March 18, 2020, the Kiowa Tribal Complex shut its doors immediately when it learned an employee tested COVID-19 positive.
Parents In Nursing Home Lock Down
Letter from the Editor – Neely R. Tsoodle

People in nursing homes have always been a vulnerable population. The move from in-class lectures to online has also been a huge comfort to many. Haskell has handled this in a professional manner. All staff members have made it possible to contact them on more than a professional level. Haskell administration has done so much ways of helping other students and not just Haskell student. They also do so much things being open and proposed, things that I and many others worked up together.

Haskell administrator, Marnell O’Brien, had the stage at the commencement ceremony. We all felt a sense of pride and gladness when the student, with a degree in our hands, was able to accept the degree.

Our nursing homes have always been a vulnerable population. The move from in-class lectures to online has also been a huge comfort to many. Haskell has handled this in a professional manner. All staff members have made it possible to contact them on more than a professional level. Haskell administration has done so much ways of helping other students and not just Haskell student. They also do so much things being open and proposed, things that I and many others worked up together.

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The Kiowa Chairman fully supports the Bill of Rights as it reads in the Kiowa Constitution, Article 1- Section b:

Article 1-Section b: 3. The Kiowa Chairman fully supports the Bill of Rights as it reads in the Kiowa Constitution.
May 20, 2020
Dear Kiowa Tribal Member,

The Executive Branch of the Kiowa Tribe, on this 29th day of May, 2020, has authorized Nine Million Five Hundred Thousand ($9,500,000.00) Dollars to the Emergency Spending Plan, under the CARES Act, to fund the Emergency Spending Plan to allow as few employees as we can back in the building to maintain the emergency services offered to our elders and those in most need.

The 11th day of June, 2020, has determined the current annual budget. This $6M was allocated among the various programs, and this was highlighted in the resolution supporting the modification. The election results have been certified (on April 9, 2020) in my opinion, and I have instructed finance to add the modifications to all existing budgets. This will be completed shortly. We will apply the dollars associated with the First Modification as a way of bringing the Kiowa Tribal Complex back to work. The Legislative Branch will be moved into our operating account. This will leave the dollars associated with the First Modification as needed level.

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The Kiowa Tribal Chairman

Matthew M. Komalty
Kiowa Tribal Chairman

Matthew M. Komalty, Chairman

June 10, 2020
Dear Kiowa Tribal Member,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Kiowa Tribe and Kiowa Tribal Members that the Kiowa Tribal Chairman, Matthew M. Komalty, has signed the Emergency Spending Plan, as authorized by the Kiowa Tribal Legislature.

The legislation includes modifications, which have been approved by the Kiowa Tribal Legislature. The modifications are designed to address the current crisis and ensure the continued operation of the Kiowa Tribal Complex. These modifications will allow the Executive Branch to provide necessary services to our members during this challenging time.

In summary, as your Chairman, I will continue to attempt to work closely with the Legislative Branch to meet them halfway. I am confident that the Legislators have failed to recognize that we have a bigger problem to deal with than who is hiring or where we are placed. It is true, we have differing views, but I am confident that the Legislators are failing to give the overall welfare of the Kiowa people and our government. I hope that they begin to exercise the powers granted in the new Kiowa Tribal Constitution.

The Kiowa people choose me to be their representative. I will fulfill the duties and responsibilities of my office to the best of my ability.

Ah-ho!

Matthew M. Komalty
Kiowa Tribal Chairman

Letters from Matthew Komalty, Chairman

April 9, 2020
A Message to the Kiowa People from Chairman Matthew Komalty.
On Monday, April 13, 2020, the Kiowa Tribal Complex, with offices in Anadarko and Carnegie will re-open, but our complex is still open to the public. The coronavirus has been halted or limited. Since the closure due to COVID-19 on March 19, 2020, we have worked diligently to maintain the emergency services offered to our elders and those in most need.

There are employees who have been placed on administrative leave, however, that will be lifted on April 13. Let me be clear, many programs and services have been working tirelessly to maintain services and minimal staff so it will take some time to get back to “business as usual” and there’s no guaranteed time frame we foresee. We know that many of our members need assistance to help them through this current crisis. Our plan is to allow as few employees as we can back in the building daily to process the financial assistance and roles. We will try to work from home and the goal is to get our programs back on track to be able to serve you with the best possible care. Please be mindful and patient as we go through this rebuilding period.

