of the Warrior - A Modern-day History of Comanche Veterans," "Keeping the Legends Alive," a detailed account about Haskell's football teams," and a "Tribute to Abe Lemons." He also cataloged over 300 interviews with elders and veterans from numerous tribes.

Tosee is preceded in death by his mother, a brother, Gary Tosee, his grandparents, uncles Curtis Clayton, George Jr., and Boti Asepermy, aunts Ruth Myers, Ginger Caudillo, Theresa Pilas, Yvonne Evans and Sue Gooday.

He is survived by his wife, Marzha Fritzler, after nearly 25 years together; a daughter Michelle Francis-Fisher of Corona, California; a son Ethan Tosee of the home; granddaughters Taylor Spoonhunter, Ashli Ceasar and Jordyn Ceasar; great-grandchildren Boston Crenshaw, Dayton Crenshaw, Hannah Borunda and Callan Carrillo. He is also survived by sisters Marilyn Webster and Denise Camargo, aunt Tomah Yeahquo, and many relatives and friends.

Betty Lou Weryavah



Weryavah Courtesy Photo

Weryavah

Betty Lou Weryavah Chasenah went to her heavenly home April 9th, 2026 surrounded by her loving grandchildren and family. Betty was born to Joe Weyavah and Lorene (Cable) Tahmakera on October 13, 1943.

Chasenah completed Business Vocational School in California. She enlisted in the United States Navy and was proud of her military service. Beyond her education and military service, she was devoted to her family. Chasenah was selfless and would do anything for the people she loved, she was the anchor and the heart of her family.

In quieter moments she loved beading, sewing, singing Comanche hymns, taking care of her dogs, and watching sports. Chasenah was a proud member of the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma. She loved her culture, and proudly represented her family in the Comanche Little Ponies Organization. Chasenah was precious and loving; and her absence is felt tremendously throughout her family.

Chasenah is survived by her grandsons Frank Ortega III and wife Hailey, Myles Jordan Shoup, Jared Kopaddy, Derrek Kopaddy, Daniel Kopaddy and Daniel Smith; granddaughters Ashley Kopaddy Powell and husband Anthony, Yvonne Kopaddy; great grandchildren Miayanna Ortega, Allana Ortega, Isaac Galan, Amina Powell, Josiah Tinsley, Aria Kopaddy, Mia Smith, and Aaliyah Smith; two great great granddaughters Amora Foster and Meila Love.

Betty is preceded in death by her children Lynette Ortega, Sonya Kopaddy, Danielle, Terry, Todd; her parents Lorene and Franklin Tahmakera and Joe Weryavah; sisters Barbara Chasenah, Phyliss Mowatt, Jolene Tahah, Deborah Tahmahkera, Lahoma Knight; brothers Ben Tahmahkera, Carl Tahah, and Rod Hoahway; grandchildren Macy Ortega and Neil Passi; nieces Linda Lorentz, Shelli Sanchez, D'Ann Ortega, Mary Ann Morrow, Marcia and Francis Mowatt; nephews Dan Cooper Tahmahkera, Greg Weryavah, Lawrence Wilhelms, Donald Wilhelms, and Steven Mowatt; grandsons Nate Morrow, Daniel Elam, Marcell Johnson and Tony Riss.

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Ben Kappelman, Partner
Co-Chair, Indian & Alaska Native Practice Group

Ben's broad disputes resolution practice has included Indian tribes and their entities, as well as those with whom they do business, for more than a decade. Ben counsels tribes in a variety of contexts, including commercial disputes, employment issues, litigation related to gaming rights, and assertion of tribal sovereign immunity. In addition to his work for paying clients, Ben is the team leader for Dorsey's pro bono representation of a Minnesota Indian tribe in asserting its interests in state court child protection proceedings under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

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KCA VETERANS ANNUAL

Honoring All Who Served

16 MAY 2026

SATURDAY 1-9PM

PowWow

Comanche County Fairgrounds Expo Bldg
920 SW Sheridan Rd, Lawton, OK 73505












HONORING ALL WHO SERVED

ALL GOURD DANCE

<p>HEAD STAFF:</p> <p>MC's -Cy Ahtone -Alonzo Chalepah</p> <p>HS K -TBA C -Berkeley Monoessy Sr. A -John Yeahpau</p> <p>HGD -KCA Veterans HLD -Jaselyn Thompson AD -Travis Codynah</p>	<p>SCHEDULE:</p> <p>Posting of Colors. ...1:00pm Scalp/Victory Dance...1:30pm Gourd Dance. ...2:00pm Veterans Honors. ...4:00pm Supper Break. ...5:00pm Gourd Dance. ...6:00pm Grand Entry. ...7:30pm Gourd Dance. ...8:00pm</p>
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Financial Tip: Estate Planning



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

Complete beneficiary forms for any asset you have that you can.

- o Per Capita & Elders Distributions
- o Retirement Accounts
- o Insurance Policies

Have a will.

- o Take advantage of any free resources that will help you draft your own.

Have Payable on Death (POD) designated for assets that offer this.

- o For example, your bank accounts

Document your assets and liabilities, like your house, car, loans and credit cards.

- o Update frequently

Complete other important documents such as:

- o Power of Attorney
- o Health Care Proxy
- o Living Will

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