All over the world, we are seeing businesses close, lay-offs, terminations, furloughs, and downsizing. Many are facing a comfortable task delivering bad news to those you care about the most. However, we have been fortunate that our employees have not been impacted by the “stay home” mandate. But it’s time to plan those back on the job when the pandemic is over.

We will need to stress that many of the employees will be making more while they are “separated from employment” from their employers. They are being paid for work not yet done, according to the stimulus package, plus additional annual leave they have accrued. It’s a win-win situation, separated employees can save money, they can continue to work for their employer, and the employer can fund expenses and employees can continue working, but careful safeguards will be implemented on how funding is utilized.

In summary, as your Chairman, I will continue to attempt to work closely with the Legislative Branch to meet them halfway. I am confident that the Legislators have failed to recognize that we have a bigger problem to deal with than who is hiring or where we are placed. It is true, we have differing views, but I am confident that the Legislators are failing to give the overall welfare of the Kiowa people and our government. I hope that they begin to exercise the powers granted in the new Kiowa Tribal Constitution.

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Ah-ho!

Matthew M. Komalty
Kiowa Tribal Chairman

June 10, 2020
Dear Kiowa Tribal Member,

The purpose of this letter is to inform the Kiowa In- dian Tribe of the Kiowa Tribal Complex, Kiowa Tribal Chairman, Matthew M. Komalty, dated April 17, 2020, the Kiowa Tribal Chairman has signed the Emergency Spending Plan, as authorized by the Kiowa Tribal Legislature.

According to Amendment A (New Constitution) Section 307(b), The Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma, April 17, 2017, “Constitution of the Kiowa Tribe”, Article VI, Section 6, (vi) states: “The Kiowa Tribal Chairman is empowered to approve an annual budget within sixty days of presentation of a proposed annual budget by the Chairman to the Legislature by February 1st, the Chairman is empowered by the Kiowa people to shall be deemed approved for the purpose of such budget before the votes for approval or disapp-
Month of April
1) Name: Nisha Lozano
2) Hometown & High School: I grew up in Kansas City, Kansas.
3) Month of April
4) Current College/University: The University of Kansas
5) Degree Program: Business Administration
6) Activities/Hobbies/Clubs/Events you are involved in: I am a member of the Kiowa Tribe A VT program for assisting me throughout all of my training.
7) Community Involvement: Volunteer-Local/Community, Volunteer-Mentoring
8) Honors/Scholarships you have received: The Kiowa Higher Education Grant Program helped fund my education.
9) How long has the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped fund your education? Since January of 2020. The program has helped her by funding her schooling and providing assistance.
10) How has the Kiowa Tribe, particularly the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped you to get to where you are? The Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program has made my dream of obtaining a college degree a reality.
11) How has the Kiowa Tribe, particularly the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped you to achieve your goals? The Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program has made my dream of obtaining a college degree a reality.

Month of June
1) Name: Dione Renee Tsiata
2) Hometown & High School: I grew up in Apache, Oklahoma. attended Apache Elementary School, where I graduated from the eighth grade. I transferred to Cyril where I attended School, where I graduated from the eighth
tary School, then attended Boone elementary 
3) Month of June
4) Current College/University: Caddo Kiowa Technology Center
5) Degree Program: Elementary Education, Bilingual
6) Activities/Hobbies/Clubs/Events you are involved in: I love spending time with my family, friends and enjoy music.
7) Community Involvement: Volunteer-Local/Community, Volunteer-Mentoring
8) Honors/Scholarships you have received: I am an avid disc golfer and enjoy volunteering in my community.
9) How long has the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped fund your education? Since January of 2020. The program has helped me by funding my schooling and providing assistance.
10) How has the Kiowa Tribe, particularly the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped you to achieve your goals? The Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program has made my dream of obtaining a college degree a reality.
11) How has the Kiowa Tribe, particularly the Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program helped you to get to where you are? The Kiowa Tribe Higher Education Grant Program has made my dream of obtaining a college degree a reality.

May Adult Vocational Training Student Of The Month: Tiffany Botone

Tiffany Botone grew up in Carnegie, Okla. She is a graduate of Carnegie High School. She currently lives in Anadarko, Okla. Her mother is Jane Seymore and her father is Robert Botone and Monica Johanntoberms. She also has one sister Jacqueline. Tiffany Botone enjoys reading, traveling, sightseeing, spending time around my family, but in my spare time I love bead working, going to concerts, listening to music, volunteering.
Kiowa Tribe Present Covid-19 Fund Plans ToLegislate

CARNEGIE, Okla. – On Tuesday, May 26, 2020, the Kiowa Tribal Executive Branch invited the Legislators to join the meeting to discuss the Coronavirus Relief Funds (CFR) award of $19.5 million that the tribe recently received. The US Treasury began distributing the coronavirus relief funds to Indian tribes and other Native Corporations that were recognized by the US Treasury Department. The Kiowa Tribe was one of the 574 federally recognized tribes that received the funds.

The tribe was able to secure an additional $3.4 million in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) funding for its casino operations. The tribe was able to receive this additional PPP funding in order to keep its casinos open during the COVID-19 pandemic. The tribe’s casinos have been closed since March 2020 due to the pandemic.

Kiowa Tribe Tribal Chairman Matthew Komalty today confirms that the Kiowa Tribe has received approximately $19.5 million. “Whereas the money is critical,” states Chairman Komalty. “The US government needs to honor its treaty obligations to the Tribe and the American Indian nations. The US government must cover costs incurred during the public health emergency and that this is not the case. The use of the money to pay the money back and that we would worry about that when the money runs out, for the Tribe and its people at great risk due to the public health emergency.”

The Kiowa Tribe will be required to repay any of these funds if they are used for any purpose that is not in accordance with the terms of the CARES Act. If the Tribe does not follow the rules and regulations provided by the US Treasury Department, the Chairman is optimistic the allocation of these resources will be maximized for the use of the Tribe.

The Kiowa Tribe Tribal Executive Branch will ensure that the use of funds complies with the allowable rules and regulations provided by the US Treasury Department. The Chairman is optimistic the allocation of these resources will be maximized for the use of the Tribe.

Kiowa Tribe Tribal Chairman Matthew Komalty today confirms that the Kiowa Tribe has received approximately $19.5 million. “Whereas the money is critical,” states Chairman Komalty. “The US government needs to honor its treaty obligations to the Tribe and the American Indian nations. The US government must cover costs incurred during the public health emergency and that this is not the case. The use of the money to pay the money back and that we would worry about that when the money runs out, for the Tribe and its people at great risk due to the public health emergency.”

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To have your loved one featured inside the Kiowa Tribal newspaper email pr@kiowatribe.org. Please remember to include the name of funeral home when sending information.

Kiowa News Page 6 June/July 2020

Sandra Kaye TwocalfHat, funeral service Friday, May 22, 2020. Sandra Kaye TwocalfHat, 56, born on February 17, 1974, to Elroy and Dorothy Palmer, was laid to rest on May 21, 2020, at the Kiowa Tribal Cemetery in Oklahoma City. She found the love of her life Robert Watertop and became his full-time caregiver. She found the love of her life Robert Wetertop and passed away on May 26, 2020, in Carnegie, OK. She was born September 9, 1949 – May 24, 2020.

Funeral Home, Anadarko, OK 73005. Services are 10:00am, Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at the Kiowa Tribal Cemetery, Fort Cobb, OK.

She was a member of the Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma and lived by her native heritage. She was loved and enjoyed her friend Mary Jane and going thrift store shopping. She especially loved her grandchildren, playing cards, and especially her great-grandchildren. She enjoyed spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren, playing cards, watching movies, listening to music, and going downtown shopping. She especially loved traveling to hand games and enjoyed her friend Mary Jane and didn’t do anything without including her. She never met a stranger and had a loving free spirit.

Winifred Shumway, Robert Rzeitlme, Anadarko, OK.

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 functor

Victor was an avid fan of the OSU Cowboys and OU football teams. His favorite teams were OU Football, Dallas Cowboys, and the Oklahoma City Thunder. If you weren’t hungry she made you a plate of fry bread. If she was in a good mood you could talk to her about anything. If you weren’t a fan you weren’t a friend of hers. She enjoyed traveling to hand games and enjoyed her friend Mary Jane and didn’t do anything without including her. She never met a stranger and had a loving free spirit.

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Kiowa Tribe Moves Forward With Covid-19 Plan To Tribal Members

CARNEGIE, Okla. – The Kiowa Tribe Executive Branch proposed an agreement Wednesday to move forward with the CARES Act funding. The Executive Branch on Thursday, May 28, 2020. The discussion on the table dealt with issuing funds to tribal members per Legislator’s Agreement.

Two days earlier no collaborative agreement was ironed out on the $19.5 million from the US Treasury Coronavirus Relief Funds (CFF) to be used by the Tribe to cover any COVID-19 related expenditures incurred due to the public health emergency.

Anthony Asatemia, Kiowa Tribe Court Administrator moderated the meeting and read the two-page COVID-19 proposal prepared by the Executive Branch. The five legislators out of seven legislators were present (which is enough for a quorum).

The Executive Branch’s proposed agreement outlined eight priorities that would best serve all seven districts. Much of the discussion centered on directing the membership live all over the US who don’t qualify for any of the Tribe’s programs and services.

Kiowa Tribal Chairman Matthew Komalty stated, “Jesse Swivak who stood steadfast on giving all 14,108 tribal members $1K. Most people are under the impression based on the recorded vote and information through their social media platforms that we can spend the money on anything that we want. This is not the case. The use of the money is restricted to COVID-19 related expenditures,” confirmed Madame Vice Chair Rhonda Ahhaitty.

The Executive Spending Plan under the CARES Act funds come from the US Treasury. The purpose of the funds awarded to members living in all districts such as food vouchers, personal protective equipment (PPE), part due bills, rent assistance, funeral, elder assistance in vulnerable situations to encourage staying at home. The Tribe requests with online or home school requirements (to name a few).

Swivak remarked that this would not be voted on today. Kiowa Tribe Legislative Member Komalty stated, “The point is to get the help to the people who really need it, not to those who just want money.” Members of the Executive Branch acknowledged Mr. Primus’ statement. District 3 Legislator Marilyn Bread explained that many of her constituents are elders and would not benefit from a lump sum payment and would need guidance on how to spend the funds with programs and services.

Kiowa Tribe President Debbie Dotson, Chickasaw Nation Medicine Waters said there is no way nearly 6,800 tribal member-at-large district can be served. She believes the Executive Branch’s proposal needs to be fleshed out in the form of a grant.

Chairman Komalty states, “The approach the Tribe would not apply as well which would allow for more flexibility to move forward with the use of these funds.” Members of the Executive Branch acknowledge Mr. Primus’ statement. District 3 Legislator Marilyn Bread explained that many of her constituents are elders and would not benefit from a lump sum payment and would need guidance on how to spend the funds with programs and services.

Kiowa Tribal Chairman Komalty stated, “It is a good day for the Kiowa people as we continue to improve our financial security as we work diligently to address the many aspects of our pandemic. This is a good example of re- acting quickly to an ever-changing environment for the benefit of our people. I am incredibly grateful for the support of our Legislative Branch staff that support me and Madame Vice Chair Rhonda Ahhaitty as we continue the efforts of the COVID-19 plan.”

Kiowa Tribe Announces $1.1M COVID-19 Relief Funds

Chairman Komalty had announced the Tribe’s most vulnerable population will be assisted with the $1M CARES Act funding by the US Treasury to offer grants to tribal members.

Kiowa Tribal Chairman Komalty explained today’s news is a welcomed relief for the Tribe and with the uncertainty of the Pandemic the Tribe has been working diligently to direct emergency assistance payments to tribal members. Last week, the Executive Branch acknowledged Mr. Primus’ statement. Executive Branch continued its meeting with the Legislative Branch on Thursday, May 28, 2020. The discussion on the table dealt with issuing funds to tribal members per Legislator’s Agreement.

Chairman Komalty states, “It is a good day for the Kiowa people as we continue to improve our financial security as we work diligently to address the many aspects of our pandemic. This is a good example of reacting quickly to an ever-changing environment for the benefit of our people. I am incredibly grateful for the support of our Legislative Branch staff that support me and Madame Vice Chair Rhonda Ahhaitty as we continue the efforts of the COVID-19 plan.”

Chairman Komalty firmly believes that tribal members are in direct need of assistance. “We can no longer afford the inaction or impetus to real action by the People. The Executive Branch of government will follow the strict guidelines established by the Tribe as we see the federal government in the use of these funds. We will not shortchange our people in any way, shape, or form not the Tribe at risk because of the actions or inaction of the rules.”

The Executive Branch has created a Needs Assessment Form that will be distributed to all members next week, and is in the process of establishing a response team to assist with filling out of these forms as well as obtaining the necessary documentation to distribute these funds as quickly as possible. More specific details will be available next week once these processes are put into place.

Legislative Branch Threatens COVID-19 Emergency Assistance Distribution to Tribal Members

CARNEGIE, Okla. - The Executive Branch has been working diligently to direct emergency assistance payments to tribal members. Last week, the Executive Branch acknowledged Mr. Primus’ statement. Executive Branch continued its meeting with the Legislative Branch on Thursday, May 28, 2020. The discussion on the table dealt with issuing funds to tribal members per Legislator’s Agreement.

Chairman Komalty states, “It is a good day for the Kiowa people as we continue to improve our financial security as we work diligently to address the many aspects of our pandemic. This is a good example of reacting quickly to an ever-changing environment for the benefit of our people. I am incredibly grateful for the support of our Legislative Branch staff that support me and Madame Vice Chair Rhonda Ahhaitty as we continue the efforts of the COVID-19 plan.”

Chairman Komalty firmly believes that tribal members are in direct need of assistance. “We can no longer afford the inaction or impetus to real action by the People. The Executive Branch of government will follow the strict guidelines established by the Tribe as we see the federal government in the use of these funds. We will not shortchange our people in any way, shape, or form not the Tribe at risk because of the actions or inaction of the rules.”

The Executive Branch has created a Needs Assessment Form that will be distributed to all members next week, and is in the process of establishing a response team to assist with filling out of these forms as well as obtaining the necessary documentation to distribute these funds as quickly as possible. More specific details will be available next week once these processes are put into place.
Kiowa Tribe Takes Stand On Pandemic
CARNEGIE, Okla. — As the deadly Coronavirus (COVID-19) entered Oklahoma with its first victim to test positive, the Kiowa Tribe is developing its contingency plan to respond quickly.

The tribe is offering COVID-19 training for its employers and has restricted any work-related travel or attending any large gatherings. All tribal programs that work with the public and tribal members are at the Red Buffalo Hall, Carnegie.

By Darin Zotigh, Director, Administration on Aging (AOA)

The Kiowa AOA Elder program has always remained active and essential. With its first victim to test positive, the Kiowa Tribe is developing its contingency plan to respond quickly.

The Kiowa Tribe has been at the forefront of the pandemic, working with health officials to ensure the safety and well-being of its community.

Kiowa Tribe Elder program has always remained active and essential.

The AOA program has made available lunches on Monday and Friday only where the Kiowa elders can pick up their meals there from noon to 1:00 p.m.

During the week, we build Care Packages consisting of one meal per day for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday where they are handed out at Georgia’s on Mondays between noon to 1:00 p.m.

The Kiowa AOA had a Vehicle & Door Decorating Contest with the theme: Covid-19 Safety & Awareness. For the Door Decorating Contest, Wilda Koomsa placed first, Martha Perez second, and Dorla Yeahquo third. Vehicle decorating Contest, Alindit Tillett first, Julia Robinson second, and Gayla Taylor third.

First place for each category was $150. Our next contest will be a Pedometer contest which will begin on July 1, 2020, and end on July 15, 2020. Pedometers were donated by the Anadarko IHS and will be issued on July 1 to the first 25 eligible elder contestants who wish to participate.

Pedometer contestants must be of a federally recognized tribe, 60 years of age, and reside within the Kiowa service area. The Pedometer contest will have a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winner with first-place starting at $150.

We have also provided gardens for the elders consisting of vegetable seeds, tillers for the ground, and a water hose.

Other essentials the Kiowa AOA program has assisted with for elders within the Kiowa AOA service area is a telephone and other household needs.

The program has been undergoing cosmetic updates on the AOA building inside and out. Currently, new flooring has been installed throughout the building, the kitchen has been enlarged with new cabinets and countertops waiting to be installed, new kitchen cooking equipment is on order, and a new hair salon was installed to provide free service to our elders 60 yrs of age & older to both men & women for haircuts, perms, and coloring.

The AOA building has received new paint on the outside and a new storage room. I am pleased to report new lawn equipment was purchased and all you have to do is get your grass cut is to call in your request, provide a tribal ID, and fill out a one-time intake form.

As time progresses we will be looking to opening back up our doors again and begin providing meals once again to our elders from the Kiowa AOA facility.

When that time does come we are considering having a Grand Re-opening of the Kiowa AOA doors with its new look and fresh start.

It is our distinct pleasure to serve you, our Kiowa elders and we can’t wait to see you again. Please remember to pray for one another, wear your masks, and be safe. Please call 580-654-6314 or 6315 for more information.

Ah-ho.

ESSENTIAL SERVICES
Utilizing Essential Status To Make Much Needed Improvements

Tsoodle also expresses his feeling of restlessness during this time, as many Kiowa people long for the old times and wish they could return to their normal lifestyle.

On Pandemic

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The Kiowa AOA Elder program has always remained active and essential.

By Darin Zotigh, Director, Administration on Aging (AOA)

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